

the state back in July 1 of 1975. For those of you in this body that remember this issue, we made several budget cutting decisions in 1985, 10 years later, and one of the programs that happened to be cut by this Legislature happened to be the Animal Damage Control Program. I'd like to go through a very brief history for you about the program and how it was funded. As I mentioned, in July 1 of 1975, the original program was funded at a level of \$63,000 and this was in cooperation with funds that were given to us in a matching share by the federal government. We had 14 fieldmen at that time that were helping provide animal damage control enforcement across the state. The high water mark of this program happened to be in fiscal year 1981 in which we had a state contribution of about \$165,000 and about a similar number of field people out in the field. But, as of July 1 of 1985, the state dropped all of its cooperative funding in this program and that funding was then assumed by several entities, mainly the federal government, but also by the Mead Animal Research Center out at MARC which has a contract with the Animal Damage Control authorities to control predator control in that area. Also, several counties banded together and tried to get a fund...to try and continue to have enforcement provided across their area. In fact, 16 counties did so at that time with a contribution of almost \$60,000. We are still without any financial dollars from the state. This bill would call for, I think, approximately \$312,000 that would fund a statewide enforcement program. I've handed out on your desk a map of the State of Nebraska that shows you on the front what current areas in the state are covered by the Animal Damage Control Program. Most of these counties that are protected by this program have done so at their own cost by making either counties providing contributions or private groups, private mostly livestock groups, providing some kind of financial benefit to keep the program going in their counties. The second page of the program shows you how the statewide program would work with 14 field people in the field, reinstating just about to the similar level of what we had back in 1975. It was the middle selection, the USDA gave me a variety, a menu of options. I selected the middle one which called for a contribution of approximately \$312,000 and I think the program is one that has received an awful lot of support by landowners, property owners, livestock people all over the state, of course, the USDA with the Mead Animal Research Center. We also have our cities who sometimes have bird control problems in their areas. Lincoln here had a problem at one time. Airport authorities have had problems. Counties have had their share of problems. Golf courses have