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money to give it to a certain category of people who we're calling first time...first time farmers or beginning farmers. Why, if we have plenty of farmers, why do we want to subsidize first time farmers when that would seem indicate that we're finding of plenty of farmers, bottom line, to do the work?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, a lot of this is looking down the road, Senator Beutler. The average age of farmers is about 57. It has gone up about an average of one year per year in the last, since the nineties. It was 52 in 1992, as I understand. Part of this is the fact that we're, and we're down, I used the numbers the other day, we're down 25 to 30 percent for those under 25, and those from 25 to 35. The majority of farmers are in the forties on up until they're seventy. Part of this is, there is a huge demand for land. Part of this is a way of trying to get young people that want to come into agriculture are able to and not being bought out by the highest bidder, and that is often the trouble in many local areas. The big get bigger and the small fade away. That's the idea behind this bill is to try to encourage those young people to get started, if they can, on a viable unit and not have to fight the one down next door, because...well, I can't say everything I want to say on the microphone but, frankly, there are many people outbidding others in local communities across the state, and they aren't necessarily all farmers. And that's...if we want to populate our rural Nebraska into the next century, well into the next century, if not the next hundred years, we've got to have young people starting out or we truly will be a totally industrialized agriculture, which the way we're going, we're heading that way anyway.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I understand part of what you're saying, but the part I don't understand is, what evidence do we have that we're not going to have enough young farmers?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Because we have...I said 25, under 25 is down 25 percent. Under...25 to 35 is down 37 percent, in terms of young farmers starting out. No one is...no one, that's not accurate.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.