

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE LOOKING AT FLEXIBLE PARITY AS POSSIBLE
COMPROMISE ON 1985 FARM LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) is considering "dusting off" his 1977 flexible parity bill in an effort to strike a compromise between opposing versions of 1985 farm legislation.

"The current Senate farm bill has two wheat programs -- a voluntary approach with a 20% set-aside and a mandatory control option requiring everyone to take 35 or 40% of their land out of production. It may be possible to combine these cutback levels with different target prices and give farmers a choice about how much they produce," Dole said.

Under the Dole proposal, wheat farmers would be able to idle from 20 to 50% of their farm acreage base, and be eligible for target price protection of from \$4.20 to \$6.10 per bushel. Corn producers would be offered target prices of from \$2.90 to \$3.82 for cutbacks of 10 to 40%. The program would be effective for 1986 and 1987 crops, after which the current program of a single target price would resume. Under the current Senate farm bill, acreage reduction authority would expire after 1988 crops.

Dole's original flexible parity bill, introduced in 1977, also tied the target price level to the set-aside percentage. It passed the Senate but was not adopted in conference with the House on the 1977 farm bill.