

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

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THE 50 - 50 WHEAT PLAN

Cong. Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today introduced an emergency wheat bill which would apply to the 1963 crop of wheat. Dole described his bill as "the 50-50 Wheat Plan which would give wheat farmers a chance to individually retire up to 50 percent of their wheat allotments and receive diversion payments based on 50 percent of the farm's production."

Dole pointed out that it is most likely the delay in the Senate will prevent an extension of the present wheat program which carries a mandatory 10 percent cut in acreage. "Therefore," he said, "it is necessary to take action now to allow wheat farmers to voluntarily reduce their acreage and have the opportunity to improve farm income." Under the Dole bill the 55-million acre national minimum allotment would be in effect as Secretary Freeman has previously announced and price support would be from 75 to 90 percent of parity. "This voluntary approach is necessary," Dole said, "because many winter wheat farmers have already begun their planting operations and the 1963 referendum will be held in only two weeks. It would be extremely unfair to change the rules in the middle of the game by forcing wheat farmers to cut their acreage after voting in the referendum on a 55-million acre national allotment."

Dole pointed out that under his bill each wheat farmer would be given the opportunity to divert up to 50 percent of his allotment (or in the case of small growers up to 50 percent of his highest actual acreage in 1959, 1960 or 1961) in return for diversion payments based on 50 percent of the farm production times the basic county support price.

As in the 1962 program, the diverted acreage would be devoted to conservation practices and must be kept free of insects, weeds, and rodents.

Special provisions applying to the planting of castor beans, guar, safflower, sunflower, sesame, and other annual field crops, except table vegetables and flax, would be continued in the same manner as in 1962.

The Secretary would also be given authority to make advance payments not to exceed 50 percent of the total amount due and would be given authority to make adjustments, issue regulations, and use the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation for this special 1963 wheat program.

In addition, the provisions in the 1962 program applying to new farms, the release of stored wheat and durum wheat would be continued by the Dole bill.

"I sincerely hope," Dole said, "that my bill will be given serious attention because unless some constructive action is taken in this Congress, farm income will suffer and taxpayers costs will increase."

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