

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 9 --- U.S. Senators James B. Pearson and Bob Dole announced today that a U.S. Department of Agriculture area office will be established in Topeka to supervise Federal meat and poultry inspection services in Kansas.

The area office is one of 34 new offices being established by USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service, beginning in August, in state capitals and key cities. Dole, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, explained that the new offices are part of "a decentralization effort to move inspection decision-making as close to the center of action as possible."

In addition to supervising federal inspection in packing and processing plants, the new office in Topeka will maintain surveillance over the intrastate meat and poultry inspection programs of Kansas. These programs have been certified by USDA as equal to the federal program.

The Kansas Senators said that the placement of the area office in Topeka will enable the Consumer and Marketing Service to have an even closer relationship with state officials who administer inspection programs and will offer meat and poultry industry men a closer point of contact for fulfilling their role in the inspection process.

The Topeka office will report to the regional headquarters of the USDA meat and poultry inspection program, in Kansas City, Mo.