2009 SENATE AGRICULTURE

SB 2342

# 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2342

Senate Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 29, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 8088

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

**Sen. Flakoll** opened the hearing on SB 2342, a bill providing an appropriation for defraying the expenses associated with the control of Johne's disease in ND. Members present (6), absent (1)- **Sen. Heckaman**.

**Sen. Taylor** testified in favor of the bill and went over an attachment with the committee, see attachment #1.

**Sen. Christmann**, district 33, testified in favor of the bill.

**Sen. Christmann**- I have been a commercial rancher my entire life and about all I knew about Johne's was is that it is very bad and that it is a dairy issue and I didn't have to worry about it, in talking to some of my dairy friends from around the district and people that I know, respect and believe I have been educated a bit that it is much more serious then I thought and in the beef industry as well. So this shows that I am a prime example as to why we need to be doing more education on this.

**Sen. Klein**- the money is always a issue when we look at these and understanding as legislatures that we do have good ideas and good bills that have appropriations on them, do you see us having a struggle with this?

**Sen. Christmann**- every bill will go through a struggle when there is money involved. I think that when you look at the livestock industry with beef and dairy that this is the kind of investment into ND's long term economic future that is going to rate very highly on that scale of priorities.

**Jesse Vollmer**, State Board of Animal Health, testified in support of the bill, see attachment #2.

**Sen. Miller**- what does it cost to test an animal?

**Jesse Vollmer**- the blood test costs from the lab at NDSU charges $5 a head, the fecal test is $25 a sample and there is a lab charge of $7 for the first one.

**Sen. Miller**- how does the disease spread exactly?

**Jesse Vollmer**- the disease is a fecal oral spread. The bacteria can live for up to 18 months in water and pastures.

**Sen. Flakoll**- can they get this from deer?

**Jesse Vollmer**- yes they can.

**Nancy Kopp**, ND Veterinary medical association, testified in favor of the bill.

**Nancy Kopp**- This would be to fund a very good successful program that has worked so far. Currently we have 80 vets participating in this program, I don't have a whole lot of knowledge on this subject but ask for your support.

**Chad Wild**, veterinarian from New Salem, testified in support of the bill. See attachment #3.

**Sen. Flakoll**- can the producer take the sample and send it in?

**Chad Wild**- they could but a vet has to submit the sample.

**Sen. Flakoll**- why?

**Jesse Vollmer**- if the producer drew the blood samples and sent them in the university I think would take them and run the samples but the way that the USDA rules are written we need the

3rd party verification on the samples so that the producer doesn't take a sample from a cow that he knows is negative.

**Alan Tellman**, M.P.A. Milk producer of ND, testified in favor of the bill.

**Alan Tellman**- I am here to ask you to continue to support this program. I have had personal experience with this disease and what this program does is it teaches you and helps you become aware of some basic things that goes on on your ranch or farm.

**Keith Medalen**, registered angus breeder, testified in favor of the bill.

**Keith Medalen**- I have had personal experience with this disease, not only am I a rancher but I am a business man. We sell registered bulls and as a business person one of the most important things is reputation, we do not want complaints, this program is one way to help manage your risk and stop things before they start.

**Kristi Doll**, dairy farmer, testified in favor of the bill.

**Kristi Doll**- We have lived with Johne's on our farm to the point we almost went out of business because of it. We are doing a experimental vaccination that is helping us control this, please support this program, this is a devastating disease.

**Mike Beltz**, farmer and chairman of the ND Ag Coalition, testified in favor of the bill. See attachment #4.

**Julie Ellingson**, ND Stockmen's association submitted testimony see attachment #5.

No opposition to the bill.

**Sen. Flakoll** closed the hearing.

# 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2342

Senate Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 29, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 8166

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

**Sen. Flakoll** opened discussion on SB 2342. Members present (6), absent (1)- **Sen. Heckaman.**

**Sen. Taylor** motioned for a Do Pass and to be rerefered to appropriations and was seconded by **Sen. Klein**, vote 6 yea, 0 nay, 1 absent and not voting. **Sen. Taylor** was designated to carry the bill to the floor.

**Sen. Flakoll** closed the discussion.

Date: Jan 29, 2009
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** 2342

Senate Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass rereferd to Apps

Motion Made By Taylor Seconded By Klein

| Senators | Yes | No | Senators | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| Tim Flakoll-Chairman | X | | Arthur Behm | X | |
| Terry Wanzek-Vice Chairman | X | | Joan Heckaman | | |
| Jerry Klein | X | | Ryan Taylor | X | |
| Joe Miller | X | | | | |
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Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Sen. Taylor

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

## REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**SB 2342: Agriculture Committee (Sen. Flakoll, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2342 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2009 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2342

# 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2342

Senate Appropriations Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 5, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 8765

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg called the committee hearing back to order at 11:15 am in regards to SB 2342 concerning the defraying of expenses associated with the control of Johne's disease in North Dakota.

**Sen. Taylor,** district 7, testified in favor of the bill.

Sen. Taylor- Has to do with Johne's disease a very fatal disease, but talking about just the bill itself and the numbers this is a program that has gone in ND that has had federal funding in the past. We are sponsoring this bill to ask for state funding, and you can see in the money there in the amount of $275,000. Some people will talk about what it can cost producers in the state, it is a bacterial disease that is not treatable, fatal and has great losses in production. It affects dairy and beef industry, but mostly in the dairy industry that we wish to grow in the state.

**Sen. Krauter** - What are the current federal dollars?

**Sen. Taylor**- they will go through how the administration has gone about it in the past.

**Sen. Kilzer** - Was this request in executive budget?

**Sen. Taylor**- it did not make it into the Ag department and the executive budget, so it is outside of that.

**Sen. Kilzer**- it was not even in the agriculture request.

**Sen. Taylor-** No

**Jesse Vollmer**, assistant State Veterinarian, testified in favor of the bill. See attached testimony, attachment #1and #2.

**V. Chair Sen.Bowman**- What does the rancher get out of this other than continue testing if there is no cure?

**Vollmer**: it helps decrease level of incidence in herd. The risk assessment is necessary to control the herds and teaches them how to do practices that keep from spreading the disease.

**V. Chair Sen. Bowman** -Is there research done at NDSU or any of the research centers that has livestock that can help find cure?

**Vollmer:** Not that I am aware of, because costs would be so astronomical, there is some research going on nationally. Treatment is not a viable option, there is research for new and better vaccines. We're 3-5 years away from hitting the commercial market with those.

**Nathan Boehm**, Dairy Farmer from Mandan, ND and Dairy Representative for State Board of Animal Health, testified in favor of the bill. See attached testimony, attachment #3.

**Sen. Mathern** Is this list of 186 producers public?

**Boehm-** No it's confidential.

**Allen Tellman**, Family Dairy from New Salem, testified in favor of the bill.

Allen Tellman- I am in support of this bill. We ended up with cattle that contracted Johne's disease and have had very good success with the program. The reason that this program is important to get some funding is cause of virus security. It teaches some things to the producers.

**Sen. Krauter** - you said cost share? Do you as producer pay anything to be part of that/

**Allen**: Yes we do. As the funds kind of run out they distribute it thinner and thinner every year. I think it was around $5-9 per head of the cost share and it varies from test to test.

**Jesse Vollmer**: the cost share on our licensed test now we are paying $2.50, last year we paid $5. They still have the vet tests for drawing and shipping the blood and doing the paperwork and those the ranchers and farmers are paying for themselves.

**Nathan Boehm**- The cost share that you were talking about, last year I spent 1700 dollars to test herd and payment back to me was only $400. It has never even covered half of the costs.

**Sen. Mathern**- is this mandatory?

**Nathan Boehm**- no it is not we want it to be voluntary, we want producers to feel like they can do this, clean it up and get somewhere without being forced to do it.

**Julie Ellingson**, ND Stockmen's Association, testified in favor of the bill.

**Julie Ellingson**- we would also like to go on record that we support this program and we believe in the value of testing for Johne's and following up on results to make sure that Johne's positive testing animals are eliminated. We have several members that are part of the 185 participating producers, we believe there is value for those participating members as well as a value for all producers in the state.

**Mike Beltz**, Chairman of Ag Coalition, testified in favor of the bill.

**Mike Beltz**- For the reasons mentioned today the cost share and education the Ag coalition supports this bill.

**Chairman Sen. Holmberg** closed the hearing on the bill.

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Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senate Appropriations
February 11, 2009

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2342

Page 1, line 2, after "Dakota" insert "; and to provide for a legislative council study"

Page 1, after line 15, insert:

"**SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - JOHNE'S DISEASE.** During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the impact of Johne's disease on livestock producers in the state. The study, if conducted, may include a review of the need to quarantine affected livestock herds to control the spread of disease. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

This amendment adds a section to provide for a Legislative Council study of the impact of Johne's disease in North Dakota.

Date: 2-11-09

Roll Call Vote # 1

**2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** 2342

Senate **Senate Appropriations** Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number Amendment

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended

Motion Made By Sen. Krauter Seconded By

| Senators | Yes | No | Senators | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sen. Ray Holmberg, Chairman | | | Sen. Aaron Krauter | | |
| Sen. Bill Bowman, VCh | | | Sen. Elroy N. Lindaas | | |
| Sen. Tony S. Grindberg, VCh | | | Sen. Tim Mathern | | |
| Sen. Randel Christmann | | | Sen. Larry J. Robinson | | |
| Sen. Tom Fischer | | | Sen. Tom Seymour | | |
| Sen. Ralph Kilzer | | | Sen. John Warner | | |
| Sen. Karen K. Krebsbach | | | | | |
| Sen. Rich Wardner | | | | | |
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Total Yes No

Absent

Floor Assignment Krauter (talk to Committee)

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Voice Vote passed

Date: 2-11-09
Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** 2342

Senate _____ Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended as amended

Motion Made By Sen Bowman Seconded By Sen. Krauter

| Representatives | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Senator Fischer | ✓ | | Senator Warner | ✓ | |
| Senator Christmann | ✓ | | Senator Robinson | ✓ | |
| Senator Krebsbach | ✓ | | Senator Krauter | ✓ | |
| Senator Bowman | ✓ | | Senator Lindaas | ✓ | |
| Senator Kilzer | ✓ | | Senator Mathern | ✓ | |
| Senator Grindberg | ✓ | | Senator Seymour | ✓ | |
| Senator Wardner | ✓ | | | | |
| Chairman Holmberg | ✓ | | | | |
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Total Yes 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Ag Committee

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent: Taylor

## REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**SB 2342: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2342 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, after "Dakota" insert "; and to provide for a legislative council study"

Page 1, after line 15, insert:

"**SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - JOHNE'S DISEASE.** During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the impact of Johne's disease on livestock producers in the state. The study, if conducted, may include a review of the need to quarantine affected livestock herds to control the spread of disease. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

This amendment adds a section to provide for a Legislative Council study of the impact of Johne's disease in North Dakota.

2009 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

SB 2342

# 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2342

House Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 12, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10806

Committee Clerk Signature Pe Mae Kreh

Minutes:

**Senator Taylor, Co-Sponsor:** I've been working with the Board of Animal Health and their concerns about continuing a program they started. Johne's disease is chronic diarrhea in cattle. This is an appropriation bill to continue the testing and the education on Johne's disease. It affects both beef and dairy cattle in North Dakota. There is no treatment for the disease and causes loss of production. It is always fatal and hard to control. It is a microbacteria.

**Representative Mueller:** Section 2 calls for a study. What do we need to study?

**Senator Taylor:** The bill didn't come in with a study. As it was heard by Senate Appropriations, they were convinced to add a study given the costliness of the disease. During the study they want to review the quarantine possibility. The quarantine didn't help to control the disease but rather made it go underground. It is better to not have a fear of the disease.

**Senator Christmann, Co-Sponsor:** The testing appears to be the most important part of this bill but I think education is equally important. When I signed on to the bill, I didn't know much about Johne's disease. I found out that most of what I knew was not right.

**Jesse Vollmer, DVM, Assistant State Veterinarian: (Written testimony attached #1) (Attachment #2 contains an explanation of the disease)**

To address Representative Mueller's question on the study:

When we did make this disease reportable and quarantineable from the early 80's to the mid 90's, it was a disaster for us. It made it so it was economically unviable for the ranchers that it was diagnosed upon. So there was very little testing done. Currently NDSU is doing between 10,000 and 15,000 tests a year. At that time, I don't think they were doing 500 tests. It is a voluntary program. If you make the regulations too strict, you drive the disease underground.

**Representative Mueller:** How prevalent is this disease?

**Jesse Vollmer:** It is difficult to put on an exact number. According to USDA in the dairy industry, nationwide about 90% of the herds are infected. In the beef industry, it is about 10% of the herds nationwide. The level in the herd varies due to management practices.

**Representative Mueller:** Is it communicable in the cow herd?

**Jesse Vollmer:** Yes. The disease is spread fecally orally. It is easiest to infect a calf in that first 24 hours of age. Their intestines are open to absorbing antibodies. The space between the cells in the gut are spaced wider so the large antibodies can get in. It also allows the bacteria to get in. As the animal gets older, they are less able to pick up the disease. If you get a large enough dose in an adult animal, it is still possible to infect a 5 or 6 year old cow.

**Representative Rust:** In your testimony you said the 2001 biennium provided some state dollars. Am I to assume that in 2003, 2005, 2007 no state dollars were provided?

**Jesse Vollmer:** That is correct.

**Representative Rust:** The amount of the dollars that the federal government gave, was that sufficient?

**Jesse Vollmer:** We had a flush of money at the beginning when we didn't have as many producers. Then the federal money kept going down. Now as producers have increased, we are in a hold mode. We need to do whole herd testing to get ahead of the disease process.

**Representative Rust:** If the new bill signed by the President includes dollars in its budget, would it be alright to make this bill contingent upon that?

**Jesse Vollmer:** The best case scenario, if they put in the full funding federally, we would expect to see somewhere between $30,000 and $70,000. It doesn't help us at the level we need help.

**Chairman Johnson:** When we had this bill last session, there was no money in the 2007 session?

**Jesse Vollmer:** I was in practice at that time—not in this position.

**Representative Wall:** Is this a growing problem? Are there more infected herds than 10 years ago?

**Jesse Vollmer:** I wouldn't say more herds are infected. I would say there are more herds figuring out that they are infected. I don't think the disease level has changed a lot. The dynamics of livestock agriculture has changed. Herds are becoming bigger which means you are pulling in cows from different sources.

**Representative Vig:** In your second handout, you have the tuberculosis eradication program in 1917. I was thinking of the 1918 plague. Is this disease what led up to the plague?

**Jesse Vollmer:** No. The reference in the attachment is because both diseases are caused by microbacteria.

**Chairman Johnson:** There is no cure? No way to vaccinate?

**Jesse Vollmer:** There is a vaccine. The vaccine is currently conditionally licensed. The reason for that is it interferes with tuberculosis testing. They are working on a new vaccine at Cornell. This new vaccine is not supposed to interfere with TB testing. It is 2-3 years away from commercial production. They are using it in a herd by New Salem.

**Chairman Johnson:** In your comments about 90% of the dairy animals, the day old dairy calves that come through the sale barn for replacement calves for beef herds. Has that been a problem?

**Jesse Vollmer:** It is 90% of the herds rather than 90% of animals. The shed of the organism doesn't happen until the animal is about two years old. So we shouldn't have much of a problem.

**Nancy Kopp, ND Veterinary Medical Assn.:** Our association has worked closely for a number of years with the dept. on education, recruitment, and certification of veterinarians to participate with the livestock producers to control the transmission of Johne's disease. We are in support of this bill.

**Chad Wild, Veterinarian from New Salem: (Written testimony attached #3)**

To vaccinate the animals, they have to be 35 days of age or younger. The vaccine itself is very dangerous. If you accidentally prick or inject yourself, it can cause a large granuloma. That can happen on cattle as well. So they are vaccinated in the brisket area. They can develop golf ball to softball size lumps in the area vaccinated. The one herd we are using it on, we've been vaccinating for about a year and a half now. We are about 6-8 months away from seeing those animals come into productivity.

**Representative Mueller:** How does the funding work? If a producer calls, do you come out and test all animals. Some part of that fee is reimbursed?

**Chad Wild:** The producer is to recover most of the testing costs themselves. When we send the samples to NDSU, we designate that it is part of Johne's program and then it is reported back to the state and us. Depending on how much funding is available, we get reimbursed up to a certain amount.

**Chairman Johnson:** What is the cost of a test?

**Chad Wild:** That varies on how many samples we send in. The more samples, the less it costs. The test costs from $5-8 per head.

**Chairman Johnson:** Does that include your fees? What is the cost to the producer?

**Chad Wild:** Generally $7-14 per head total.

**Representative Wall:** In the funding request, I don't see money for research. Is that ongoing elsewhere?

**Chad Wild:** It is ongoing nationally.

**Representative Mueller:** Once an animal has been tested, do you have to test them again?

**Chad Wild:** That is the tough part about the disease. If an animal is infected at birth, for example, the signs may not show until 10 years of age. A four-year old may not test positive until six years old.

**Representative Rust:** Since the dollar amounts are put into the bill, I am assuming there isn't anything in the Commissioner of Agriculture budget for this.

**Chairman Johnson:** That would be my understanding. I would have to take this to appropriations.

**Allan Tellmann, President of ND Milk Producers Assn and Dairy Owner North of New Salem: (Written testimony attached #4)** The most important part of this bill is the educational part. For example, the way the water runs off your corrals. If it runs from the older animals to younger animals, it takes the disease to them. Now that we are involved in the program, we would stay in even if there is no cost share. The incentive gets new producers on board.

**Representative Mueller:** How do you get rid of it? Is it by culling?

**Allan Tellman:** If you have an infected animal, it is a cull. It goes to slaughter. There is nothing wrong with the meat for slaughter since it is an intestinal disease. That is where the

once a year test is important. Basic control is testing, culling, and the environment that your animals are in. The vaccination program is exciting news.

**Representative Rust:** Once you cull the animal out of your herd, who do you inform so you don't infect other animals?

**Allan Tellman:** There is a tool you can use. The Ag Dept. supplied us with a C Punch. It is a small letter "c" that you punch in their ear. "C" standing for cull. I'm not sure how effective that is. I visited with sales barn management in Napoleon and Dickinson on how they handle animals that are mapped for slaughter only. If a producer indicates "for slaughter only", 99% of the time it will go there.

**Representative Rust:** Is there a danger of infecting other animals in the livestock sale?

**Allan Tellman:** Yes there is. If that animal is penned or grouped with other slaughter animals, it would help. So it is an education not only for production agriculture but for processing also.

**Representative Rust:** Does the producer specify to the livestock sale that this animal has Johne's disease?

**Allan Tellman:** That would be his duty. He should indicate that this is a slaughter animal.

**Representative Boe:** You indicate that the animals may not test positive for up to ten years. Is there a need to track back the offspring of that animal?

**Allan Tellman:** Not really. If the offspring is nursing, the disease can be transferred. It could give an indication of higher risk.

**Representative Wall:** For how many years has Johne's disease been a concern for you?

**Allan Tellman:** About 5 or 6 years ago. Johne's was something I read in magazines. Then we had a cow that wasn't responding to standard treatments. The vet called to tell us it was on animals we purchased. We were fortunate that we caught it early. Since then every test we've had has been better. The last test was down to two positives. We are more aware of the

disease and understand it better and the different ways that we were maybe spreading it in our operation.

**Representative Uglem:** Are most dairy producers now using sanitary practices?

**Allan Tellman:** Yes, I think there has been a big awareness that we didn't have 10-20 years ago. Everybody is doing something. They are not using the same bucket on the tractor for cleaning out the pens as they are for feeding the cattle.

**Sheyna Strommen, ND Stockmen's Assn.: (Written testimony attached #5)**

**Chairman Johnson:** Is this disease isolated in certain areas in the country?

**Jesse Vollmer:** We see it more in the eastern part of the United States where cattle are close together.

**Representative Wall:** Did this disease go by another name?

**Jesse Vollmer:** It has been referred to Johne's disease for a long time. It also has been called para tuberculosis.

**Nathan Boehm, Dairy Farmer from Mandan, Chairman and Dairy Representative to the State Board of Animal Health: (Written testimony attached #6)**

**Mike Beltz, Chairman of ND Ag Coalition: (Witten testimony attached #7)**

**Shawn Schafer, Nontraditional Livestock, ND Board of Animal Health:**

I see so many times we start programs and then down the road it is stopped. In working with other states' Boards of Animal Health, most states have a full-time staff member dedicated to this disease. We have Jesse Vollmer split up between every disease that comes into the state. Ames, Iowa is doing research right now. There is research now that they think there is a tie between Johne's disease and Chrone's disease. It is a devastating disease not only to animals but possibly humans as well. Let's not drive it back under ground.

**Chairman Johnson:** Do you have a testing program for Nontraditional Livestock?

**Shawn Schafer:** I raise white tail deer. I do test any animal that looks like it is affected.

**Chairman Johnson:** Have you had a positive test?

**Shawn Schafer:** No.

**Kristi Doll, Dairy Farmer, New Salem:** "Shoot, shovel and shut up" has got to stop. We have been testing our herd for eight years. Years ago we were involved in a lawsuit with a feed company that killed our cattle and won. We had to go out and replace our cattle. We went to a dairy farm by Turtle Lake and purchased 20 heifers. That brought us back to milking between 110-130 cows. Within a couple of years we had to test our cattle. We traced back 6 of the 20 heifers we purchased were positive for Johne's disease. Out of 180 head that we tested, 30 plus were positive for Johne's. So it went from 6 to 30 head. We were going to have to sell the cattle to keep the land. We have four children. All four want to come back to the farm. One very much wants to be a dairy farmer. So we had to cull them out. The milk check was getting very thin and the coyotes were getting fat. We had four employees out of jobs. We have purchased, and required to be tested, additional cows. We now have 250 head and are the farm on the vaccination program. Our vet has to come out and give our calves a shot at under 30 days of age. They get a lump but we are hoping to keep our heifers. We cannot afford to continue to go out and buy replacements. Education is very important. I was not an educated buyer. As far as culling cows, there is a terminal livestock market at Turtle Lake. They go directly to slaughter.

**Representative Wall:** Does your own industry provide any money for education, etc. through check-off dollars?

**Kristi Doll:** I wrote an article for the ND Holstein Assn. newsletter. I told the membership about this bill and asking for their support. I told them what had happened to us. Since them we have another person that wants to test their herd. I don't know of money that has come

from any sources other than state money. There is a pharmaceutical company working with Cornell University to make a vaccine to prevent the disease. I don't know of any other funding.

**Opposition:** None

**Chairman Johnson:** Closed the hearing.

# 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2342

House Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 12, 2009 **(Committee Work)**

Recorder Job Number: 10850

Committee Clerk Signature Pa Mae Kuehn

Minutes:

**Representative Rust:** Do we want to talk about the possibility of federal funds?

**Chairman Johnson:** It is something we can talk about here but that is something appropriations would talk about too.

**Representative Froelich:** There are some federal funds.

**Chairman Johnson:** In our testimony this morning, the $177,000 state money was in 2001. We've had federal funds and that is drying up. That is why they came back here to get state funds again.

**Representative Boe:** If federal funds come in and the state funds are not used, don't they go back to the general fund?

**Representative Rust:** There is an opinion in the state that there is a lot of money. As a result there have been a lot of requests. They are good requests but we have to draw a line. If there are some federal dollars available, let's use that

**Chairman Johnson:** What is the committee's wish if we get an amendment put together to that effect?

**Representative Mueller:** The appropriation people do that all the time. That will be the first thing they ask.

**Representative Froelich: Moved Do Pass and be rereferred to Appropriations**

**Representative Vig: Seconded.**

**Representative Wall:** For the people on this committee who are livestock producers, is this something we need to put the money forward to?

**Representative Froelich:** This affects mostly the dairy industry. They have been working for years to clean up the herds. How much money does the dairy industry put into the state? How much are we willing to give back to them?

**Representative Wall:** Some who testified said the line item for education was important. My question is how much is the industry putting forth for education? When we had the joint meeting with the Senate, we went over all the check off programs, they probably said it but I don't remember.

A Roll Call vote was taken. **Yes:** 12 **, No:** 0 **, Absent:** 1 **,** (Representative Brandenburg).

**Representative Rust will carry the bill.**

Date: 3/12/09

Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** 2342

House **Agriculture** Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended

Motion Made By Rep. Froelich Seconded By Rep. Vig

| Representatives | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dennis Johnson, Chair | ✓ | | Tracy Boe | ✓ | |
| Mike Brandenburg, Vice Chair | AB | | Rod Froelich | ✓ | |
| Wesley R. Belter | ✓ | | Richard Holman | ✓ | |
| Joyce M. Kingsbury | ✓ | | Phillip Mueller | ✓ | |
| David S. Rust | ✓ | | Benjamin A. Vig | ✓ | |
| Mike Schatz | ✓ | | | | |
| Gerry Uglem | ✓ | | | | |
| John D. Wall | ✓ | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1

Bill Carrier Rep. Rust

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Approp

## REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**SB 2342, as engrossed: Agriculture Committee (Rep. D. Johnson, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2342 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee.**

2009 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2342

# 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2342

House Appropriations Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 24, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 11479

Committee Clerk Signature Jeanette Cook

Minutes:

**Rep. Dennis Johnson** approached the podium to explain Johne's Disease control. The only way to get rid of it is to liquidate the affected animals. The people that testified emphasized that we include education. Ninety percent of the cows are in dairy herds. Ten percent are in beef herds. It can get transferred when they buy a dairy calf for a replacement beef calf.

**Chm. Svedjan**: This bill is requesting the replacement of lost federal dollars?

**Rep. Johnson**: It has been there before. It has had state funding and federal dollars.

**Rep. Kempenich**: I think we took this out of EARP last session. We have been "monkeying" with this for a couple of sessions and not taking it out of general funds.

**Rep. Meyer** moved a **Do Pass** on SB 2342.

**Rep. Metcalf** seconded the motion.

**Rep. Hawken**: In the past two days we have not done a bunch of things for people. I think we need to have some thought process on how we automatically do some of these things, and when it comes to taking care of our citizens we don't.

**Chm. Svedjan**: What is the current state of the problem? Is this infiltrating our herds now?

**Rep. Johnson**: It's mainly the dairy herds. It's an ongoing problem that the dairy producers are trying to get resolved. The herds need to get tested every year to try to identify the cows

that need to be liquidated out for slaughter. They are looking for help to eradicate this problem.

**Rep. Skarphol**: There are testing requirements for bringing cattle in to the state with tuberculosis. Why is there no testing for Johne's disease?

**Rep. Johnson**: These cattle came to New Salem from Turtle Lake, not out of state.

**Chr. Svedjan**: Can you give us any idea of the testing costs per animal?

**Rep. Johnson**: I believe that is about $8 to $10 per animal.

**Chr. Svedjan:** It doesn't seem insurmountable for a producer.

**Rep. Skarphol**: I agree with Rep. Hawken. We have previously had money in the budget for Johne 's disease. In this budget we don't have money in the Ag. budget for Johne's disease. I'm not sure how many times we have to do this before the producers figure it out for themselves.

**Rep. Onstad**: In the past it's been a cost share with the federal. You can test one year and it's a negative. The following year it's positive. It is an ongoing situation. Sometimes there are false readings. In the past the federal has paid some, and the producer has paid part of it. The treatment is expensive. They need something to help.

**Rep. Wald**: How does this impact human health if that milk gets into the milk stream?

**Rep. Johnson**: I don't believe that there is Johne's in humans.

**Rep. Wald**: Is it fatal?

**Rep. Johnson**: It is more for the health of the herd.

**Rep. Nelson**: Is there any producer input as far as the cost share with testing or drawing a blood sample, or would the whole program be paid for by the state of North Dakota?

**Rep. Johnson**: This bill is to help producers to monitor their herds and help to test. Part of it is for education for the producers, so they don't sell the animals in the sales barn, and then they go back into other herds.

**Rep. Nelson**: What is the testing assistance? Is it the drawing of the blood and the testing of the blood?

**Rep. Johnson**: $8 per head to do the testing.

**Rep. Nelsion**: The $8, is that what the testing assistance is? Are they asking the whole state to pay all of that, or are the producers bearing part of that cost?

**Rep. Johnson**: I don't know the answer to that.

**Rep. Delzer**: We should ask what the technical assistance and the office support are?

**Rep. Johnson**: The support education is to make producers aware of the disease, so they will test their herds.

**Rep. Delzer**: How many producers are there in the state?

**Rep. Johnson**: I don't remember, but it was asked. There are new large dairies coming in.

**Rep. Pollert**: Why wasn't this in the Agriculture Department's budget?

**Rep. Johnson**: The people that testified said that it had been federal dollars, and they are now losing the federal dollars. So, they brought it back in this form.

**Rep. Pollert**: When the federal dollars are lost, the agencies are usually not shy about putting it in their budgets.

**Rep. Metcalf**: It seems that basically what we need – the people of North Dakota – we need someone to educate people about what this disease is.

**Rep. Metcalf** moved to amend the bill to remove all funding except for the $40,000 for education as a substitute motion.

**Rep. Bellew** seconded the motion to amend.

**Rep. Skarphol**: This was not even an optional request in the Ag. Commissioner's budget request.

**Rep. Nelson**: I still don't know what the testing assistance is. If that is a cost share for the use of testing , but if it's paying for the entire piece that's arguable?

**Rep. Onstad**: The bill was brought forward by the State Board of Animal Health, which is not part of the Agriculture. If you look up toward the top it talks about defraying some of the expenses as incurred with the testing. I think the $150,000 is a proposed cost share with each of the producers to help defray some of the costs.

**Rep. Berg**: The objective is to cure the problem. Putting forward the education is not going to solve it. The problem is dairy prices are very low. They don't want to test. They want to move those cows out through the sales barn, and hope they don't test positive. I don't know what we need to do to get this corrected. I think this is an opportunity to get the cows tested once and for all. I oppose the amendment.

A voice vote was taken and division was called for.

A roll call vote was taken. **Aye 8 Nay 15 Absent 2**

**The motion failed.**

**Chr. Svedjan:** We are back to the Do Pass motion.

**Rep. Kreidt**: (16:14) I own part of a dairy. We've never experienced a problem. We raise all our own replacements. I do know there are a couple of dairies in New Salem that purchased replacement livestock. No one approached me to support this bill. I know what the disease is and think it's a serious problem for the industry. Probably some of the concern for the producers right now is that we were receiving $22 - $23 per hundred weight for our milk a year ago. Right now we are down to $9 - $10 per hundred weight. In our dairy right now we lose $6,000 per month. We are not going to have dairies around for long. I believe there is a

problem. They cannot take care of it right now because they are losing so much money. If we can help out the industry, we probably should. This is an industry that will die without support.

**Rep. Skarphol**: We put $200,000 in the Dairy Coalition in the Ag Department's budget. If this bill passes in conference committee, we will take the money out in order to make sure that we fund this. You need to be aware of this. I'm not going to support doubling up on it. We did hear a lot from the Dairy Coalition, and we heard nothing about this issue.

**Rep. Berg**: Was the $200,000 for Johne's?

**Rep. Skarphol**: No, it was for the promotion of the Dairy industry. Do they need money for promotion? Or do they need to be saved? I seriously don't think we should do both.

**Rep. Kreidt**: The Dairy Coalition's main directive is to try to bring dairy people into the state. We have so many existing facilities that are setting out there empty. I the New Salem area we probably have about thirty really nice dairies that are empty. I think the Coalition is looking at bringing people in to start those dairies up again.

**Rep. Klein**: I can't support this. When we had the Agriculture Department's budget there was no mention of this.

**Rep. Meyer**: I don't believe they understood the federal funding would not be coming through until after the budget had already been submitted. This has nothing to do with promoting the dairy industry. This is from the State board of animal Health not the Dairy. We've got to get a handle on this disease, so that it does not move into the herds that are not dairy cows.

**Rep. Nelson**: I think there are a lot questions with this.

**Rep. Nelson moved to eliminate the office support piece as a substitute motion.**

**Rep. Onstad** seconded the motion.

**A voice vote was taken.**

**The motion carried.**

**Rep. Meyer moved a Do Pass as amended.**

**Rep. Metcalf seconded the motion.**

**Chr. Svedjan:** We have a Do Pass as amended

**Rep. Skarphol**: This is a different issue than the Dairy Coalition. I would submit that you are trying to bring more dairy farmers into the state that has a disease problem. Until you solve one problem, it doesn't do any good to try to do the other. I am not in agreement with doing both.

**Rep. Metcalf**: I don't believe there is **any** state that doesn't have a problem with Johne's disease. I think it is a very serious situation, and I hope that this gets carried through.

There was no further discussion.

A roll call vote was taken on a Do Pass as amended for SB 2342.

**Aye 12 Nay 11 Absent 2**

**Rep. Meyer will carry SB 2342.**

Date: 3/24/09
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** 2342

**Full House Appropriations Committee**

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Meyer Seconded By Metcalf

| Representatives | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chairman Svedjan | | | | | |
| Vice Chairman Kempenich | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Skarphol | | | Rep. Kroeber | | |
| Rep. Wald | | | Rep. Onstad | | |
| Rep. Hawken | | | Rep. Williams | | |
| Rep. Klein | | | | | |
| Rep. Martinson | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Delzer | | | Rep. Glassheim | | |
| Rep. Thoreson | | | Rep. Kaldor | | |
| Rep. Berg | | | Rep. Meyer | | |
| Rep. Dosch | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Pollert | | | Rep. Ekstrom | | |
| Rep. Bellew | | | Rep. Kerzman | | |
| Rep. Kreidt | | | Rep. Metcalf | | |
| Rep. Nelson | | | | | |
| Rep. Wieland | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 3/24/09
Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** 2342

**Full House Appropriations Committee**

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number TBD

Action Taken remove all funding except education funding

Motion Made By Metcalf Seconded By Bellew

| Representatives | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chairman Svedjan | | ✓ | | | |
| Vice Chairman Kempenich | | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Skarphol | | ✓ | Rep. Kroeber | ✓ | |
| Rep. Wald | | ✓ | Rep. Onstad | | ✓ |
| Rep. Hawken | | ✓ | Rep. Williams | | ✓ |
| Rep. Klein | | ✓ | | | |
| Rep. Martinson | | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Delzer | ✓ | | Rep. Glassheim | | ✓ |
| Rep. Thoreson | | ✓ | Rep. Kaldor | — | — |
| Rep. Berg | | ✓ | Rep. Meyer | | ✓ |
| Rep. Dosch | | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Pollert | ✓ | | Rep. Ekstrom | — | — |
| Rep. Bellew | ✓ | | Rep. Kerzman | | ✓ |
| Rep. Kreidt | ✓ | | Rep. Metcalf | ✓ | |
| Rep. Nelson | ✓ | | | | |
| Rep. Wieland | ✓ | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Total (Yes) 8 No 15

Absent 2

Floor Assignment ~~Voice Vote — Carries~~

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent: Motion failed

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Title.0300

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
House Appropriations
March 25, 2009

VR
3/25/10

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2342

Page 1, line 14, replace "40,000" with "40,000"

Page 1, remove line 15

Page 1, line 16, replace "275,500" with "245,500"

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

This amendment removes $30,000 of the general fund appropriation designated for office support.

Date: 3/24/09
Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** 2342

**Full House Appropriations Committee**

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number TBD

Action Taken Remove funding for office support

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Onstad

| Representatives | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chairman Svedjan | | | | | |
| Vice Chairman Kempenich | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Skarphol | | | Rep. Kroeber | | |
| Rep. Wald | | | Rep. Onstad | | |
| Rep. Hawken | | | Rep. Williams | | |
| Rep. Klein | | | | | |
| Rep. Martinson | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Delzer | | | Rep. Glassheim | | |
| Rep. Thoreson | | | Rep. Kaldor | | |
| Rep. Berg | | | Rep. Meyer | | |
| Rep. Dosch | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Pollert | | | Rep. Ekstrom | | |
| Rep. Bellew | | | Rep. Kerzman | | |
| Rep. Kreidt | | | Rep. Metcalf | | |
| Rep. Nelson | | | | | |
| Rep. Wieland | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Voice Vote - Carried

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 3/24/09
Roll Call Vote #: 4

**2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** 2342

**Full House Appropriations Committee**

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number TBD

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended

Motion Made By Meyer Seconded By Mitzel

| Representatives | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chairman Svedjan | | ✓ | | | |
| Vice Chairman Kempenich | ✓ | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Skarphol | | ✓ | Rep. Kroeber | ✓ | |
| Rep. Wald | | ✓ | Rep. Onstad | ✓ | |
| Rep. Hawken | ✓ | | Rep. Williams | ✓ | |
| Rep. Klein | | ✓ | | | |
| Rep. Martinson | | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Delzer | | ✓ | Rep. Glassheim | ✓ | |
| Rep. Thoreson | | ✓ | Rep. Kaldor | — | — |
| Rep. Berg | ✓ | | Rep. Meyer | ✓ | |
| Rep. Dosch | | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Rep. Pollert | | ✓ | Rep. Ekstrom | — | — |
| Rep. Bellew | | ✓ | Rep. Kerzman | ✓ | |
| Rep. Kreidt | ✓ | | Rep. Metcalf | ✓ | |
| Rep. Nelson | ✓ | | | | |
| Rep. Wieland | | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | | |

Total (Yes) 12 No 11

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep. Meyer

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

## REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**SB 2342, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 11 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2342 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 14, replace "40,000" with "40,000"

Page 1, remove line 15

Page 1, line 16, replace "275,500" with "245,500"

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

This amendment removes $30,000 of the general fund appropriation designated for office support.

2009 TESTIMONY

SB 2342

Attachment #1

# If culling skinny cows, consider testing for Johne's disease

By T.S. GATZ

If skinny cows are being culled and hauled to the livestock auction facility, then think Johne's disease, a contagious slow progressing disease of the ruminant tract caused by a bacterium named Mycobacterium paratuberculosis.

This silent bacterium usually infects an animal when it is extremely young but doesn't show itself until the animal is an adult. In the meantime, infected animals are shedding the bacterium and infecting herdmates as well as newborn and young calves.

A national study of U.S. dairies found that approximately 22 percent of U.S. dairy farms have at least 10 percent of the herd infected with Johne's disease.

The study determined that infected herds with a high Johne's disease clinical cull rate experience an average loss of $227 per cow while herds with a low Johne's disease cull rate have an average loss of $40 per cow. This loss was due to reduced milk production, early culling, and poor conditioning at culling.

Although the dollars lost per beef cow infected with Johne's disease have not been determined, Johne's experts know the negative drain occurs. This loss is due to lower calf weights, early culling and poor conditioning at culling.

"Research has brought many, many good Johne's tests to the table," states Dr. Mike Collins, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison. "Which test is best answered by research conducted by the 'Best Test Team'."

This "Best Test Team," Dr. Collins elaborates, consisted of researchers from five universities: Colorado State University, Texas A&M University, University of California-Davis, University of Minnesota, and University of Wisconsin. The team's objective was "to clearly define the best course of action regarding testing for paratuberculosis in dairy and beef herds by business type – commercial or seedstock, paratuberculosis infection status and infection prevalence."

The team identified eight reasons why a dairy or beef herd should be tested for Johne's disase: 1) To classify a herd as infected; 2) To estimate within-herd prevalence; 3) To control the disease; 4) Surveillance; 5) Eradication; 6) To confirm a clinical diagnosis in a herd with no confirmed Johne's disease cases; 7) To confirm a clinical diagnosis in known infected herds; and 8) Bio-security – to test an animal before it enters the herd.

"It is important to understand why test," Dr. Collins states. "It also must be emphasized that cows are leaving herds way too fast – before diagnosis.

"Producers need to know if they have Johne's or another problem. They need to know why their cull rate is increasing. Testing will tell them the 'why'."

## Testing Options

Several types of tests are available in the detection of paratuberculosis in cattle. These include bacterial culture, gene detection assays, antibody assays and histopathologic evaluation of tissues.

The "Best Test Team" found that, for commercial and seedstock dairy herds, bacterial culture of six fecal samples obtained from the environment is sensitive and the most cost-effective method for determining whether a dairy herd is infected.

"However, finding that all six samples yield negative results does not guarantee the herd is not infected," Collins said. "The second best testing option for this situation is PCR assay of fecal samples collected from the environment.

"Owners of herds with negative culture or PCR test results on all six samples should be encouraged to enroll their herds in the U.S. Test-Negative Program."

A test gaining popularity within the dairy industry is the milk ELISA (Enzyme-Linked ImmunSorbent Assay). The milk ELISA is less costly than a standard serum ELISA and sample collection can be incorporated into routine DHIA sampling.

Beef cow/calf and seedstock herds can whole-herd test by either bacterial culture of fecal samples or by an ELISA with positive results for individual cattle confirmed by bacterial culture of fecal samples. An alternative is a bacterial culture of fecal samples obtained from the environment that can be used for intensively managed herds.

"Testing recommendations should come from your veterinarian," Collins said. "But manage Johne's first and test second. Your veterinarian can help you determine which management practices work best for your situation and can help you control Johne's disease."

Collins shook his head and then said, "Owners discover Johne's disease in their herd or flock when a single animal looks sick. They then find out by testing that many animals they own actually are infected. Usually, they can trace the infection back to an animal they bought years ago. It is depressing, particularly when so many animals now must be sacrificed to control the infection."

Producers can learn more about Johne's disease by going to the Online Producer Education Course at http://www.vetmedce.org/index.pl?id=110337. Producer modules cover all species, with the dairy version also having a Spanish module.

"I think you'll be surprised at the online courses as they are extremely high quality, engaging and interactive," Collins said. "In the producer modules, U.S. demonstration herds share lessons they've learned regarding the economic impact/costs, control strategies and ethical dilemmas." ✲

Attachment #2



**STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH**
ND Department of Agriculture
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020
(701) 328-2655
1-800-242-7535
FAX (701) 328-4567



Same given to Senate Approp. + House Agriculture.

**Testimony of Jesse L. Vollmer, DVM**
**Assistant State Veterinarian**
**Senate Bill 2342**
**Senate Agriculture Committee**
**Roosevelt Room**
**January 29, 2009**

Chairman Flakoll and members of the Agriculture Committee, I am Assistant State Veterinarian Jesse Vollmer. I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and the State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) in support of SB 2342, which if passed will provide state funds for the ND Voluntary Johne's disease control program.

Johne's disease is a bacterial disease of both wild and domestic ruminants. The disease causes chronic diarrhea and weight loss. There is no treatment for the disease and it is always fatal. I have enclosed a detail explanation of the disease with my testimony for you review.

North Dakota BOAH has administrated a Johne's program for eight years. The Johne's program that we currently have in place, tests herds for the disease, classifies herds as to severity of the problem and provides an educational component to producers to have the disease and to those that may not be aware of the disease. Currently we have 185 farms participating in the testing portion of the program.

The most important aspect of the Johne's disease program is the biosecurity and preventive actions that it teaches by filling out and adhering to the management practices identified in the required risk assessment. If a farm/ranch is doing the management practices necessary to prevent Johne's, it will go a long way towards preventing other diseases that are also spread via fecal oral contamination.

Primarily because of the way animals are handled, this is a disease seen most commonly in dairy herds. Data from the 1996 dairy NAHMS study indicates that the lost opportunity cost to producers is over 200 dollars per cow per year in an infected herd. We are asking for similar data for beef herds, but due to the complexity and diversity of the industry and the inability to minimize the variables within and between beef herds, this data collection is extremely difficult. I am sure if this data was available it would relate to millions of dollars lost production to our beef producers.

The disease was quarantinable in the state of North Dakota until the mid-90's. From a practicing veterinarian's view point it was financially devastating for a client to have the disease diagnosed in their herd. All animals from the herd then had to be sold only for slaughter only. This law was thankfully changed in the middle of the last decade. However, the disease was infecting new herds yearly during this period. Also during this time period, both veterinarians and animal scientists were telling producers to feed colostrum and lots of it to calves that were stressed at birth. The current thinking at the time was that the best source of colostrum was the local dairy, so it was a common practice and now we are now left to clean up the disease that got a foothold in the state and still exists.

Most of the funding for this program has come from USDA APHIS cooperative agreements. However, the state provided $177,500 to Johne's program for 2001 biennium. Current indications are that the federal government will end its Johne's program funding in March of this year, leaving no means of funding to maintain the existing program.

The monies being asked for will cover the program at the current level of participation for the upcoming biennium. Testing assistance consists of direct payments to producers to help defray the costs of testing. Technical assistance covers the costs of the private certified veterinarians to do the required risk assessments and agreement forms. The education line in the bill will cover efforts to further educate both participating and nonparticipating producers as well as veterinarians on the disease and pertinent new research and technologies as they become available. Office support is to help cover the cost to the North Dakota State Board of Animal Health to administer the program.

We have many diseases that affect animals in the world and some are easier than others to diagnose, treat and eradicate/control. Since this disease is expensive, time consuming and difficult to deal with for livestock producers, we are asking for continued support to provide funding for this important disease issue. For these reasons, we urge a "do pass" on SB2342.

This page given to House Agric. only.

There are currently 185 herds involved in the program. NDSU runs between ten and fifteen thousand ELISA (serology) tests run yearly. Fees for testing incurred by producers involve fees by lab testing, shipping, collecting samples, and processing the samples. The lab fees at NDSU are as follows:

Serology test (blood test): Accession Fee of $7.00 plus $5.00/sample (<100 head) or $4.00 per sample (>100 head).

Fecal PCR: Accession Fee of $7.00 plus $25.00/sample

Pooled fecal PCR: Accession Fee of $7.00 plus $40.00 per pool (pools of five head, pooling done at lab). If any of the pools come back positive then the samples are separated out and a charge of $15.00 per sample. Another accession fee is also accessed at that time.

As is evident here, the program is only a cost share program and does not cover all costs incurred by the producers.

**STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH**
ND Department of Agriculture
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020
(701) 328-2655
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FAX (701) 328-4567



SB 2342 Attachment
Dr. Jesse Vollmer
January 29, 2009

Johne's disease is a bacterial disease of both wild and domestic ruminants. The disease causes chronic diarrhea and weight loss. There is no treatment for the disease and it is always fatal. There is a conditionally licensed vaccine that has many side effects, including interfering with tuberculosis testing. Johne's disease is caused by *Mycobacterium avium ss. Paratuberculosis* (MAP). The Mycobacterium are a notorious group of bacterium. They have been around for at least 6,000 years. One of the group caused a disease referred to in the Bible, leprosy. Another of the group was the cause for much grief early in the twentieth century; *Mycobacterium bovis* was at a level of five percent in our national cow herd and prompted the TB eradication program in 1917. The Mycobacterium are very difficult to deal with from a disease control standpoint. They are slow growing obligate intracellular pathogens, which mean they are hard to culture, since they live inside of the host's cell (hide from the immune system). They also live in the environment for a long period of time and have extremely long incubation periods.

The disease was quarantinable in the state of North Dakota until the mid-90's. From a practicing veterinarian's view point it was financially devastating for a client to have the disease diagnosed in their herd. All animals from the herd then had to be only sold for slaughter only. This law was thankfully changed in the middle of the last decade. However, the disease was infecting new herds yearly during this period. Also during this time period, both veterinarians and animal

scientists were telling producers to feed colostrum and lots of it to calves that were stressed at birth. The current thinking at the time was the best source of colostrum was the local dairy, so it was a common practice and now we are now left to clean up the disease that got a foothold in the state and still exists.

Exposure to the bacterium can take place inutero, at birth, or later in life. Exposure and consequent infection is easiest when the gut is open to be absorbing colostrum. After twenty four hours of life, infection is somewhat dose dependant (it takes more bacteria per animal to cause infection). We have found out in recent years with a high enough dose it is possible to infect adult animals. Because of the limitations of the tests we currently have and the nature of the organism causing disease, we are unable to tell if an animal is infected, shedding organisms, or will become clinical (have profuse diarrhea) until shortly before the animal becomes clinical. Once shedding of bacteria begins, it is intermittent, and can be very prolific. Animals shedding copious amounts of bacteria can look very normal and not have clinical diarrhea. Because there are normal soil borne *Mycobacterium species,* the serologic test is very limited in what it can tell us. The serologic test is good at telling us if there is a likely infection in the herd, it is very poor at telling us which animal in the herd is positive for the disease. In fact, in the federal program an animal is not considered infected unless it is by an antigen detecting test. The two antigen detecting tests being used are fecal culture and fecal PCR (polymerase chain reaction). Both are expensive and the culture test can take up to twelve weeks. Pooling by the lab is allowed on both of the antigen detecting test, which is helpful in defraying costs.

# Dairy Producers: Take Proactive Steps to Prevent, Control Johne's Disease

68.1 percent. That's the percent of the U.S. dairy operations infected with the organism known to cause Johne's disease, according to the NAHMS DAIRY 2007 study. Results of the same National Animal Health Monitoring Systems study also suggest that at least one-fourth of U.S. dairy operations may have a relatively high percentage of Johne's-infected cows in their herds. And this costs dairy producers, dearly, as a previous NAHMS study determined that herds with a low Johne's disease clinical cull rate experience an average loss of $40 per cow while herds with a high Johne's disease clinical cull rate lost on average $227 per cow. This loss was due to reduced milk production, early culling, and poor conditioning at culling.

Other studies, including two from New York and Wisconsin, have similarly demonstrated large economic losses, particularly due to reduced milk production and premature culling.

Johne's is a slow, progressive, contagious and untreatable bacterial disease that ordinarily infects calves but does not show clinical signs until animals are three or more years of age. Infected animals maintain a normal temperature but exhibit weight loss and diarrhea. In the later stages of the infection, animals can become weak.

The most common method of infection is the ingestion of *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) bacteria via manure-contaminated udders, milk, water or feed. Infected animals shed large numbers of bacteria in their feces, leading to contamination of feed and water sources. Infected animals can also shed the bacteria in their colostrum and milk, and infected dams can also pass the disease on to their offspring.

MAP is an extremely hardy bacterium. Research shows that, while the bacterium cannot multiply outside the animal in nature, it can survive in contaminated soil or water for more than a year because of its resistance to heat, cold and drying.

Johne's disease must be managed as a problem and not treated as an individual disease. Research shows that diagnosis o clinically-infected animal in a herd of 100 lac cows implies that at least 25 other animal infected, and less than eight of those ca detected by the tests currently available.

## Management Risk Assessm

A walk-through on your dairy can help identify practices that are a risk for spre Johne's disease—as well as other fecal-ora colostrum-milk transmitted pathogens.

### Maternity or Calving Area

Since calves are the most susceptible to infection, risk factors for the maternity or calving area should be assessed for the potential of a newborn to ingest MAP or manure from mature cattle. Considera include ground and pen surfaces, contami udders and teats, suckling colostrum fror infected cow or manure contamination of a body surfaces.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Are multiple cows in the calving area at a time? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is any individual calving pen or area used for additional calvings without being cleaned out between calvings? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure allowed to build up in the calving area and pose a risk for calf ingestion? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Are sick cows kept in the calving area? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Are high-risk Johne's cows and suspects in the calving area? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Are the udders of cows that are calving soiled with manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do newborn calves stay with their dams for more than 60 minutes? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Are calves allowed to nurse their dams? |

### Young Calves

Calves are the most susceptible to infection. As such, risk factors for this group should be assessed for the [illegible]al of a calf [illegible]est MAP or manure from mature cattle. Considerations include ground and pen surfaces and potentially contaminated colostrum, milk, water and/or feed. Consider all sources for potential manure contamination including colostrum or milk from infected cows, accidental contamination of any colostrum, milk, feed or pen surfaces from mature cattle, utensils, equipment, traffic splatter or people.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Is colostrum from individual cows with unknown Johne's status fed to calves? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is colostrum from unknown Johne's status cows pooled and fed to newborn calves? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is unpasteurized milk pooled and fed to calves? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you feed calves raw waste milk rather than milk replacer? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you collect colostrum from cows to feed calves without first cleaning the cows' udder and teats? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Can a calf's colostrum and/or milk be contaminated with cow manure at any time? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Can a calf's feed or water be contaminated with manure at any time? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Are calves able to come in contact with cows or cow manure in their housing? |

- ❑ ❑ Do cows have access to accumulated or stored manure?
- ❑ ❑ Is manure spread on pasture and grazed or fed the same season?
- ❑ ❑ Are cows showing chronic diarrhea and weight loss left in the general population without being tested for Johne's?

### Additions & Replacement Groups

A key to Johne's prevention and control is to not introduce infected animals into the herd.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you purchase animals from herds of unknown Johne's and health status? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you lease or borrow any stock, including bulls from multiple sources or herds of unknown Johne's and health status? |

### General Management

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you use the same equipment to handle feed and manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you prevent mature cow manure contamination of all feed and water, including standing run-off water? |

## Helping Yourself

Any area marked "yes" on your checklist deserves attention as these practices are a risk for spreading Johne's disease.

Good management and hygiene of maternity areas, calves and heifers and clean feed and water are basic for Johne's control plus help prevent spread of other bacteria, viruses and intestinal parasites spread by fecal shedding.

- Johne's prevention will help to minimize calf diseases caused by *E. coli*, Salmonella, BVD, Rota and Corona viruses.
- Cleaning and clean environments promote the health of periparturient cows.
- Attention to keeping feed, water and facilities clean for growing animals can improve growth and help control coccidian, cryoptosporidia and nematodes.

An ounce of prevention is worth MORE than a pound of cure when it comes to Johne's. Prevention at home is your best protection.

Your veterinarian can help you develop a Johne's disease prevention and control plan and can implement testing strategies to identify the most infectious animals.

***To learn more about Johne's, vis***
***www.johnesdisease.org.***

***This brochure is provided to you by:***

USDA

NATIONAL JOHNE'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

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270-782-9798 • Fax 270-782-0188
www.animalagriculture.org

### Post-Weaned Heifer Group

Risk factors for this group, heifers up to 16 months of age, should be assessed for the potential of a calf to ingest MAP or manure from mature cattle. Considerations include ground and pen surfaces, water and/or feed.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Do heifers have contact with mature cows or their manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for manure from cows to contaminate the feed? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for manure from cows to contaminate heifer water sources? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do heifers share pastures with mature cattle? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure spread on pasture then used by or fed to heifers? |

### Bred Heifer Group

Although this group of cattle is believed to be substantially less susceptible to Johne's than newborn calves, risk factors for this group deserve attention.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Do heifers have contact with cows or their manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for manure from cows to contaminate the feed? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for manure from cows to contaminate the water used by heifers? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do heifers share pasture with mature cattle? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure spread on pasture then used by or fed to heifers? |

### Cow Group

Even though cattle more than 24 months of age are believed to be less susceptible to Johne's, infected cattle may shed MAP and other pathogens in their feces and add significantly to the overall pathogen load in their environment. Ultimately, you should strive to reduce the pathogen load in the environment.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for feed to be contaminated with manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure contamination of the water possible? |

# Beef Producer: Take Proactive Steps to Prevent, Control Johne's Disease

Research shows that one out of 10 animals moving through livestock auction facilities has Johne's disease. Although most U.S. beef herds are not infected with Johne's disease, it is estimated that eight out of 100 U.S. herds may be infected with this devastating disease.

Johne's is a slow, progressive, contagious and untreatable bacterial disease that ordinarily infects calves but does not show clinical signs until animals are three or more years of age. Infected animals maintain a normal temperature but exhibit weight loss and diarrhea. In the later stages of the infection, animals can become weak.

If you have culled animals because of chronic diarrhea and weight loss, your herd is at greater risk of having Johne's. Johne's quietly robs your bottom line, as cows clinically infected with Johne's produce less milk resulting in lighter calves at weaning, and infected cows can be slower to breed back.

The most common method of infection is the ingestion of *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) bacteria via manure-contaminated udders, milk, water or feed. Infected animals shed large numbers of bacteria in their feces, leading to contamination of feed and water sources. Infected animals can also shed the bacteria in their colostrum and milk, and infected dams can also pass the disease *in utero* to their offspring.

MAP is an extremely hardy bacterium. Research shows that, while MAP cannot multiply outside the animal in nature, it can survive in contaminated soil or water for more than a year because of its resistance to heat, cold and drying.

Johne's disease must be managed as a herd problem and not treated as an individual cow disease. Research shows that diagnosis of one clinically-infected animal in a herd of 100 lactating cows implies that at least 25 other animals are infected, and less than eight of those can be detected by the tests currently available.

## Management Risk Assessment

A walk-through on your beef enterprise can help you identify practices that are a risk for spreading Johne's disease—as well as other fecal-oral and colostrum-milk transmitted pathogens.

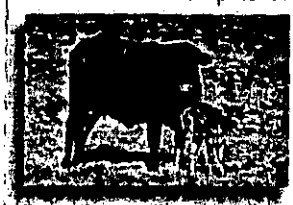
### Calving Area

Since calves are the most susceptible to infection, risk factors for the maternity or calving area should be assessed for the potential of a newborn to ingest MAP or manure from mature cattle. Considerations include ground and pen surfaces, contaminated udders and teats, suckling colostrum from an infected cow or manure contamination of a calf's body surfaces.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Are multiple cows in the calving area at a time? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is any individual calving pen used for additional calvings without being cleaned out between uses? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure allowed to build up in the calving area and pose a risk for calf ingestion? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure present on the udder of any heifer or cow calving? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Are high-risk Johne's cows and suspects in the calving area? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Are sick cows kept in the calving area? |

### Nursing Calves

Calves are the most susceptible to infection. As such, risk factors for this group should be assessed for the potential of a calf to ingest MAP or manure from mature cattle. Considerations include ground and pen surfaces and potentially contaminated colostrum, milk, water and/or feed. Consider all sources for potential manure contamination including colostrum or milk from infected cows, accidental contamination of any colostrum, milk, feed or pen surfaces from mature cattle, utensils, equipment, traffic splatter or people.



| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Are cow/calf pairs pastured with Johne's clinical or suspect cattle? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Does manure build up in the pasture, posing a risk for calf ingestion? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Can a calf's feed be contaminated with manure from cows or bulls at any |
| ❑ | ❑ | Can a calf's water be contaminate manure from cows or bulls at any |
| ❑ | ❑ | Are sick calves kept with or nea cows? |

### Weaned Calves

Risk factors for this group, which includes up to 16 months of age, should be as for the potential of a calf to ingest MAP or manure from mature cattle. Considerations include ground and pen surfaces, water and/or feed.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Do weaned calves have conta mature cattle or their manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for manure from bulls to contaminate the feed? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for manure from bulls to contaminate water sour |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do heifers or young bulls share with mature cattle? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure spread on pasture th by or fed to heifers? |

### Bred Heifers, Yearling Bulls

Although this group of cattle is believed to be substantially less susceptible to Johne's than newborn calves, [illegible]tors for this group [illegible]e attention.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Do heifers or yearling bulls have contact with mature cattle or their manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for manure from mature cattle to contaminate the feed? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for manure from mature cattle to contaminate the water? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do bred heifers or yearling bulls share pasture with mature cattle at any time? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure spread on pasture or forage then used by or fed to heifers? |

### Cows

Even though cattle more than 24 months of age are believed to be less susceptible to Johne's, infected cattle may shed MAP and other pathogens in their feces and add significantly to the overall pathogen load in their environment. Ultimately, you should strive to reduce the pathogen load in the environment.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Is it possible for feed to be contaminated with manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure contamination of the water possible? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do cows have access to accumulated or stored manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Is manure spread on pasture or forage, then grazed or fed the same season? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Are cows showing chronic diarrhea and weight loss left in the general population and not tested for Johne's? |

### Additions & Replacement Groups

A key to Johne's prevention and control is to not introduce infected animals into the herd.

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you purchase replacement heifers, bulls or other beef animals from herds of unknown Johne's and health status? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you lease or borrow any including bulls, from multiple sou herds of unknown Johne's and status? |

### General Management

| Yes | No | Risk Factor |
|---|---|---|
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you use the same equipm handle feed and manure? |
| ❑ | ❑ | Do you prevent mature cow n contamination of all feed and including standing run-off water? |

# Beef Producer: Take Proactive Steps to Prevent, Control Johne's Disease

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MAP is an extremely hardy bacterium. Research shows that, while MAP cannot multiply outside the animal in nature, it can survive in contaminated soil or water for more than a year because of its resistance to heat, cold and drying.

Johne's disease must be managed as a herd problem and not treated as an individual cow disease. Research shows that diagnosis of one clinically-infected animal in a herd of 100 lactating cows implies that at least 25 other animals are infected, and less than eight of those can be detected by the tests currently available.

Attachment #4

Same given to House Agriculture.

North Dakota AG COALITION

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Bismarck, ND 58502
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FAX (701) 223-4645

**MEMBERS**

AmeriFlax
BNSF Railway Company
Independent Beef Association of North Dakota
Milk Producers Association of North Dakota, Inc.
Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op
North Dakota Ag Aviation Association
North Dakota Ag Consultants
North Dakota Agricultural Association
North Dakota Agri-Women
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts
North Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators
North Dakota Barley Council
North Dakota Beef Commission
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
[redacted]Dakota Corn Utilization
[redacted]ota Crop [redacted]nt and Seed [redacted]on
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
North Dakota Dry Bean Council
North Dakota Dry Edible Bean Seed Growers
North Dakota Elk Growers
North Dakota Farm Bureau
North Dakota Farm Credit Council
North Dakota Farmers Union
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers
North Dakota Oilseed Council
North Dakota Pork Producers
North Dakota Soybean Council
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
North Dakota State Seed Commission
North Dakota State University Agriculture and University Extension
North Dakota Wheat Commission
[redacted]ern Canola Growers [redacted]tion
[redacted]od Grade Soybean [redacted]
Northern Plains Potato Growers Association
Northern Pulse Growers Association
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers

**Testimony of Mike Beltz**
**North Dakota Ag Coalition**
**In Support of SB 2342**
**January 29, 2009**

Chairman Flakoll and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

For the record, my name is Mike Beltz and I farm near Hillsboro. I am here today as the chairman of the North Dakota Ag Coalition. On behalf of the Ag Coalition, I would encourage your support of SB 2342.

The Ag Coalition has provided a unified voice for North Dakota agricultural interests for more than 25 years. Today, we represent 38 statewide organizations and associations that represent specific commodities or have a direct interest in agriculture. The Ag Coalition takes a position on a limited number of issues brought to us by our members that have significant impact on North Dakota's agriculture industry.

Johne's Disease can be economically detrimental to a producer if it is not monitored. The voluntary cost-share Johne's disease herd status program is important to controlling the disease and providing producers with reliable information on reducing the risk to their herds.

This program also allows veterinarians to educate participants about the disease and show them ways to run their operation more efficiently. Further, the education and certification of participating veterinarians is essential to ensuring that participating producers receive accurate and consistent information on testing and control.

Maintaining the health of North Dakota's dairy and beef herds is vital to the future growth and development of North Dakota's agriculture industry, therefore, we encourage your support of SB 2342.

Beltz testimony in support of SB 2342.

Attachment #5

**Taylor, Ryan M.**

**From:** Mary Goeres [mgoeres@ndstockmen.org]
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:26 AM
**To:** Taylor, Ryan M.
**Subject:** Fw: SB 2342 Testimony

> I apologize for submitting email testimony, but I am out of the office
> this week at meetings in Arizona. Please consider these remarks as you
> consider SB 2342.
>
> Thank you!
> Julie Ellingson
> North Dakota Stockmen's Association
>
> The North Dakota Stockmen's Association would like to go on record in
> support of SB 2342, which will continue funding for North Dakota's
> voluntary Johne's Disease Program.
>
> Johne's Disease is a bacterial disease in both wild and domestic
> ruminants that causes chronic diarrhea, weight loss and, eventually,
> death. The disease has plagued the world for an estimated 6,000 years,
> and the cost to livestock producers has been in the billions in the
> form of lost production.
>
> The program is designed to help producers pay for the costly Johne's
> tests, to provide technical assistance with risk assessments and
> agreement forms, to educate participating and non-participating
> producers and vets about the disease and, ultimately, to decrease its
> prevalence in our state. The NDSA believes in the value of testing and
> following up on the results to ensure that test-positive animals are eliminated.
>
> NDSA leaders are intent that participating producers cull
> test-positive animals, and that the animals are designated for
> slaughter only. We do not want affected animals to end up in another
> person's herd, continue to shed the bacteria and infect other animals.
> That goes to the heart of the program, assuring its effectiveness and truly mitigating
disease risk.
>
> We have communicated this to the State Board of Animal Health staff
> and received assurances that participating producers will understand
> and follow through with this obligation when they sign their agreement
for entry into the program. We have also suggested that follow-up
surveillance be conducted by Board of Animal Health staff, and that
this could be one of the responsibilities of the Board's proposed new FTE.

For these reasons, we support the bill as written and ask for your
support as well.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Same given to House Agriculture

3

**Senate Bill 2342**
**Thursday, February 5th, 2009**
**Senate Appropriations Committee**
**Harvest Room**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the committee, my name is Nathan Boehm and I am a dairy farmer from Mandan and also chairman and dairy representative to the State Board of Animal Health. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2342 which supplies funding to the ND Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program.

I know how the program works and what it can do for any producer that uses it because I have been enrolled for eight years now. When this voluntary program became available I believed I had a small problem, five to ten cows, in my herd of about 140 test eligible cattle. When the test results came back I was very disappointed. I had 22 cows or about 18% Elisa positive and of those 19 came back four months later confirmed fecal positive. I had a problem and had to make some decisions. Do I manage these positive cows or do we cull them as soon as possible? I decided to manage them because the option of selling that many cows was too hard on the bottom line and beside that these were some of my better producing cows. One cow in particular was milking over 32,000lbs of milk per lactation. I figured I would work with it. When my anniversary date came around I tested again, thinking it had to be better because I did get rid of some of those positive cows. I was dismayed when the results came back and I went **up** to 23% positive. Now I knew I had to do something or I would not have a herd left. I went through my records and found it was groups of cows that had been fed pooled dump milk most likely from a positive cow. Some of the younger positive cows were out of positive dams. when calves

It is time to change some things. I visited with my vet and we came up with the quickest ways to start to change things. Knowing that the younger the animal the more susceptible, newborn calves are pulled away from the dam before they nurse and are fed colostrum out of test negative cows. Heifer calves are fed only a commercial milk replacer

and do not have contact with adult cattle at any time, and I started culling cows. Positive cows were not bred back and as they tailed off in lactation were culled. This works for the most part but there are exceptions. I had several then and since that will become clinical and die before I can market them, and remember that cow that was producing over 32,000 lbs. of milk? She ended up with three positive daughters and two positive granddaughters and weighed 2175lbs at slaughter. She was fat. This only proved to me that you can't look at a cow and tell if she is positive or not. I could talk for a very long time about this nasty disease but I will just briefly tell you about the next six years. In year four I peaked at 31% positives. I lost some cows and culled a lot more since I started and I am not yet back to the numbers I would like to be at but this fall when we tested we only had 7 suspects which is down from a high of 37. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

This program has taught me so much about biosecurity and management as I know it will for other producers that use the program. I have virtually wiped out Bovine Lukosis and have not had any cases of Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) that we know of and has made me much more aware of disease prevention and control. My goal is to be able to sell heifers at sales and in a couple of years I should be able to sell clean cattle and maybe ask a little more for them.

I do know one thing; I would not have started in the program if I hadn't had the help of previous funding. Johne's is a devastating and costly disease. It is very hard to control and expensive to test for. I might not be milking cows today if I hadn't had the state and federal funding to get me started. We have 186 producers on the program and need to keep adding more and educate every one possible about this disease. This is what the funding in SB 2342 is for and I urge a yes vote.

Thank You

Are there any questions?

#3
3/12/09

Chad Wild

2342

Johnes Disease Control Program Testimony

Same given to Senate Agric.

Hi, my name is Chad Wild and I am a Veterinarian from New Salem. As you may or may not know Johnes is a debilitating disease that causes severe diarrhea, decreased productivity, and ultimately death or decreased value at slaughter. This disease is very difficult for producers to manage because there is no treatment for affected animals, the only means of controling this disease is to test animals and remove them from the herd or manage them differently. Because of these reasons, this is why I believe that the Voluntary Johnes Disease Control Program is very valuable to our producers and our state. This program gives producers financial assistance, the initiative to test their herd, and education on how to control and manage the disease. Testing costs can range from 7-14 dollars per head including testing fees, materials, shipping, and veterinary services. I have first hand seen the benefits of this program for producers, some dairy herds had a prevelence rate of 12-16% and after 3-5 years of testing and management changes, the prevelence rates have dropped down to 2-8%. Beef herds have entered this program as well, for example we have a purebred producer that tests his cow herd to manage Johnes which will decrease the chance of selling a Johnes positive bull to one of his clients. Because of these reasons, I believe funding for the Voluntary Johnes Disease Control Program is very important for our producers and should deserve your serious consideration.

Thank you,

Chad Wild

#4
3/12/09
2342
Allan Tellmann

Testimony of Allan W Tellmann
Milk Producers Association of North Dakota
In Support of SB 2342
March 12, 2009

Chairman Johnson and committee members:

For the record, my name is Allan Tellmann – I am an owner-operator of a Grade A family dairy farm north of New Salem. I am here today as president of the Milk Producers Association of North Dakota. On behalf of the Milk Producers Association, I would encourage your support of SB 2342, which would continue to help fund the ND Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program.

My experience as a dairy operator probably best illustrates the importance of Johne's control in the North Dakota livestock industry as a whole. Some years ago, after a cow was unresponsive to basic digestive disorder treatment on the farm, we consulted our veterinarian for additional treatment and tests. The results of these tests revealed she was a Johne's positive cow. From that day on, Johne's was no longer a problem we read about in the livestock magazine on someone else's operation and someone else's problem. With the local veterinarian's assistance, and a protocol set up by the Johne's testing program, we have developed a management and culling program that increases our awareness of Johne's control.

Since then, we have made considerable progress in eliminating Johne's in our herd—going from 8 positive in a 200 cow herd, to 2 positive in the last testing.

The ND Johne's testing program offers valuable financial and educational incentives for dairy and all livestock producers. It introduces basic biosecurity awareness, and incorporates basic management practices that can be easily adapted to a livestock operation. The cost-share program serves as an incentive for participation, and is a valuable asset during this time of low or non-existent profits in the dairy and livestock industries.

The dairy industry of North Dakota appreciates your support and consideration of SB 2342.

Thank You.

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The North Dakota Stockmen's Association would like to go on record in support of SB 2342, which will continue funding for North Dakota's voluntary Johne's Disease Program.

Johne's Disease is a bacterial disease in both wild and domestic ruminants that causes chronic diarrhea, weight loss and, eventually, death. The disease has plagued the world for an estimated 6,000 years, and the cost to livestock producers has been in the billions in the form of lost production.

The program is designed to help producers pay for the costly Johne's tests, to provide technical assistance with risk assessments and agreement forms, to educate participating and non-participating producers and vets about the disease and, ultimately, to decrease its prevalence in our state. The NDSA believes in the value of testing and following up on the results to ensure that test-positive animals are eliminated.

NDSA leaders are intent that participating producers cull test-positive animals, and that the animals are designated for slaughter only. We do not want affected animals to end up in another person's herd, continue to shed the bacteria and infect other animals. That goes to the heart of the program, assuring its effectiveness and truly mitigating disease risk. We have communicated this to the State Board of Animal Health staff and received assurances that participating producers will understand and follow through with this obligation when they sign their agreement for entry into the program.

For these reasons, we support the bill as written and ask for your support as well.