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LB 213, 1009

part of the Nebraska Brand Law for some time. Basically, the bill would provide dairies the same alternative method of compliance with livestock brand inspection which has been used successively for feedlot owners. Currently, sections 54-1,110 through 54-1,119 require that brand inspection be performed prior to any movement or sale of livestock originating in the brand area. The registered feedlot program exempts feedlot cattle from this requirement provided that any shipments of livestock are destined for slaughter or terminal market or are accompanied by a shipping certificate, a copy of which is provided by the Nebraska Brand Committee. This amendment would create a similar program for dairies. In the past, brand inspection compliance for dairies was not an issue. However, some rather large dairies that have been located in the brand area are of sufficient size that culling or other movements of handfuls of livestock must take place daily. Currently, compliance with the brand inspection law requires that a brand inspector shall be called to perform brand inspections frequently. This is cumbersome for the dairy operation and is not cost effective for the Brand Committee. Participation in a registered dairy program would enable efficient daily management to dairies without having to wait on availability of a brand inspector. The annual fee schedule for participation is identical to that of the registered feedlot program and are set by the Brand Committee within a range of 100 and 650 dollars for each thousand animals. As with the registered feedlot program, the fee is to correlate to the brand inspection fees that would otherwise be collected. Participation is voluntary. Those dairies within the brand area choosing not to participate would continue to be subject to normal brand inspection procedures. The other portions of the amendment are basically the provisions of LB 1009 heard before the Ag Committee on February 1. The changes pertain to brand inspections performed near livestock markets and packing plants located in counties outside of but adjacent to the brand area. While the Brand Committee is not obligated to provide brand inspection outside of the brand area, current law provides that these facilities may request inspection service provided the operators guarantee inspection fee revenues sufficient to cover the cost of the Brand Committee to provide the service. Current law provides that the Brand Committee shall be reimbursed for any deficit in fee revenue versus the cost occurring over a six-month period. LB 1009 in