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SENATOR LOUDEN: I don't know if you'd call it a management program, but they are the ones that counties usually contract with if they have predator problems, and, some cases, prairie dog problems. They were the ones that were contacted. And that's, of course, a federal operation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But the U.S. Department of Agriculture has some kind of program or protocol for managing prairie dogs when they are contracted with by a county. Is that true, or is that false?

SENATOR LOUDEN: No, that's true. They have a system, whatever they set up. They can be contracted with private individuals, or they...I think First National Bank in Omaha has a contract with them to take care of European starlings. I think Game and Parks Commission has...is contracting with them to take care of their feral pigs. The counties...some of the western counties put a certain amount of money in and contract with them to have their services for...usually coyote control is the major, coyote and fox, and then at times rabid skunks.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And they would be able to do something with a prairie dog problem. Isn't that true?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes. They...I mean, they are set up to do it. They're like anybody else, they're usually underfunded and undermanned. But they do have a man out in the western...well, they have several men scattered around the state that take care of various animal problems, be they prairie dog or rats or rabid bats or...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Whatever.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Whatever wildlife, yeah.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Now my next question. Counties, to your knowledge, have utilized the USDA's services, or have not, when it comes to prairie dogs?

SENATOR LOUDEN: On prairie dogs they haven't utilized them very