

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

March 23, 2005 LB 273

it should be utilized as a complement to something else that we already have here in the state of Nebraska. What have we got here in the state of Nebraska? We have agriculture, we've got animal agriculture. What is happening to the rural areas? Animal agriculture is being driven out of communities by special interest groups. I'll just give you a for instance of what is realistically happening in the communities. We are farrowing as many sows as we did in 1994, but a lot of those pigs are leaving the state. They are leaving the state. They are not being fed here. They're going to another state. They're utilizing the crops that we raise in another state. So why, why don't we work on something and utilize the natural resources that we have here in the state to build economic development? Value-added agriculture, the best value-added agriculture is adding value to the corn. This is done through livestock production. And I'm going to give you a couple of the numbers that I've just kind of calculated, and I know these are not even close to the realistic numbers but it's going to give you a little of an idea as what could happen. There's over 2 million hogs that are leaving the state of Nebraska that are farrowed here. The farrowing units are doing all the work there, but, as an Isowean pig, they leave the state of Nebraska. Someone else's corn is being utilized for those. Someone else's labor is being utilized to raise these hogs. We talk about the rural communities leaving. People are leaving it. Young people are leaving the farms, leaving the rural communities. You know, if we could expand the operations of these pork production units and utilize facilities that would raise these hogs that are leaving the state of Nebraska, we would add over a billion, over \$1 billion of valuation to communities. And you know what \$1 billion adds to valuation of communities. That brings income to school districts, to counties, to communities. But I think this bill, you know, would complement that. If we could keep the younger people on, in agriculture, their spouses could probably work in something that would be available in a community that would be assisted by this bill. So I think, you know, I think realistically we should take a very serious look as to the resources that we have available to us, and try to add value there, bring tax dollars, create jobs. I have not had the time to calculate how many jobs, you know, these 2 million hogs a year would create. And those people would be the younger