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Retail Bakers of America (RBA) Statement on Wheat Crisis

There is a “CRISIS” happening to bakers of every type and size. Commodities prices for every item we use are out of control and rising faster than we could ever hope to catch them. **If there is not some type of relief soon many small businesses will not survive.**

- Wheat prices are putting enormous pressure on the baker’s ability to produce affordable, healthy products for our consumers. RBA and retail bakers are very concerned about the price increases that will have to be passed on to consumers as bakery owners take action to ensure the survival of their businesses. Retail bakers in U.S. are facing escalating costs for commodities that they have never experienced before and that are threatening to overwhelm the entire industry.
- With critically low reserves and the severe conditions in the wheat markets, the baking industry is at a crisis point. RBA is urging Congress to support an early out of the non-environmentally-sensitive acreage from the Conservation Reserve Program. RBA also urges Congress to ensure an adequate level of strategic grain reserves.
- RBA urges Congress and the Administration to approve a Farm Bill that restores balance between the need to provide Americans with affordable healthy food products and the desire for renewable fuels such as ethanol. With the ethanol program, acreage is being taken from food production to produce grain for bio-fuels. This is hitting the baking industry particularly hard with escalating costs in all commodities and ingredients making this a concern for consumers and bakers alike.

RBA urges Congress and the Administration to take action to ensure that consumers and the retail baking industry both continue to have access to affordable food products and ingredients.