

think they also recognize that there are certain programs that we have become dependent upon in the agricultural sector that they also do not want to give up. We gave up some programs last year, the Federal Control Program is one that I have heard a great deal about. Needless to say, there are several programs here on your list that will be impacted by agricultural cuts and Senator Vickers and I had some discussion during the course that we have been back here talking about some of these cuts. I think the Department of Agriculture was very honest and up front with the Appropriations Committee to bring in specific cuts and programs that they felt that they could do without. But needless to say, I think they are going to take their share of the cuts more so than maybe some of the other agencies who weren't as up front with the Appropriations Committee and did not come in, in the same manner, I think, as the Department of Agriculture. What Senator Vickers and I would like to do is to put back into the budget the Noxious Weed Program. I would just like to inform you we do have a piece of legislation sitting in the Agriculture Committee to provide a hammer for the State Department of Agriculture to get the counties to administer this particular program. It is not a popular program. It is not a popular program with the Department, but we feel it is still one that is very necessary in this state and I can tell you quite honestly I believe, as Senator Vickers has indicated before the Committee several times, that the musk thistle is going to take this state over some time if we don't take some action and try and eradicate that plant. And we hope, if we can get that piece of legislation out on this floor, that we can probably get the counties to do a better job of administrating their particular programs on noxious weeds in their counties. As far as the Financial Management Assistance Program, I think that is one program, especially based on the way that the economy is going today, that those people in agriculture who are suffering need some type of financial management assistance. This is a combined program with the University of Nebraska. We're hoping to keep that funding in that particular program. This is, by the way, the last particular program that they would like to give up, if any, and they have indicated that they would like to get that money back for that particular program because we do need this program. It is very important to agriculture, and as I have said, the problem with agriculture today is that we're sort of in a position where we are cutting both ways. We've got a lot of people out there hurting who may need