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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE SAYS KANSAS ECONOMY THREATENED BY CATTLE MARKET DISASTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In a telegram to the Secretary of Agriculture Friday, Senator Bob Dole called for an investigation of the retail beef and packing industries.

"Many cattlemen have contacted me to describe the severe losses they are suffering on fed cattle or cattle sold from the feedlot," the Senator stated, "and the Kansas Livestock Association has advised me that by July 1974, housewives may not be able to buy grain-fed beef across the counter. Housewives are already paying high prices for beef and with depression level prices for fed cattle, beef across the counter should be at a lower price."

Estimates of the Kansas Livestock Association indicated that since October 1, Kansas feedlots have marketed over 905,000 head of fed cattle at an average loss of \$100 to \$125 per head. The losses on fed cattle have been especially great due to the feedlots paying higher prices for feeder cattle and increased feed costs. The Kansas economy has already suffered an estimated loss of \$100 million during the past 4 1/2 months. "With over one-half of cash income in Kansas coming from sales of cattle, the State's entire economy could suffer," the Senator said.

Dole's telegram called for an investigation of why the consumer has not benefited from the low price for fed cattle. He also called for an inquiry into the continuing depressed market for fed cattle while the market for cattle sold to feedlots has risen sharply.

The Senator added that if the critical situation in the fed cattle market continues, over 60,000 cattle owners in Kansas will face a disastrous financial situation. With similar developments in other major beef producing states, consumers could face in the future extremely high prices for beef and shortages of meat, unless corrective action is taken soon.