

North Dakota House Agriculture Committee

I support HB 1371.

My family has operated a Farm Corporation under the related shareholders exception since 1990, but this doesn't work for non-related owners.

I have watched North Dakota's dairy farm numbers shrink from 2800 to 36 in the last 50 years.

We need to encourage investment into North Dakota's dairy industry and these changes will help to open that door.

New dairy farms have challenges securing a market, transportation to a market, and financing for the startup. This often requires a larger dairy operation.

The exclusion for milk production if 160 acres or less are held by the corporation should safeguard the North Dakota farming industry and give an opportunity for growth in the dairy and other livestock sectors.

I also support the amendment to add a surviving spouse of a related shareholder.

We are concerned that in another twenty years our related shareholders will become an issue for our farm to maintain the farming corporation status.

Please consider voting for HB 1371.

Alan Qual

13407 73rd ST SE

Lisbon, N.D. 58054

701-680-1210