

The Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee met on Wednesday, January 26, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 112, Capitol. The following members were present:

Vickerman, Chair  
Skoe, Vice Chair  
Day  
Dille  
Hann  
Koering  
Lourey  
Nienow  
Sams  
Solon  
Wergin

Senators D. Johnson, Murphy and Rest were absent.

Senator Vickerman called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. and called on Senator Lourey for S.F. 296, a bill providing for a beginning milk producers payment program.

Those testifying in support were:

**Thom Peterson, MN Farmers Union**  
**Bobby King, Land Stewardship Project, Lewiston, Minnesota**  
**Dave Minar, Land Stewardship Project, New Prague, Minnesota**  
**Alan Perish, Land Stewardship Project, Todd County**  
**Leander Wagner, National Farmer Organization, Elko, Minnesota**  
**Mary Jo Forhort, Benson, Minnesota**

Senator Day stated he had three concerns. 1) It wasn't too long ago we spent millions of dollars to buy dairy farmers out; 2) Do we have a problem that we don't have enough milk; and 3) Can a small individual start out in this day and age and make it?

Senator Koering moved S.F. 296 be passed and be rereferred to Finance.

**Paul Strandberg, Minnesota Department of Agriculture. "See Attachment A."**  
This report was required by Minnesota Laws, 2004, chapter 254, section 47 and stated by 1-15-05 the Commissioner of Agriculture shall report to the legislature a report on a value-added agriculture program to pay beginning dairy farmers based on the amount of milk production. The report shall include suggested language to create the program.

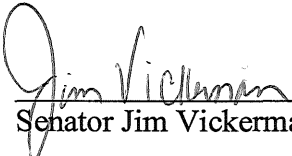
Senator Wergin stated she had concerns with the language in the bill.

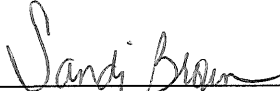
Senator Koering withdrew his motion.

Senator Vickerman stated Senator Lourey and Senator Wergin should work on the language and we would hear the bill in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

This meeting was taped.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Jim Vickerman, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
by/ Sandi Brown

01:19:56

### Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: Ag., Vets & Gaming

Date: Jan, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Day: Wednesday

Start Time: 3:13 pm  
and: 4:30 pm

#### Agenda

3:15pm	Bill # (or Topic)	S.F. 296
	Author	Lauree
3:16pm	Short Descriptor	Thom Peterson - MFU
3:24pm		Boblay King-land stewardship project (Dane Minar Alan Parish)
3:33pm	Action(s)	Alexander Wagner - NFO of M
3:40pm		Mary Jo Forman (Audience)
4:25pm		Paul Gramberg
	Bill # (or Topic)	
	Author	
	Short Descriptor	
	Action(s)	
	Bill # (or Topic)	
	Author	
	Short Descriptor	
	Action(s)	
	Bill # (or Topic)	
	Author	
	Short Descriptor	
	Action(s)	

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S.F. 296-Lourey: Beginning milk producers payment program.

Thom Peterson, Minnesota Farmers Union

Dave Minar, Land Stewardship Project

Bobby King, Land Stewardship Project, Lewiston, Minnesota ~~Senate~~

Leander Wagner, National Farmer Organization of Minnesota, Elko, Minnesota

Alan Perish, Land Stewardship Project, Todd County

01:19:54

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