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LB 1092

the Department of Economic Development, the Rural Development Commission, and other state agencies may already have some relevant information. Also, other agencies may have some expertise that would be helpful in developing this program so we thought that it would be best to recognize that the Department of Agriculture, while they lead the program, may choose to have help from some other departments also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Robak. For discussion on the Robak amendment, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This probably is on the bill but I...since, Senator Robak, since you're talking about dates, I think it's practical. I think this is a wonderful idea but I really am concerned about the practicality of it and I would like to have you maybe give...ask you a question about do you have any knowledge of how many people, how many lockers? I notice there's no one from the Locker Association testified here. How many really expressed an interest in it? And the reason I'm after...what I'm really after on this, I think it's a wonderful idea but, I say practicality, small family feedlots, small family enterprise of all kinds are dropping out like flies any time they get inspected by anybody, and that's one of the reasons we got the concentration and consolidation in agriculture and processing and all that. And this one here now is going to let small and medium size plants have access and I wonder how many are really going to do it. Now, I appreciate the fact that this is...this is a small...this is a pilot project, and I think that's definitely the way to get started, but I would like to know what level of interest you've had expressed other than what's maybe been testified on the bill. Because I, you know, we sell livestock through our locker plant but the way you do that is to sell it direct to the buyer and the locker only does the processing. I'm not sure how many of these are going to want to go to doing this. Are they going to have somebody in once a week to do the inspection? They're going to have to have an inspector there on the day. Practically speaking, that means only five plants, one day each week, could do federal or meat inspected kill days, or all of those kinds of things that I'm afraid are going to overwhelm the general idea of this because, practically speaking, it's going to be very difficult to carry