

we are sharing. The ten thousand acre is the big one. Then they allowed a maximum of 10% cropland within the package that could meet the criteria for the federal cost share. Well this writes out all the fringe areas even of the sandhills, the eastern third of the state totally from participation in the program where there is also a great deal of grassland but not in such massive packages. I do not want to see us helping with the main source of these revenues probably going to the largest ranches in the state, the largest share going to the largest ranches and writing off the medium and smaller units in agriculture in the state who have to pay for their own chemicals, their own spraying in total. In fact, another problem that comes with this, I have given a handout to everyone's desk that gives quite a little information about it and I would like to note the testimony of Mr. Marvin, an entomologist, in a year ago's hearing, not this year, but a year ago. As a long-time entomologist from the University he stated it may be with all the rationales involved, it might be more expensive to avert the crisis in grasshoppers than to take the crisis. I consider this a federal program as is, that will really aim at ranchland that I think is questionable in a spraying tactics where surrounding we have center pivots out in this area that are the least vulnerable in this crop ground. The most vulnerable crop ground to the fringe land breeding areas of grasshoppers are eastern Nebraska dryland farming. Now the amendments will change the \$2,000,000 into a state fund. This state fund will be available to all farmers and ranchers on a cost share basis on chemicals only to a maximum degree per person of \$500. It spreads it around. They have to have Extension approval that it is needed to participate in this. The Department of Agriculture will use this cash fund to reimburse farmers then up to 50% of chemicals only and it does not involve paying for hired plane or aerial spraying. It does not involve whether the man sprays it himself with the chemicals but would provide this on a cost share. I feel if the federal government has provided its funds to go to the larger ranches that we should take the state dollars instead of matching in the boondoggle affair, allow them the dollars they need to administer that at state level but take our state dollars and pass them out to the remaining farmers and ranchers in the state in a fashion that I think is consistent with the history of this Legislature in wanting to help agriculture across this segment. We have not had adequate grasshopper counts I do not feel in southeast Nebraska and I do wish you would look over these materials provided that show the direction of the money, how it all