



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SAYS ALL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER SHOULD FOLLOW HUMANE METHODS

Washington, D.C. --- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas), ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, today introduced a bill to require that all meat inspected under the Federal Meat Inspection Act be produced only from livestock slaughtered by humane methods.

"Since 1958, slaughterhouses have been required to use humane methods only for meat they sell to the government, such as to feed the military," Sen. Dole said. "Now it is time to extend these requirements to all red meat, both domestic and imported."

Dole explained that since the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958, the meat industry has learned that use of humane methods is not only right, but promotes efficient production and lessens the risk of injury to slaughterhouse employees. Humane slaughter is accomplished by quickly stunning the animal before it is put into position and killed.

"Hoisting conscious animals by the leg is cruel," he said. "It not only causes needless suffering to creatures who must die to feed humans, but offends and degrades humans who know of the practice.

Bruises and other damage to struggling, frightened animals must be trimmed from carcasses. This is a waste of food that can be avoided."

The Dole bill also requires foreign countries exporting meat to the United States to comply with humane slaughter standards, and maintains the existing exemption for religious ritual slaughter (kosher).

Dole indicated the bill has received widespread support from the meat industry, producers and humane societies.