

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 6 -- "American dairy producers have lost more than 600 million dollars because of dairy imports and a decline in exports since 1963," Congressman Bob Dole said yesterday.

In a statement issued late Thursday before he returned to Kansas, the Congressman said, "During these 4½ years, the dairy farmers' market has been affected by the equivalent production of nearly 80 thousand 25-cow farms, or more than 17 billion pounds of milk equivalent."

Dole, a ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, added, "I was pleased to see the Administration take positive action to restrict massive dairy imports in June 1967 and 1968. I am also encouraged by the July call for an investigation into apparent circumventing actions by foreign suppliers, which are keeping the door open for continuing high dairy imports."

But Dole cautioned, "Six-month dairy import totals just released by the USDA confirm the need for the present Tariff Commission hearings to come forth with added restrictions at the earliest possible moment."

"If immediate action is not taken," he said, "our dairy farmers will be faced with further income and market losses."

Dole noted that evaporated milk imports during the first six months of this year have increased 527 per cent over January-to-June totals of one year ago. Other items that have increased over the same period include milk chocolate used for commercial purposes, up 140 percent, and certain cheese and cheese substitutes, up 53 per cent.

"These statistics," Dole said, "serve notice on all government officials who administer our dairy programs. What is clear evident is that inaction at this critical time will only be a disservice to our struggling rural economy, which has been continuously driven backwards during recent years."