

# COOPERATION IN NEBRASKA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL



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## Newsletter Format Change

Having an informed membership is vital to the strength of any organization, and this is why the Council places a high priority on communications with all of our members. Over time, we have used two vehicles to communicate with our grassroots members—our quarterly newsletter and direct memos/emails to local managers and board presidents. More recently, with the adaptation of email by more directors, we have been able to send email information on time sensitive issues to the entire executive committee of local boards. We anticipate continuing these communication methods well into the future.

Last March, the Council began distributing *Cooperation in Nebraska* via email. The process that we use is emailing the newsletter to all managers and officers of the local board. If an officer doesn't have email, we mail out a hard copy to that individual. The local board chair or the manager is then asked to either forward the electronic newsletter to other board members or provide them with a hard copy.

When we mailed out the newsletter, we were required by postal regulations to mail on a quarterly basis. When we switched to email distribution, we maintained a quarterly format to maintain consistency. However, since we're not using bulk mail to distribute the newsletter, we do not have to continue with a quarterly distribution.

After studying this issue, we have decided that we can communicate more effectively with our members by sending more frequent and more concise e-newsletters. Our goal is to send out five or six newsletters per year with each being shorter in length but more timely in its information. In this newsletter, we focus on the education programs and the legislative session.

It should be noted that our *Legislative Updates* and other updates that are sent electronically on an as-needed basis to managers and local board executive committees will not change. We will continue to send these out as the need arises.

I hope you find this change to be of value and welcome any input you may have.

Ed Woepfel, Newsletter Editor

## 2005/06 Council Education Programs

The Council once again hosted a full slate of educational programs for local cooperative directors and employees. Since August 1, 2005, we provided educational programs for 353 cooperative directors, managers, or employees. Seventy-one percent (71%) of our member cooperatives attended at least one educational program and, as you might guess, many had numerous representatives at multiple programs.

Education remains a high priority for the Council, and we believe that partnering with other organizations—i.e., the University of Nebraska, Iowa State University, CoBank, and other regional cooperatives—is in the best interest of our members. We believe that there is a strong correlation between cooperative success and the investment cooperatives make in educating board members.

Following is an overview of the programs we offered this year:

### DIRECTOR/MANAGER WORKSHOP (DMW)

DMW was created to address timely issues facing local cooperative boards. Over the years, we have worked with the Council's



Mike Turner leading discussion at the Kearney Director/Manager Workshop.

Educational Advisory Committee and the regional cooperatives serving Nebraska to identify the topics for the workshop. This has worked very well and helped us design programs to meet the needs of local cooperatives.

(cont. on page 2)

### Education Programs (continued from page 1)

Workshops were held in Sidney, Kearney, and York with the theme "Opportunities & Challenges in a Consolidating Market." They focused on the following areas:

- Benefits/accomplishments of consolidating businesses
- Challenges to consolidation
- What is the future of both large and small cooperatives
- A director's role in modern cooperatives

To address these topics, a video presentation was utilized featuring managers from three small cooperatives in Nebraska and three large cooperatives from outstate (IL, SD, and IA). By interviewing these managers, we were able to get their views and launch into discussion on each of these issues.

### DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (DCP)



*Deino Sather and Roger Ginder lead the discussion at the DCP program.*

DCP is, without a doubt, the foundation of our educational offerings. This four-phase program covers all aspects of the roles and responsibilities of directors and how these differ from those of the manager. In essence, this program provides directors with the tools to become effective contributing board members in a shorter period of time.

This year, DCP was conducted in early January at Kearney. This was the first year that we hosted DCP at only one site. Due to declining numbers of cooperatives statewide and the fact that so many current directors have completed DCP, we had to consolidate to one location so we could have an adequate number of participants attend each session. While this does create extra travel for some, there was one very positive benefit of only one location. By having ideal size groups from across the entire state, the discussion generated by attendees was excellent. In fact, all of the presenters involved thought this was one of the best DCP sessions that had been held for a number of years.

### GRADUATE DIRECTOR SEMINARS (GDS)

A four-year rotation is utilized for the three existing GDS and the Special Director Seminars (SDS). These programs were created to meet the demand for continuing education as the number of directors completing DCP grew. GDS builds on materials covered in DCP and helps directors evaluate and enhance the skills they acquire through their experiences.

GDS2, *The Changing Role of Managers and Directors in a Growth Cooperative*, was conducted in early January at Kearney. Instructors were Mike Turner and Roger Ginder. They provided participants with issues that directors need to address in growth cooperatives including organizational structure, focusing on profits vs. operations, asset development, and achieving buy-in of employees and the community.

### BOARD OFFICER TRAINING (BOT)

BOT is offered every other year and focuses on the normal duties and responsibilities that board officers must fulfill. The program is designed for current officers as well as directors who aspire to become officers in the future.

The program provided specific information on current issues important to board officers during the morning session which was an open forum where the discussion topics are driven by the participants attending. The afternoon session was devoted to efficiency factors of Nebraska cooperatives. For the past four years, Roger Ginder has surveyed Iowa cooperatives to determine various efficiency factors. This year, he also included Ne-

braska cooperatives in the survey. The research showed some very interesting trends about the efficiency of cooperatives and generated considerable discussion.



*Roger Ginder driving home a point at the BOT program.*

### NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CENTER (NCDC) PROGRAM

NCDC is a cooperative effort that was put together to address the issue of value-added opportunities for Nebraska's rural population. The group was originally funded by the State Department of Agriculture, the University of Nebraska, and the Department of Economic Development for the purpose of helping new value-added ventures get started.

NCDC is working with start-up groups that have very little infrastructure in place and in many cases may not have adequate resources to carry out their plans. Education is a great need among these groups and was identified by NCDC as being a priority in the current grant with the USDA.

In January 2005, the Council contracted with NCDC to offer education for its membership. The programs are similar to our DCP program but the information is customized to fit their needs.

We have conducted Phase 1 of this program twice and Phase 2 once. We will be developing Phase 3 this summer.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) & CREDIT WORKSHOPS**

The Council hosted two technical workshops in Kearney last September for cooperative employees. These types of workshops are offered periodically as needs are identified.

**HR Workshop...**began with an overview of HR issues identified by attorneys from Crosby Guenzel LLP. We then addressed the need for developing a comprehensive employee evaluation process to not only avoid legal problems but to increase employee productivity as well.

**Credit Workshop...**began with attorneys from Crosby Guenzel LLP outlining general questions that are being asked by local cooperatives. They then addressed specific credit issues:

- The use of statutory liens or UCC liens—What are you securing and how?

- Central Filing and Effective Financing Statements
- Account debtors—a new way to claim setoff?
- Maintaining your position in bankruptcy
- Dealing with and collection on problem accounts

Participants in each workshop received a comprehensive packet of updated HR and credit reference materials to take home from the workshop.

## **STRENGTHSFINDER® PROGRAMS**

Over the past few years the Council has been working with The Gallup Organization on the Cooperative Recruitment Project and through this work has been able to introduce the cooperative world to a personal development tool developed by Gallup called the StrengthsFinder®. The StrengthsFinder® survey is a tool that is used to help individuals identify their strengths with the idea that once individuals understand their strengths they then can pursue jobs and careers that will allow them to build upon their strengths and therefore be more productive contributors to whatever enterprise they are involved in. This concept applies not only to employees but to board members as well.

In August 2005, Ed Woepel conducted two customized StrengthsFinder® training programs for the CountrySide Co-op in Firth—one for employees in the afternoon and one for board members in the evening. A total of 34 individuals participated in the two workshops.

## *Thanks!*

Much of the success of our education programs is a result of the partnerships we have with other cooperative stakeholders. We want to thank the following groups for their support:

**UNL Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources**  
**CoBank - Omaha**  
**Iowa State University**

We also want to thank AGP, CHS Inc., and Land O'Lakes for their support of the Director/Manager Workshop.

The other group that contributes greatly to our success is the dedicated professionals who serve as facilitators for the programs. These individuals are:

**Mike Turner**, UNL-retired (DMW, DCP, GDS, BOT, NCDC)  
**Roger Ginder**, Iowa State University (DCP, GDS, BOT)  
**Tom Houser**, CoBank (DMW)  
**Deino Sather**, CoBank (DCP)  
**Byron Ulery**, Beloit, KS (DCP)  
**Rocky Weber**, Crosby Guenzel LLP (Credit/HR, DCP, BOT, NCDC)  
**Dave Jarecke**, Crosby Guenzel LLP (Credit/HR)  
**Tom Jeffers**, Crosby Guenzel LLP (Credit/HR)  
**Bill Kutilek**, Crosby Guenzel LLP (Credit/HR)  
**Charles Telk**, Gardiner Thomsen - Des Moines, IA (NCDC)  
**Don Warrington**, Farm Credit Services of America-retired (HR)

# Waste Pesticide Collection & Disposal Program

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has announced the 2006 Waste Pesticide Collection & Disposal Program. The program sites will be held March 14 through April 7, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 17 dates and locations across Nebraska.

## Accepted products include:

- Unused, unneeded, old or damaged pesticides, including insecticides, herbicides, or fungicides
- Pesticides of all types (agricultural crops, livestock, homes, lawns, gardens, structures, commercial), including those in aerosol containers
- Farmer-supplied electrical transformers containing PCBs from renovated irrigation systems

## Products not accepted include:

- Pesticide products in pressurized cylinders
- Oil, antifreeze, paints, varnishes, thinners, cleaners, solvents

## Program Guidelines:

- Leave pesticide labels intact on container
- Handle containers with chemical resistant gloves
- Wash hands with soap and water after handling
- Handle containers in a manner to prevent spillage
- No costs or fees for less than 1,000 pounds of pesticide products, no appointment needed
- For quantities over 1,000 pounds, contact Rich Reiman in advance, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, at 402-471-2394 for arrangements.

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Collection Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Extension Educator</u>
March 14	Tecumseh	Nemaha NRD	32161 Hwy. 136	Gary Lesoing
March 15	Plymouth	Farmers Cooperative	6701 South County Rd.	Larry Germer/Randy Pryor
March 16	Waverly	Waverly Co-op	10741 North 142nd Street	Tom Dorn
March 17	Fremont	Wal-Mart	3010 East 23rd Avenue	John Wilson/Dave Varner
March 20	Center	Knox County Roads Dept	206 Main St.	Terry Gompert
March 21	Norfolk	Madison County Weed Control	3203 South 12th Street	Tim Lemmons
March 22	Columbus	Husker Co-op	1854 14 th Avenue	Kelly Feehan
March 23	Fullerton	Central Valley Ag	North McClelland	Steve Pritchard
March 28	York	United Farmers Co-op	1403 Road 14	Gary Zoubek
March 29	Hastings	Consumers Service Company	150 N. Blaine Ave & E. Hwy. 6	Ron Seymour
March 30	Holdrege	Agri Co-op	901 West Highway 6	Chuck Burr
March 31	Gothenburg	All Points Cooperative	West Highway 30 & 2nd Ave.	Bruce Treffer
April 3	McCook	Red Willow County HHW (Household Hazardous Waste Site)	108 W Railroad Service Road	Kent Been
April 4	Chappell	Farmers Elevator Co, A Cooperative	16390 County Road 14	Karen DeBorer/Carla Mahar
April 5	Alliance	Western Cooperative Company	724 West 3rd Street	Bill Booker
April 6	Chadron	Swann Transfer Station	1010 East Niobrara	Scott Cotton
April 7	Scottsbluff	UNL Panhandle Research & Extension Center	4502 Avenue I	Jim Schild

# 2006 Legislature Update

[Status: thru 2/28/06 action]

The second session of the 99<sup>th</sup> Legislature convened on January 4 for 60 working days and is scheduled to adjourn on April 12. A total of 1,012 legislative bills, resolutions, and constitutional amendments are under consideration (431 carried over from the 2005 session and 581 introduced this year).

The deadline for priority bill designation was February 16—individual senators can designate 1 bill, legislative committees 2 bills, and the Speaker 25 bills. As more controversial and time-consuming bills requiring lengthy debate make their way out of committees, priority status is extremely important to ensure that a bill works its way through the entire legislative process.

There are 86 bills that the Council is closely following this legislative session. The following are bills that the Council's Legislative Advisory Committee has taken a position on.

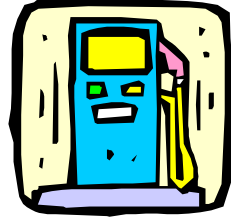
## **LB 799, 910, 924, and 1252 - EMINENT DOMAIN (Support concept)**

These bills all remain pending before the Judiciary Committee following the February 15 hearings. The Council forwarded a letter for the hearing record. The bills deal with restricting the use of eminent domain. LB 924 has been declared a priority bill by Senator Deb Fischer of Valentine; therefore, it will in all likelihood be the legislative vehicle the Judiciary Committee uses to address this issue.

## **LB 814 - MOTOR FUEL TAXES (Oppose)**

LB 814 is pending before the Revenue Committee. It provides for a 3¢ increase in the motor fuels tax and will return to the Highway Trust Fund the sales tax on motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers. It does not affect the formula for distributing funds.

Due to the Highway Trust Fund being sorely underfunded, there will be some support on this bill. The big push isn't for raising the gas tax but rather diverting the ½¢ sales tax on vehicles back from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund.



## **LB 834 - NEBRASKA SEED LAW (Support)**

LB 834 is pending before the Ag Committee. It would amend the Nebraska Seed Law to prohibit political subdivisions from regulating any matter relating to the registration, labeling, sale, storage, transportation, distribution, notification of use, use, planting, or cultivation of seeds.

The hearing was January 17 before the Agriculture Committee, and the Council testified in support of the bill.

## **LB 848 - RENEWABLE FUEL (Neutral)**

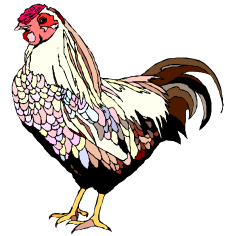
LB 848 is on General File (1<sup>st</sup> reading). Beginning January 1, 2007, it would require a renewable fuel content equal to or greater than 3.5% by weight in all non-premium gasoline sold as motor fuel in Nebraska. Fuel sold for aircraft would be exempt as would historical vehicles, vehicles eligible to be licensed as historical vehicles, off-road vehicles, motorcycles, boats, snowmobiles or small engines.

## **LB 873 - POULTRY DISEASE CONTROL (Support)**

LB 873 expands the authorities of the Department of Agriculture under the Poultry Disease Control Act to reflect current avian influenza disease concerns.

LB 873 would extend the Department of Agriculture's poultry disease surveillance authorities to carry out monitoring of non-commercial poultry flocks for the presence of avian influenza, including highly pathogenic strains and appropriate \$50,000 for such purpose. It also provides the authority to enter poultry premises to inspect and test for avian influenza and other dangerous, infectious, contagious, or transmissible diseases.

Following the public hearing, the bill was killed but its legislative intent was amended into LB 856 via committee amendment which was adopted. LB 856 is on Select File (2<sup>nd</sup> reading).



## **LB 874 - PESTICIDE ACT (Support)**

LB 874 is on Select File (2<sup>nd</sup> reading). It was introduced at the request of the Department of Agriculture and would maintain the Department's authorities under the Pesticide Act and remain current with the federal program and to clarify some enforcement requirements. During floor debate, questions were raised about language in the bill to allow the Department to develop plans when pesticides may pose harm to humans. Eventually the language was stricken and the bill advanced.

## **LB 905 - MOTOR CARRIER TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS (Oppose)**

LB 905 is pending before the Judiciary Committee. Its intent is to prohibit certain exculpatory clauses in motor carrier transportation contracts. A contract provision that would require a motor carrier transporter to indemnify a promisee for negligence or intentional

*(cont. on page 6)*

*2006 Legislature (cont. from page 5)*

acts or omissions by the promisee is unenforceable. Cooperatives are included under the definition of "motor carrier."

After review, our legal counsel indicates that Sections 1 and 2 appear to contradict each other as to whom—the motor carrier or the promisee (the customer)—would be indemnified or held harmless.

**LB 958 - VEHICLE WEIGHT (Support)**

LB 958 is on General File (1<sup>st</sup> reading). It changes Nebraska Rules of the Road relating to vehicle weight. The bill would permit a "single tandem axle" to have a 15% overweight exemption during harvest season. This would specifically allow a single tandem axle truck to be exempt from the weight restriction during harvest season just as other multiple axle trucks are. LB 958 was advanced to General File with a committee amendment that allows seasonally harvested products to be hauled up to 70 miles with the 15% overweight exemption. This amendment remains pending.



**LB 990 - NEBRASKA ADVANTAGE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT (Support)**

LB 990 is Senator Wehrbein's priority bill. The bill would amend the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act to provide tax credits for livestock facility modernization or expansion. Under the bill, producers who are engaged in livestock production and have submitted an approved application would receive tax credits for investments and modernization of livestock facilities. A producer would receive a 10% credit for each \$50,000 investment for livestock expansion or modernization. It was advanced to General File by the Revenue Committee with an amendment

to put a cap of \$300,000 on the investment, in essence, limiting the credit to \$30,000 and clarify the 10% credit.

**LB 1003 - EXEMPT CO-OP LEGISLATION (Support)**

LB 1003 was passed by the Legislature on February 28. The Governor is expected to sign the bill. Since it includes the emergency clause, provisions will become effective the day after he signs it. The Council has worked for several years to include Section 521 (exempt) cooperatives within the definition of taxpayer so they are eligible for various tax incentive programs. During the 2005 session, we were successful in our efforts to include exempt co-ops within the Nebraska Advantage Act, the successor to LB 775.

LB 1003 includes several tax incentive bills which were introduced this year. As passed, the bill incorporates our requested language which affects both exempt and non-exempt cooperatives as follows:

(1) Allows both exempt and non-exempt cooperatives to be able to "pass through" tax credits to your membership. This is significant and beneficial to your patrons.

(2) Includes exempt cooperatives within the definition of taxpayer in the Nebraska Advantage Act, the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act, and the Nebraska Microenterprise Act. Presently, exempt cooperatives are not eligible to receive tax credits for business expansion and investment under Nebraska tax incentive laws.

Your Council has devoted considerable time and energy the past couple of years in ensuring inclusion of cooperatives and equatibility within Nebraska's tax incentive programs for business expansion/investment. The resolvment of this was our foremost legislative priority this session.

**LB 1014 - SMALL CLAIMS COURT (Support)**

LB 1014 is on General File (1<sup>st</sup> reading). The bill increases the jurisdictional limits for small claims court actions which are currently limited to disputes less than \$2,400.

Under LB 1014, the amount would increase to \$2,700 from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006, and to \$4,000 from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2010. After that, the limit would be adjusted every five years in accordance with changes in the Consumer Price Index at the direction of the Nebraska Supreme Court.



**LB 1084, 99, AND 489 - BOILER INSPECTION ACT AND ELEVATOR INSPECTIONS**

The purpose of LB 1084 is to consolidate all mandatory state safety inspections, except those conducted by the State Electrical Board, the Department of Health and Human Services, or the Department of Environmental Quality. Our interest in LB 1084 is its effect on manlifts, hoists, elevators, or conveyance used in grain elevators or feed mills. LB 1084 is pending before the Government, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee following the February 8 hearing.

LB 99, the Conveyance Safety Act, also relates to elevator safety and is currently pending on General File. As introduced, it includes exemptions for (1) manlifts, hoists, elevators, or conveyances within the scope of the American Society of Engineers A17.1 (Part XV) used in grain elevators or feed mills; and (2) manlifts, hoists, or conveyances used in grain elevators or feed mills.

LB 489 deals with elevator safety and is on General File. It is a Business & Labor Committee priority bill. Provisions of LB 99 would be incorporated into LB

489 via AM1006 which was filed by Senator Synowiecki in March of 2005. AM1006 remains pending.

### **LB 1112 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LAW - AG PROCESSING FACILITIES (Support)**

LB 1112 is pending before the Urban Affairs Committee. It amends the Community Development Law to provide that if a redevelopment project includes an agricultural processing facility the project may be undertaken without a designation that the community development area is blighted and substandard.

LB 1112 eases the regulatory burden for new ag processing facilities and would make public funding available in any community in the state. This would greatly enhance the ability of cooperatives or other investors in creating value added and other projects.

### **LB 1187 - ALTERNATIVE FUELS (Neutral)**

LB 1187 is pending before the Natural Resources Committee. The bill provides for the sale and use of alternative fuels to make them more accessible to the customer (i.e., by placing E85 under the canopy). The bill seems to be aimed at clauses in branding and franchise agreements used by oil companies that retailers selling their brand are restricted from making sales of alternative fuels.

As currently drafted, motor vehicle fuel (including ethanol), diesel fuel, and compressed fuel are not included under the definition of "alternative fuel."

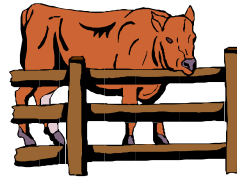
### **LB 1197 - FEED BANK LICENSURE ACT (Support with amendment)**

The hearing for LB 1197 was February 14, and the bill remains pending before the Ag Committee. LB 1197 was introduced at the request of the Nebraska Grain & Feed Association

and would adopt the Feed Bank Licensure Act. This Act would apply to livestock feeding operations that accept grain for the account of the depositor to be fed as ground or whole grain to livestock owned by the depositor and not intended for storage or for sale to the livestock feeding operation. In addition, the Act also includes specific disclaimer language. Unless licensed as a grain dealer under the Grain Dealer Act or as a warehouse licensee under the Grain Warehouse Act, any person who purchases grain during any calendar year in excess of 10,000 bushels or valued at \$25,000 or more would be required to include specific disclaimer language on all copies of scale tickets used when the grain is received or upon any contract for the purchase of grain.

Council Attorney Rocky Weber testified at the hearing on behalf of the Council. As part of his testimony, he offered an amendment to LB 1197 that, if accepted, would require all state licensed grain warehousemen to file an audited fiscal year-end financial statement prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles by an independent person or firm which holds a permit granted by the Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy. In essence, financial reviews would no longer be allowed. The Council's support of LB 1197 is premised on the inclusion of our offered amendment.

The Council's position/amendment is predicated on producer protection with those selling grain to grain warehousemen and grain dealers, as well as large feedlots and ethanol plants. According to Public Service Commission (PSC) data, there have been 11 grain warehouse/grain dealer failures since 1992. Ten (10) of the elevators involved financial reviews. Seven of the 11 involved producer losses and all had



used financial reviews. Only one failure involved a cooperative—the Nora-Nelson-Ruskin Cooperative in 2003 which had used an audit; however, there were no producer losses in this case.

In his closing comments during the hearing, Senator Wehrbein indicated that he felt an interim study was warranted.

### **LB 1228 - UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA (Support)**

LB 1228 was killed by the Appropriations Committee. It would have allocated \$500,000 from the General Fund in fiscal years 2006/07 through 2008/09 to the UNL Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources (IANR) to be used as "matching funds" for monies raised by private funding sources to help fill staff positions for teaching and research positions within the animal science, ag economics, and agronomy departments within the IANR. Senator Wehrbein offered an amendment to LB 1228 to specifically add "extension programming" to the bill which was a technical oversight in drafting.

The Council supported LB 1228 during the Revenue Committee hearing on February 9. Other proponents were: Senator Wehrbein, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Pork Producers, and Nebraska Farm Bureau.

The Council's testimony centered on the fact that the "cooperative" position at IANR is currently vacated and has been for four out of the past six years. We also stressed the need for a third party, independent source of cooperative research and extension that only higher education can provide.

It should be noted that the University has also requested the Appropriations Committee for approximately \$11.8 million in "deficiency funding" for utilities and the remedial investigation and cleanup expenses related to the Ag Research and Development Center (ARDC) near Mead, NE. Without this

*(cont. on page 8)*

2006 Legislature (cont. from page 7)

“deficiency funding,” the University will probably experience additional budget cuts. The Council’s Board and Legislative Advisory Committee has gone on record in support of UNL’s request and has forwarded a letter to the Appropriations Committee stating same.

**LB 1237 AND LB 1238 - WORKERS COMPENSATION (Support)**

Two significant bills relating to workers compensation (WC) remain pending before the Business & Labor Committee. LB 1237 has been declared a priority by the Committee and would:

- a. establish a WC Advisory Council to make recommendations for reform of the WC system
- b. establish a medical fee schedule
- c. direct the WC Court and Appellate Courts to “strictly construe” the WC statutes in rendering decisions

- d. alter “physician choice” provisions outside of a certified managed care plan
- e. reinstate a modified version of the “Workplace Safety Program”

LB 1238 would base the WC medical fee schedule on an amount equal to a percentage of Medicare and provide a fee for medical hardware that is equal to the provider’s invoice wholesale cost plus 20%.

In February 2003, the Council became a dues-paying member of Nebraskans For Workers’ Compensation Equity Fairness (NFWCEF), a non-profit organization made up of concerned individuals, employers, the insurance industry, and attorneys who have joined together with the intention of working for change in the WC laws of Nebraska.



Visit our website at [www.nebr.coop](http://www.nebr.coop)

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**NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT**

*"To defend, protect and enhance the agricultural cooperative movement through pro-active programs in education, legislation, government affairs, communication, and regulatory issues."*

**THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES:**

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperation among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

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