

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1092**

Introduced by Robak, 22; Dierks, 40; Janssen, 15; Jones, 43;  
Schmitt, 41; Tyson, 19

Read first time January 7, 2000

Committee: Agriculture

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to agriculture; to state intent; and to provide
- 2                   for a state meat inspection pilot program.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

2           (1) Increasing markets for small to medium-sized  
3 producers can enhance statewide agricultural economic development.  
4 Niche marketing through local retailers and restaurants can add  
5 value to the state agricultural economy;

6           (2) Public safety is of tantamount importance to assuring  
7 a safe food supply and a positive national opinion of Nebraska's  
8 meat producers; and

9           (3) A pilot program for state meat inspection would help  
10 the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic  
11 Development determine the economic impact of a state meat  
12 inspection program in Nebraska.

13           Sec. 2. (1) To implement a state meat inspection pilot  
14 program:

15           (a) The Department of Agriculture shall hire two meat  
16 inspectors to provide small to medium-sized processors with state  
17 meat inspections;

18           (b) One inspector shall be based in the eastern part of  
19 the state and one in the western part as determined by the Director  
20 of Agriculture. The inspector shall work with producers and  
21 processors throughout his or her geographic area that desire to  
22 utilize state-inspected facilities;

23           (c) All state meat inspections shall comply with the  
24 Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law and the applicable federal  
25 regulations;

26           (d) The inspectors shall provide on-site inspection for  
27 processors on slaughter days. The inspectors shall inspect for  
28 safety issues in compliance with the federal meat inspection

1 program;

2 (e) Inspectors shall also provide processors with  
3 guidance in order for the processors to meet the standards required  
4 for successful and sanitary operation required by the Nebraska Meat  
5 and Poultry Inspection Law;

6 (f) The Department of Agriculture may assign additional  
7 duties to the inspectors as time and fixed duties permit;

8 (g) A fee of one hundred fifty dollars shall be charged  
9 to each processor who chooses to participate by the Department of  
10 Agriculture. Such fee shall be remitted to the State Treasurer who  
11 shall credit the fee to the Livestock Auction Market Fund; and

12 (h) The pilot program shall be voluntary.

13 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that one-half of  
14 the funding for the state meat inspection pilot program come from  
15 the General Fund and one-half be federal matching funds.

16 (3)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (3)(b) of this  
17 section, the state meat inspection pilot program shall be for four  
18 years. At the conclusion of the third year of the pilot program,  
19 the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic  
20 Development shall evaluate the number of processors which have  
21 become state-inspected facilities, the number of animals being  
22 processed at such plants, compliance with the federal inspection  
23 laws, and the economic impact of plants utilizing the state meat  
24 inspection pilot program. The departments shall report the results  
25 of the evaluation to the Governor and the Legislature within six  
26 months after commencing the evaluation.

27 (b) If there are less than five processors participating  
28 in the pilot program one year after the department hires the meat

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1 inspectors, the state meat inspection pilot program shall  
2 terminate.