

a clue as to the importance of this bill, or a clue as to why, you know, why it's important to be in this area or not. So I'd just like to ask Senator Schellpeper a couple of questions, if I might.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, be glad to.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Senator Schellpeper, I know you talked a little bit about the history of this organization, it goes back a number of years. But could you elaborate, a little bit on it and tell me, is there a provision now for somebody, another county, to enter the brand inspection area?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I don't know how it was formed years ago, Senator Schimek, because it was before my time. But I think it started back with the Nebraska stockmen, and they wanted to have, basically the Nebraska stockmen are considered ranchers. Nebraska livestock feeders used to be considered the people that feed livestock. Well, now they have both merged, the livestock feeders and the stockmen, into one group. And so the people that actually raised the livestock, in western Nebraska, years ago, formed the brand area to have brands. Now, in the mean time there's been a lot of cow herds that have moved into eastern Nebraska, small cow herds. There's a lot of farmers that have 15, 20, 25 cows and they raise calves in eastern Nebraska. So, what they're attempting to do is to move farther east, by including Howard County in the bill. Now, if you're in a brand area you have to have your brand registered, which a lot of people in eastern parts of Nebraska do right now. But it really affects feedlots more than anything. And...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: But it becomes mandatory then.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: It becomes mandatory that you have to do that. If you sell your livestock, you have to have a brand inspector inspect your livestock before you can load them to sell,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: ...whereas in eastern Nebraska, if you have a brand, you don't have to have somebody come out to your ranch or your farm to actually inspect these livestock before you can actually load them.