

NEWS RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS)

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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) said he believes the House Agriculture Committee will not take final action on the Administration farm bill until some time early in May.

"The Committee is closely divided on the measure as it stands today," Dole said. "Several Democrats on the Committee appear to agree with the Republican minority that the feed grains section especially needs considerable revision. I believe there is a strong possibility that a voluntary program may be worked out to replace the compulsory feed grain plan contained in the present bill."

Dole said that "while the wheat section represents the most acceptable part of the bill, it too needs further revision."

"The amendment added to the wheat section last week will have an adverse effect on the interest of the Kansas wheat farmer. One amendment would provide that anyone overseeding must pay a penalty in an amount, which in most cases, would be in excess of the price received for it. This would be most damaging in Western Kansas where many farmers overseed because of weather factors and sell the excess in short crop years," Dole continued. "The other amendment provides that acreage diversion payments would provide that acreage diversion payments could be reduced from not to exceed 50 percent in 1963, to not more than 40 percent in 1964, to not more than 30 percent in 1965, and 0 percent thereafter.

"This means the farmer will not be able to maintain his income under this program unless the price of wheat increases proportionately. These amendments when considered along with a 20^{percent}/acreage reduction, no increase in price over 1962, strict controls and cross compliance, and wide authority in the Secretary explain why so many, many farmers have voiced their objections," Dole added.

Dole stated he would offer additional amendments to provide that no farmer would be required to idle more than one-half his cropland; that certificates could be carried forward and used in a subsequent crop year; and an amendment to provide interchange of wheat and feed grain acreage as a matter of right to be determined by the farmer rather than the Secretary of Agriculture.

Dole said he voted against a House Agriculture Committee amendment to the feed grain bill which he charged "would be most damaging to both wheat and feed grain producers of Kansas."

His reference was to an amendment, adopted 17 to 15 in Committee, which would permit the Secretary of Agriculture to exempt deficit production areas from the sharp acreage cuts which would be imposed upon farmers in other sections of the country under the Administration's mandatory feed grain program.

"I challenge the other Kansan on the House Agriculture Committee, Cong. Breeding, to tell the people how he voted," Dole said.

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