

Legislature. It provides for the certification as to the quality of seeds produced and sold in Nebraska. The legislation is now part of the Nebraska Seed Law. It is regulated by the Department of Agriculture and administered by the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association. I am pleased to be one of the sponsors of LR 255, which provides for the celebration of Nebraska Good Seed Week. This year the observance falls on the week of March 8 through 14th. Observing Good Seed Week is significant at this time of the year because of decisions being made at this time as far as spring planting is concerned. Quality seed selection is important to Nebraska farmers in order to get the greatest possible dollar return for every dollar invested. National Agricultural Week will be observed later this month, but it is symbolic that we celebrate Good Seed Week first, because good agriculture begins with good seed. There are approximately 400 seed producers of certified seed in the State of Nebraska and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources has 16 employees, seven of them work with seed certification, nine work with Foundation Seed Division. It is my privilege at this time to introduce some individuals in the south balcony. I would like to have the Legislature recognize them. They are Rick Velde from Jacques Seed Company, Bob McCaulley from DeKalb Seed Company, Dave Svik from the Department of Agriculture, Ron Helsing with the Nebraska Foundation Seed Division, Dennis Thompson of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association, Patrick Ptacek, Assistant Director of the Department of Agriculture. They are responsible for the seed packets you have this morning and the cupcakes. I do work with the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association on a personal basis. It is illegal to sell uncertified seed in the State of Nebraska and try to misrepresent it as certified seed. They do provide a very good service to Nebraska farmers. Thank you for helping me recognize Good Seed Week.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. How old am I? I am so old, so old that I remember in the days right after World War II going with my father to the Foundation Seeds Division on the university campus and getting some bags of Pawnee Wheat. Do you remember Pawnee Wheat? Planted it across the field from the country school, and we watched it grow, and, folks, it made 35 bushels an acre. From that day forward, I took a great deal of interest in the improvements that were brought about both through the university