

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

May 5, 1999

LB 870

now is in a great sense of frustration. It's planting time and we can't plant. So no one becomes more concerned than those of us in agriculture. And when you have then this kind of thing, somebody comes and visits your place today and you've got a high, saturated water table and you're doing some things that you're not all that proud of and you're going to get nailed, and so I just want to look at responsibility in moderation and...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...understanding. That's all I'm saying. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This is a discussion over the years that I've not been involved in to any great extent, although I did make my living as probably what would be a borderline small operator in that I imagine I had more than 300 animal units on any given day, but that's how I made my living. So it comes with...my comments are made with a certain understanding of the situations that exist. I do not rise, by the way, in opposition to AM1645. I think the second portion is perhaps overkill because what we have been doing for a number of years is, in fact, trying to provide, legislatively, some sort of enforcement of long-existing environmental standards that were in place long before LB 1209, that have not been changed, and that it has been and it is today not a legal process to discharge into the streams in the state of Nebraska and some of the other things. We're not changing much of anything. The one thing that I am somewhat sad about, I think, this morning though is that a year ago an amendment on LB 1209 that would have placed an exemption for the federal EPA minimum standard of 300 animal units into LB 1209 as an exemption, for all practical purposes, of small farm operations, and I was told a year ago that, oh, no, no, no, we don't intend, we don't intend to harass the small operators; we intend to go after the biggies who are concentrating in certain areas of the state and are creating the potential for significant ground and surface water pollution problems. Well, it's my personal belief, based upon reports from my constituents who are small operators that, in fact, the very opposite of that happened.