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senses, it sort of makes it a pilot program and, yet, it...there's a great many things it can do to prove its effectiveness. The bill has a fiscal note of \$250,000 a year for four years. The department have indicated that they would not need any additional funding for staff in this bill because the operation of the bill would be absorbed by the existing personnel in those two departments. This bill also provides assistance for nontraditional approaches to bring prosperity to rural areas of the state and to enhance self-employment opportunities in rural Nebraska. Value-added agriculture is being considered across the United States as a new approach to diversifying the agriculture economy. And those who were at Kearney and heard Governor Schafer speak heard him talk about how South (sic--North) Dakota is now diversifying their economy through value-added products. Adding value offers the farmers the potential to recapture a larger share of the food dollar by enhancing the product to make it more valuable to the person that produces it. Value-added...value can be added to products in a variety of ways, such as packaging or drying, canning, handcrafting, or juicing. In addition to increasing farms' sustainability, small-scale processors can make a positive contribution to the communities. Value-added captures the essence of community because locally produced speciality products or nonfood items provide a window into the unique qualities of a community. Some value-added products currently are being produced include markets such as meat slaughtering cooperatives, grapes for wine making or jellies, salsa sauces being produced from Nebraska products, and a number or variety of other ways that entrepreneurs have found ways to add value to the product they produce. Department of Agriculture and Department of Economic Development will work together to establish a joint program to encourage innovative partnerships among producers, rural communities and businesses for the development of value-added products to encourage entrepreneurship, to increase employment opportunities, and to enhance the economic viability of rural communities. One of the questions that has been asked as we proceeded with this pro...with this bill was how does this, in fact, help the urban areas? Well, it helps the urban areas in the same sense that it's been suggested that LB 775 helps the rural areas--because it brings more sales and income tax dollars into the state's economy and therefore the value is certainly obtained by the