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LB 71, 90, 273

through the whole issue, using General Fund money. I also have another handout that is on...called, ethanol production incentive credit background. And if you'll go to the bottom there, showing the balance, since the total funding since the package of LB 536, there's been \$64,375,000 from checkoff; \$28 million from General Fund; \$12 million from LUST, the Leaky Underground Storage Tank Fund; and \$1.875 million from the off-road fund. That is the thrust of the proposal on the ethanol. I'm going to move on, very briefly, on to the rest. Senator Stuhr and Senator Cunningham will talk about their bills. Suffice it to say, this also includes LB 71, which Senator Stuhr has already gotten through General File. This becomes part of this bill, will provide grants up to \$75,000 to cooperatives, groups, or associations. It's a bill that was previously introduced in 2001, and was fairly successful for two years, until we went through the budget crunch and it was reduced. There will be...there are...I didn't bring my file, but there are are several...many successful projects that have come out of that, including one very successful, the KAAPA, K-A-A-P-A, Kearney Area Ag Producers Association, that has built a very successful ethanol plant based on the initial funding of the business plan that they drafted. They are now in the process of even doubling their production. In that bill also is Senator Mines' bill. I'll let him talk about it. It's where it increase the maximum loan and the net worth need to \$500,000 for NIFA loans. The other one is number four if you're looking at the summary of LB 273, Senator Cunningham, the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act, which provide grants to rural communities that create partnerships of two or more local political subdivisions to apply for grants. At now...right now, it's in the bill at \$75,000 per grant. This is the thrust of this particular amendment that, as I said, if adopted, would become the bill. It meets the requirements, I believe, or obligations to ethanol. And I'm going to go into more of that as time goes along, as to the value of what ethanol plants in Nebraska have created, as far as economic development, not just rural, but all of the state, and the fact that motorists today are enjoying a benefit of our ethanol production in the state per the 50 gallon...\$50 per barrel-plus oil costs that we are serving now. Ethanol has been able to mitigate some of that in Nebraska, to quite an extent. And I will have some more details