

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 29, 1999 LB 822

class IV could increase its operation by 50 percent. The animal unit base was established on January 1, 1999 in determining the number allowed for expansions. To refresh everyone's memory regarding the size of the various classes, class I is up to 1,000 animal units, class II is up to 5,000 animal units, class III is up to 20,000 animal units, and class IV is 20,000 animal units and up. The expansion is also limited to the specific site of the operation, but is allowed to occur over a period of time until the upper limit of the allowable expansion is reached. The amendment requires the owner or operators of the facility to request an inspect (sic) by the department to determine if any additional facilities will be needed to meet the expansion. The amendment also specifies that a map detailing the segments and watershed boundaries for cold water class A streams be prepared by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. This map must be named...must be maintained by the department. For those of you who are interested, we do have the map. It is sitting along the north wall, and that is the area of the state that will be impacted by LB 822. We found, when the map came down, we developed some concerns because in the Scottsbluff area there is a lot of cattle feeding operations that could be impacted by LB 822. Interestingly enough, those cold water streams in that area of the state probably were not historically there. They were...probably became as a result of the irrigation districts, which diverted water from the Platte River Basin, brought them up...well, you don't run water uphill, but brought them essentially uphill from the riverbed, and then as those irrigation projects seeped and land was developed for irrigation, those cold water streams became year-round streams, and then they became classified as a class A cold water stream. There is a lot of livestock facilities in that area of the state, and so we did make provisions for expansions for existing facilities. We have talked to the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association, the Farm Bureau, and the Nebraska Pork Producers Association. They have agreed with the expansion limits, and so from that standpoint I think we have met the concerns of the livestock industry in this state. Interestingly enough, this bill probably would not be before us today if it wasn't for hogs. But, as near as we can tell, there is only one hog facility located in these watersheds. But it does impact a lot of cattle facilities. And to the best of our knowledge, these