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LB 608, 754

limited them to obtaining applicable state and federal permits. If you did that, then the question would be why would any county become livestock friendly, or seek that designation, because it would be more of a burden. But in response to that, you know, for example, in LB 608 we have a rural tier in the tax benefit program bill. You said that only a...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Erdman, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I did a little work over the lunch, digging around and trying to find some numbers, and it's been said, it's true, Nebraska is number one, commercial red meat production in 2001. The number of head that we slaughter, number of cattle that we slaughter annually in the state of Nebraska is 7.694 million head, so 7,694,400 head, which is 22 percent of the United States total head of cattle. At any one time in the state of Nebraska, we only have 2.2 million head of cattle on feed, so if you figure that out, and the number that they generally use in the livestock industry, about two and a half times to figure out how many total cattle are fed annually, so you're looking at around 5.5 million head of cattle on feed annually in the state of Nebraska, and yet we slaughter 7.6 million. So we import over 2.1 million head of cattle into the state of Nebraska to date so that we can be number one in commercial red meat production, which is a slaughter figure, because it's determined in pounds. So while it's true that we're number one in commercial red meat production, 25 percent or so of those cattle that are slaughtered are not from Nebraska. They come from Iowa. They come from Colorado. They come from Wyoming or other locations. And I can...I've seen the trucks pass by my legislative district from Colorado to the plants in Lexington and other places, so that's part of the reality of this as well. It's important to talk about how well we're doing, but it's also a point to realize is that we're pretty much setting ourselves up in the slaughter industry, if you will, the same way we've