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SB 2087 Testimony
Dr. Ethan Andress
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House Agriculture
March 6, 2025

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture committee, I am Dr. Ethan Andress, North Dakota State Veterinarian. I am here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, and the State Board of Animal Health (BOAH). I will testify on SB 2087.

SB 2087 is intended to clarify the responsibilities of the State Board of Animal Health as it relates to animal identification, and the Stockmen's Association's authority for premises identification for cattle, horses, and mules.

NDCC Chapter 4.1-72-05 addresses the options for producers to obtain a Premises Identification Number (PIN) through USDA APHIS's Premises Management database, especially as it relates to funding. Currently, state animal health officials, federal agencies and the Stockmen's Association can use the federal allocator to request PIN numbers for producers. At this time, there is no federal funding provided to states for this purpose.

Animal identification is covered under two statutes NDCC 36-01-08 which grants the Commissioner authority to collect fees (at cost) for brucellosis and identification tags, and NDCC 36-01-32, which gives the BOAH authority to “develop and maintain animal tracking databases to assist with tracking animal movements for animal health purposes only.”

While there is understanding between state partners regarding the existing language, I would encourage the passage of SB 2087 to clarify and avoid potential confusion over “animal identification” authority moving forward.

Thank you, and I will stand for any questions.