

1 Senator Johnson, D.E. from the Committee on Rules and  
2 Administration, to which was referred under Joint Rule 2.03,  
3 together with the committee report thereon,

4 S.F. No. 1218: A memorial resolution asking the residents  
5 of Minnesota for tolerance of different views on animal  
6 agriculture production practices; making 2005 the year the  
7 Minnesota feedlot war ended, and a new era beginning for  
8 Minnesota livestock farmers characterized by peace, love,  
9 harmony, and acceptance of diversity.

10 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the  
11 report from the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming,  
12 shown in the Journal for April 18, 2005, be adopted; that  
13 committee recommendation being:

14 "the resolution be amended and when so amended the  
15 resolution do pass". Amendments adopted. Report adopted.

16

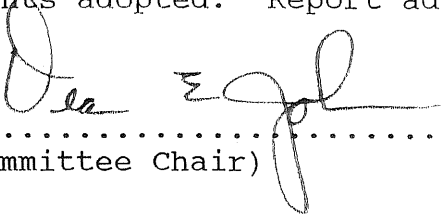
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.....  
(Committee Chair)  
May 16, 2005.....  
(Date of Committee recommendation)

(26)cm

1 Senator Vickerman from the Committee on Agriculture,  
2 Veterans and Gaming, to which was referred

3 S.F. No. 1218: A memorial resolution asking the residents  
4 of Minnesota for tolerance of different views on animal  
5 agriculture production practices; making 2005 the year the  
6 Minnesota feedlot war ended, and a new era beginning for  
7 Minnesota livestock farmers characterized by peace, love,  
8 harmony, and acceptance of diversity.

9 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the  
10 resolution be amended as follows:

11 Page 1, delete lines 8 to 26

12 Page 2, delete lines 1 to 23 and insert:

13 "WHEREAS, Minnesota has a diverse livestock production  
14 system; and

15 WHEREAS, Minnesota livestock farmers and related  
16 agricultural processing benefits the state's economy by  
17 employing over 200,000 people and generating over  
18 \$28,000,000,000 in economic value to the state; and

19 WHEREAS, the "Minnesota feedlot wars" started around 1985  
20 and have continued for approximately 20 years; and

21 WHEREAS, some have expended time, energy, and resources  
22 during the last 20 years that has been channeled into  
23 criticizing and tearing down someone else's preferred method of  
24 livestock production; and

25 WHEREAS, Minnesota has many opportunities for residents to  
26 learn about the economic and environmental benefits of livestock  
27 produced on a broad range of diverse systems, ranging from  
28 pasture to confinement; and

29 WHEREAS, high livestock and human populations peacefully  
30 coexist in close proximity to each other in much of the world,  
31 such as the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Netherlands, and  
32 Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; NOW, THEREFORE,

33 BE IT RESOLVED, that 2005 be known as the year that the  
34 Minnesota feedlot wars ended and the mark of the beginning of a  
35 new era that is characterized by peace, harmony, love, and  
36 acceptance of diversity with regard to livestock farmers in  
37 Minnesota.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all Minnesotans should adopt a  
39 respectful, encouraging, and appreciative attitude toward

1 Minnesota livestock farmers.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, livestock farmers should renew and  
3 intensify their efforts to be good neighbors and good stewards  
4 of our environment by carefully following all federal, state,  
5 and local regulations.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, rural residents should renew and  
7 intensify their efforts to be good neighbors, and accept,  
8 encourage, and support the livestock farmers in their area.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that time, energy, and resources  
10 could be more productively channeled into promoting a person's  
11 preferred method of livestock production rather than directed  
12 toward criticizing another person's preferred method of  
13 livestock production."

14 Delete the title and insert:

15 "A memorial resolution asking the residents of Minnesota  
16 for tolerance of different views on animal agriculture  
17 production practices; making 2005 the year the Minnesota feedlot  
18 war ended, and the mark of the beginning of a new era for  
19 Minnesota livestock farmers characterized by peace, love,  
20 harmony, and acceptance of diversity."

21 And when so amended the resolution do pass. Amendments  
22 adopted. Report adopted.

23 .....  
24 *Jon Vickerman*  
25 (Committee Chair)  
26 April 6, 2005.....  
27 (Date of Committee recommendation)

**Pursuant to J.R. 2.03, the Bill was Referred to  
the Committee on Rules and Administration**

1                                   A memorial resolution

2       asking the residents of Minnesota for tolerance of  
3       different views on animal agriculture production  
4       practices; making 2005 the year the Minnesota feedlot  
5       war ended, and a new era beginning for Minnesota  
6       livestock farmers characterized by peace, love,  
7       harmony, and acceptance of diversity.

8       WHEREAS, Minnesota has a diverse livestock production  
9       system; and

10       WHEREAS, federal, state, and local regulations in Minnesota  
11       are among the most stringent in the world; and

12       WHEREAS, livestock that is produced on properly sited,  
13       engineered, and managed livestock farms, regardless of the  
14       system used, is good for the environment; and

15       WHEREAS, Minnesota livestock farmers and related  
16       agricultural processing benefits the state's economy by  
17       employing over 200,000 people and generating over  
18       \$28,000,000,000 in economic value to the state; and

19       WHEREAS, the "Minnesota feedlot wars" started around 1985  
20       and have continued for approximately 20 years; and

21       WHEREAS, much of the rhetoric and resources during the last  
22       20 years has been channeled into criticizing and tearing down  
23       someone else's preferred method of livestock production; and

24       WHEREAS, Minnesota has many opportunities for residents to  
25       learn about the economic and environmental benefits of livestock  
26       produced on a broad range of diverse systems, ranging from

1 pasture to confinement; and

2 WHEREAS, high livestock and human populations peacefully  
3 coexist in close proximity to each other in much of the world,  
4 such as the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Netherlands, and  
5 Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; NOW, THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED, that 2005 be known as the year that the  
7 Minnesota feedlot wars ended and a new era beginning that is  
8 characterized by peace, harmony, love, and acceptance of  
9 diversity with regard to livestock farmers in Minnesota.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all Minnesotans should adopt a  
11 respectful, encouraging, and appreciative attitude toward  
12 Minnesota livestock farmers.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, livestock farmers should renew and  
14 intensify their efforts to be good neighbors and carefully  
15 follow all federal, state, and local regulations.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, rural residents should renew and  
17 intensify their efforts to be good neighbors, and accept,  
18 encourage, and support the livestock farmers in their area.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that rhetoric and resources should  
20 be channeled into promoting a person's preferred method of  
21 livestock production rather than channeling rhetoric and  
22 resources into criticizing another person's preferred method of  
23 livestock production.

ENDING MINNESOTA'S  
"FEEDLOT WAR"  
1985 – 2005

Senate Agriculture, Veterans, and Gaming  
Committee calls for 2005 to be the year the  
Minnesota "Feedlot War" ends and a new era  
begins for Minnesota livestock farmers—an era  
characterized by peace, harmony, love, and  
acceptance of diversity.

Senator Jim Vickerman—Chair, DFL-Tracy  
Senator Rod Skoe—Vice-Chair, DFL-Clearbrook  
Senator Steve Dille—Lead, Minority, R-Dassel  
Senator Yvonne Prettner Solon, DFL-Duluth  
Senator Dallas Sams, DFL-Staples  
Senator Becky Lourey, DFL-Kerrick  
Senator Dean Elton Johnson, DFL-Willmar  
Senator Betsy Wergin, R-Princeton  
Senator Sean Nienow, R-Cambridge  
Senator Paul Koering, R-Fort Ripley  
Senator Dick Day, R-Owatonna  
Senator Steve Murphy, DFL-Red Wing  
Senator David Hann, R-Eden Prairie  
Senator Ann Rest, DFL-New Hope

**Date:** February 1, 2005

**To:** All Minnesota Citizens, Agricultural and Environmental organizations, and other citizen groups interested in or concerned about livestock production.

**Subject:** Ending Minnesota's "Feedlot War" 1985-2005. Beginning a new era in Minnesota Livestock production characterized by peace, love, harmony, and acceptance of diversity.

2005 is the year for peace, harmony, and bipartisanship in the Minnesota Legislature.

We would respectfully request that 2005 also be the year for the "Feedlot War" to end, and that a new era begin for Minnesota's livestock farmers that is characterized by:

1. Peace.
2. Harmony.
3. Love.
4. Acceptance of Minnesota's diverse livestock productions systems.
5. Acceptance that Federal, State, and local regulations are among the most stringent in the world and will, if followed, protect the environment in almost all situations.
6. Rhetoric and resources that are channeled into promoting one's preferred method of production rather than channeling rhetoric and resources into criticizing and tearing down someone else's preferred method of production.
7. Livestock farmers renewing and intensifying their efforts to be good neighbors, and carefully following all federal, state, and local feedlot regulations.
8. Rural residents renewing and intensifying their efforts to be good neighbors, and accepting, encouraging, and supporting the livestock producers in their area.
9. Opportunities for all Minnesotans to learn about the economic and environmental benefits of livestock produced in a broad range of diverse systems, ranging from pasture to confinement.
10. Respectful, encouraging, and appreciative attitude toward of Minnesota livestock farmers.
11. The knowledge that Minnesota livestock farms and related agribusiness is good for the economy, employing over 200,000 people and generating economic value of at least \$28 billion.

12. The knowledge that high livestock and human populations peacefully coexist in much of the world. Minnesotans should try to be more like citizens of the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Netherlands, or Lancaster County, PA, who live in close proximity to farmers that use diverse production systems ranging from small pastures to large modern confinement barns. They live together in the same neighborhood in peace and harmony.

13. The knowledge that livestock that is produced on farms that are properly sited, engineered and managed is good for the environment.

The Minnesota "Feedlot War" began around 1985 and has gone on for twenty years. We respectfully ask all the warring parties to please lay down your swords, set aside hateful condescending speech, spend your energy, talent, and resources to build up and not to tear down.

Please, Minnesota, let's make 2005 the year the "Feedlot War" ended.

Please, Minnesota, let's make 2005 the year a new era begins for Minnesota Livestock producers, an era characterized by peace, harmony, love, and acceptance of diversity.

Sincerely,

Mn. Senate Agriculture Committee

Senator Steve Delle

Senator Boel Sporey

Senator Vicki

Senator Patsy Jensen

Senator Betty Bergin

Senator Paul Keering

" Steve Murphy

" Dick Gray

Senator Ann H. Rest

Senator Groun Pretzman Solon

Senator Dallas Sons

Senator Jane Holden

Senator Dean Elton Johnson

Senator Sean Nienvay



**Senators Dille; Vickerman; Day; Johnson, D.E. and Lourey introduced--  
S.F. No. 1218: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming.**

1

A memorial resolution

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3 different views on animal agriculture production  
4 practices; making 2005 the year the Minnesota feedlot  
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6 livestock farmers characterized by peace, love,  
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21 livestock production rather than channeling rhetoric and  
22 resources into criticizing another person's preferred method of  
livestock production.

February 18, 2005

Senator Steve Dille  
Minnesota State Senate  
103 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Dille,

The undersigned organizations would like to commend you for authoring the "feedlot war" letter dated February 1, 2005, and co-signed by your colleagues on the Senate Agriculture, Veterans, and Gaming Committee.

We also recognize that unproductive rhetoric surrounding livestock production has been increasing as of late. The agriculture community would like to join you in putting an end to the current negative tone. In doing so we will commit to being respectful of all real and perceived social issues surrounding animal agriculture farming and processing in Minnesota.

As your letter points out, this starts with an understanding that animal agriculture and livestock production is critical to the state of Minnesota and consumers world wide, and must coexist peacefully with all others. At the same time, a balance must be struck between economic success and stewardship, respect for neighbors, and other diverse factors.

That being said, we the undersigned members of the agriculture community are committed to honoring the tenor of your letter and forging ahead with responsibility and respect for all parties with a stake in Minnesota's livestock sector.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Dairy Leaders Round Table  
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Farm Credit Services Associations Serving Minnesota  
Minnesota State Cattlemen Association  
Minnesota Association of Cooperatives  
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association  
Broiler and Egg Association of Minnesota  
Minnesota Barley Growers Association  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association

10



## MINNESOTA MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

413 South 28th Avenue, Waite Park, MN 56387

Phone: 320-203-8336 ★ FAX: 320-203-8322

E-Mail: [hmpa@mnmilk.org](mailto:hmpa@mnmilk.org) ★ Web: [www.mnmilk.org](http://www.mnmilk.org)

February 15, 2005

Senator Steve Dille  
103 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206

Dear Senator Dille:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed resolution authored by you and signed by the Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee. On behalf of two thousand dairy farmers and over two hundred and fifty industry supporters, Minnesota Milk Producers Association wholeheartedly supports the resolution and commends you and the committee for introducing the resolution.

The debate has been taxing on everyone involved, especially dairy producers who want to continue a successful family business while improving their quality of life and the environment in which they live.

We fully support the resolution asking for all dairy producers to be good neighbors. Minnesota Milk with support from the State of Minnesota continues to help dairy farmers become better neighbors by meeting and/or exceeding all environmental regulations through the Environmental Quality Assurance program.

Minnesota Milk greatly appreciates the resolution asking for all Minnesotan's to have a respectful, encouraging and appreciative attitude toward livestock farmers. Minnesota has a diverse dairy industry. Some dairy farmers choose to go the route of low input - low output rotational grazing. Other dairy farm families choose to modernize their old and tired barn into a new barn that is more comfortable for the cows. To remain viable and profitable, many dairy farm families choose to add cows to their herd while others chose to do the best they can with their existing facilities.

We welcome the resolution asking rural residents to renew and intensify their efforts to be good neighbors and to accept, encourage and support us. As dairy farm families, we add a great deal to our local communities. We need suppliers like feed dealers, equipment dealers and veterinarians. Just as important, we need processors nearby to add more value to the products we produce.

Minnesota Milk appreciates your support and understanding as livestock agriculture continues to change, much the same way other industries continue to change. Thank you again for your thoughtful resolution. If you have questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Bob Lefebvre  
Executive Director

*The Voice of Minnesota's Dairy Industry*

(7)



February 28, 2005

Senator Steve Dille  
Room 103 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter of February 1, 2005 asking for ending of the "Feedlot War" 1985-2005. I concur with your letter. I also believe there are opportunities for all size hog producers in Minnesota. It would be very nice if producers would have one set of rules to work with.

Thank you again, Steve, for this letter as well as everything else you do helping Minnesota agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Holden", written in a cursive style.

Kent Holden



March 21, 2005

Senator Steve Dille  
103 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206

RE: Resolution regarding tolerance of diversity in agriculture

Dear Senator Dille,

As the public policy organization of the Catholic Bishops of Minnesota, we commend your leadership in striving for compromises, working to build consensus and promoting mutual respect between individuals and organizations who support and/or participate in agriculture in Minnesota. While we would not characterize the differences of opinion and practices which have arisen among these individuals and organizations as "Minnesota feedlot wars," we do recognize that conflicts have occurred and we support your intentions in introducing your resolution regarding tolerance of diversity in agriculture in our state.

In 2004, our national organization of Catholic Bishops, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), issued a statement on agriculture entitled *For I Was Hungry & You Gave Me Food*. In their statement, our Bishops advised that in agriculture much is at stake in moral and human terms because food sustains life itself and it is not just another product.

While acknowledging that individuals can differ about the specific application of their recommendations, the Bishops further explained that the following six criteria should provide us with a framework for measuring policies related to agriculture:

- (1) Overcoming Hunger and Poverty;
- (2) Providing a Safe, Affordable and Sustainable Food Supply;
- (3) Ensuring a Decent Life for Farmers and Farmworkers;
- (4) Sustaining and Strengthening Rural Communities;
- (5) Protecting God's Creation; and
- (6) Expanding Participation and Dialogue in the Development of Agricultural Policies.

We are particularly grateful to you for your efforts to expand participation and dialogue between various individuals and diverse organizations regarding the development of agricultural policies in our state.

Very truly yours;

Kate Krisik  
Social Concerns Director

# Dille wonders 'Can't we just all get along?'

Senator pens letter calling for peace, harmony

By Janet Kubat Willette

[jkubat@agrnews.com](mailto:jkubat@agrnews.com)

ST. PAUL — Sen. Steve Dille wants peace, harmony, love and acceptance to replace the criticism and condescending remarks fired back and forth in the feedlot war.

The Dassel Republican wrote a 13-point letter last week outlining a new era for Minnesota's livestock farmers.

He read the letter, which was signed by all members of the Senate agriculture committee, at the end of a Feb. 3 hearing where testimony was taken on the Governor's Livestock Advisory Task Force Report and the Citizens Task Force Report.

"I was trying to think what was holding up livestock (expansion) in this state," Dille said, and he came up with urban sprawl and conflict.

He figured that since Democrats and Republicans are trying to make peace in the Senate this year and are doing a fairly good job, the warriors on both sides of the



Dille

## Your turn

What do you think about Sen. Steve Dille's idea? Is it possible to end the "Feedlot War" and have peace in farm country? Email [jkubat@agrnews.com](mailto:jkubat@agrnews.com) or call 800-533-1727 ext. 17790. We'll include some of the responses in next week's paper.

feedlot war may also be able to come to a truce.

Dille wrote the letter, and ran it by a couple other senators. He fine-tuned it and then asked his colleagues on the agriculture committee to sign it. They agreed.

The letter bears the signatures of both Senate Minority Leader Dick Day and Senate Majority Leader Dean Johnson, among others.

The room was silent when Dille read the letter. He also apologized to the Land Stewardship Project for being critical of them in the past.

Paul Sobocinski, a Wabasso farmer and LSP staff member, welcomed the letter and called it a first step in mending frayed relations. But trust, he said, must be built over time.

Lisa Heggedahl, an Angus producer from Hayfield, testified on behalf of the governor's report and called the letter a peace offering.

"Sen. Dille has extended a peace offering to those such as Land Stewardship Project whose viewpoint differs from his," Heggedahl said. "He has asked for peace and harmony in order to work together for the betterment of Minnesota's livestock producers rather than the expenditure of time and energy to oppose one another. It remains to be seen whether the Land Stewardship Project and others will reach out and accept the olive branch or reach out and rap Sen. Dille over the head with it."

Dille said there's room for all types of livestock production in Minnesota.

Ideally, LSP will help people who want to farm using grass-based production methods rather than tear down those who choose to raise livestock in confinement.

Likewise, he hopes the "other side" will quit making condescending remarks about LSP.

"You'd think at some point in the future, the feedlot war will end," Dille said. "... Why not this year?..."

"If this works, I might even ask them to mention it in my obituary."

The letter has been distributed in the Senate and a resolution will be drafted for passage in both the House and Senate.

Dille is also going to introduce a bill addressing urban sprawl.

## To All Minnesota citizens:

1. Peace
2. Harmony
3. Love
4. Acceptance of Minnesota's diverse livestock production systems
5. Acceptance that federal, state and local regulations are among the most stringent in the world and will, if followed, protect the environment in almost all situations.
6. Rhetoric and resources that are channeled into promoting one's preferred method of production rather than channeling rhetoric and resources into criticizing and tearing down someone else's preferred method of production.
7. Livestock farmers renewing and intensifying their efforts to be good neighbors, and carefully following all the federal, state and local feedlot regulations.
8. Rural residents renewing and intensifying their efforts to be good neighbors, and accepting, encouraging and supporting the livestock producers in their area.
9. Opportunities for all Minnesotans to learn about the economic and environmental benefits of livestock produced in a broad range of diverse systems, ranging from pasture to confinement.
10. Respectful, encouraging and appreciative attitude toward all of Minnesota's livestock farmers.

11. The knowledge that Minnesota livestock farms and related agribusiness is good for the economy, employing 200,000 people and generating economic value at least \$28 billion.
  12. The knowledge that high livestock and human populations peacefully coexist in much of the world. Minnesotans should try to be more like citizens of the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Netherlands or Lancaster County, Penn., who live in close proximity to farmers that use diverse production systems ranging from small pastures to large modern confinement barns. They live together in the same neighborhood in peace and harmony.
  13. The knowledge that livestock that produced on farms that are properly site engineered and managed is good for the environment.
- The Minnesota "Feedlot War" began around 1985 and has gone on for 20 years. We respectfully ask all the warring parties to please lay down your swords, set aside hateful condescending speech, spend your energy, talent and resources to build up and not to tear down.
- Please, Minnesota let's make 2005 the year the feedlot war ended.
- Please, Minnesota, let's make 2005 the year a new era begins for Minnesota livestock producers, an era characterized by peace, harmony, love and acceptance of diversity.
- Sincerely, Sen. Steve Dille, Sen. Rod Skoe, Sen. Jim Vickerman, Sen. Becky Lourey, Sen. Betsy Wren, Sen. Paul Koering, Sen. Steve Murphy, Sen. Dick D. Sen. Ann Rest, Sen. Yvonne Pretzner-Solon, Sen. Dallas Sams, Sen. David Hann, Sen. Dean Elton Johnson, Sen. Sean Nienow

# Diverse groups support Sen. Dille's feedlot message

from staff reports

The Minnesota Dairy Leaders Roundtable, Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, Farm Credit Services Associations serving Minnesota, Minnesota State Cattlemen Association, Minnesota Association of Cooperatives, Minnesota Turkey Growers Association, Broiler and Egg Association of Minnesota, Minnesota Barley Growers Association and Minnesota Pork Producers Association wrote a letter to Sen. Steve Dille, R-Dassel, commending him for authoring the feedlot war letter

dated Feb. 1, 2005.

The groups said they "recognize that unproductive rhetoric surrounding livestock production has been increasing as of late" and they will join him "in putting an end to the current negative tone."

They pledged to respect social issues surrounding livestock production and processing in the state.

"This starts with an understanding that animal agriculture and livestock production is critical to the state of Minnesota and consumers world wide, and must coexist peacefully with all others. At the same time, a balance

must be struck between economic success and stewardship, respect for neighbors and other diverse factors."

## Rural health care

House Republicans outlined a package of rural health initiatives March 2 to help more people get access to medical care.

Their proposals include higher payments to nursing homes and rural hospitals, grants to preserve rural pharmacies and spur electronic record-keeping, purchasing alliances for small businesses and farmers, and tax changes to ease the use of Health Savings Accounts.

"Health care takes on a new and more difficult dimension in rural areas," said Rep. Fran Bradley, the lead Republican on health care issues. "Do I want a piece of action for those groups? You bet I do."

Higher payments to nursing homes — a 3 percent increase each year for two years — would cost about \$150 million and dwarfs the total 2 percent increase proposed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Bradley didn't have a price tag for the whole rural health package, but said the nursing home increase was by far the biggest-ticket item.

— Associated Press

## Bill introductions

Rep. Tony Cornish, R-Good Thunder, has introduced a bill calling for a Renewable Energy Production Incentive to support the development of wind energy. Under the bill, House File 218, owners of wind energy conversion systems with a capacity of 2 megawatts or less receive 1.5 cents for each kilowatt hour produced for a period of 10 years. The payment would be available to only 200 megawatts of total statewide capacity.

Sen. Julianne Ortman, R-Chanhassen, has introduced a bill, Senate File 1247,

which provides an individual income tax credit and a corporate franchise tax for qualifying investments in dairy operations.

Sen. Steve Dille, R-Dassel, has introduced Senate File 1202 that appropriates money for a grant to Second Harvest food banks for the purchase of milk.

Sen. Ellen Anderson, DFL-St. Paul, has introduced a bill, Senate File 1187, to prohibit the sale of atrazine.

Sen. Becky Lourey, DFL-Kerrick, has introduced a bill restricting the sale of ethanol plants. The bill is Senate File 943.

①



# Dille's letter sparks optimism

By Janet Kubat Willette

*jkubat@agrnews.com*

Reaction to Sen. Steve Dille's letter calling for an end to the feedlot war has been cautiously optimistic.

Jim Palmer of the Minnesota soybean growers called the letter commendable.

He also commended Dille, a Dassel Republican, for trying to bring people together.

Mary Jo Forbord, executive director of the Minnesota Sustainable Farming Association, said the letter outlines goals that can hopefully be achieved.

Dave Preisler, executive director of the Minnesota

Pork Producers Association, said the letter sets a tone that all agricultural groups should follow.

Paul Sobocinski, a Wabaso farmer and Land Stewardship Project staff member, said the letter expresses values his organization shares and he hopes it's the beginning of an opportunity to work together to benefit rural Minnesota.

Sobocinski said LSP took the letter in good faith, but said the Legislature must back the letter with action. Specifically, lawmakers must send a clear message that no legislation that would affect township rights or local control will pass. Also, lawmakers need to correct the current funding imbalance by equally funding research geared for confinement and pasture systems.

In 1998, the Legislature did fund both, Sobocinski said. A confinement hog facility went up in Waseca, and pas-

ture-based systems in Morris received a boost. That's an example of harmony, he said.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with Sen. Dille and other ag committee members" to move the state forward, Sobocinski said.

Sobocinski Preisler agrees.

"Let's go forward and work on things of mutual benefit," he said.

Ron Jacobsen, who farms near Freeborn and is president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, said Dille's letter fits well with their campaign to keep livestock in Minnesota. MSGA is size-neutral, he said. Soybean growers want



Dille



Sobocinski

## Inside

• Read letter writers' reactions on the opinion page — Page A7

livestock in the state to consume Minnesota-grown soybeans that are processed into meal. Jacobsen said without livestock soybean growers would lose 68 cents a bushel shipping production out of state.

Forbord wants to move the debate from feedlots to a holistic approach that emphasizes how farming is interrelated to the economy and the health of the community.

"I don't want Sen. Dille's gesture of good faith to be hollow," she said. "I commend Sen. Dille for coming out of the trenches. I think he has the good of Minnesota agriculture at heart."

12

## (What's So Funny 'bout) Peace, Love, and Understanding

as sung by Senator Steve Dille  
Song written by Elvis Costello with a few "amendments" by  
Senate staffer Anne Hamre  
March 2005

As I walk through  
The Capitol  
Searchin' for light in the darkness of farm policy.

I ask myself  
Is all hope lost?  
Is there only pain and hatred, and misery?

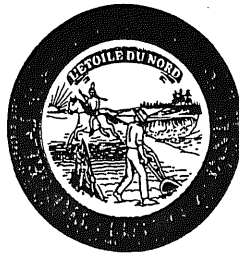
And each time I feel like this inside,  
There's one thing I wanna know:  
What's so funny 'bout peace love & understanding? Ohhhh  
What's so funny 'bout peace love & understanding?

And as I walked on  
Through feedlot wars  
My spirit gets so downhearted sometimes  
So where are the strong  
And who are the trusted?  
And where is the harmony?  
Sweet harmony.

'Cause each time I feel it slippin' away, just makes me wanna cry.  
What's so funny 'bout peace love & understanding? Ohhhh  
What's so funny 'bout peace love & understanding?

So where are the strong?  
And who are the trusted?  
And where is the harmony?  
Sweet harmony.

'Cause each time I feel it slippin' away, just makes me wanna cry.  
What's so funny 'bout peace love & understanding? Ohhhh  
What's so funny 'bout peace love & understanding? Ohhhh  
What's so funny 'bout peace love & understanding?



April 6, 2005

The following individuals and organizations are supporters of SF 1218, a resolution authored by Sen. Steve Dille (R-Dassel), Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy), Sen. Dick Day (R-Owatonna), Sen. Dean Johnson (DFL-Willmar), and Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick). A letter dated February 1, 2004 addressed to all Minnesota Citizens and signed by all members of the Senate Agriculture Committee laid out the same message as this resolution.

SF218 calls for 2005 to be the year the "Minnesota Feedlot War" ends and a new era begins for Minnesota livestock farmers; an era characterized by peace, harmony, love, and acceptance of diversity.

**NAME**

1. Minnesota Dairy Leaders Roundtable
2. Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
3. Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
4. Farm Credit Services Association Serving Minnesota
5. Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
6. Minnesota Association of Cooperatives
7. Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
8. Broiler and Egg Association of Minnesota
9. Minnesota Barley Growers Association
10. Minnesota Pork Producers Association
11. Minnesota Milk Producers Association
12. Holden Farm – Kent Holden
13. Minnesota Catholic Conference – Kate Krisik

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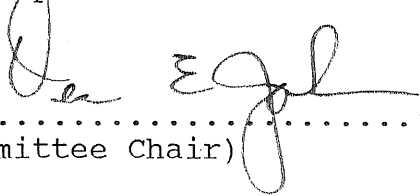
1 Senator Johnson, D.E. from the Committee on Rules and  
2 Administration, to which was referred under Joint Rule 2.03,  
3 together with the committee report thereon,

4 S.F. No. 1908: A bill for an act relating to natural  
5 resources; establishing the Shooting Range Protection Act;  
6 requiring expedited rulemaking; proposing coding for new law as  
7 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 87A.

8 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the  
9 report from the Committee on Judiciary, shown in the Journal for  
10 May 5, 2005, be adopted; that committee recommendation being:

11 "the bill be amended and when so amended the bill do pass".  
12 Amendments adopted. Report adopted.

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.....

(Committee Chair)

May 16, 2005.....  
(Date of Committee recommendation)

1 Senator Betzold from the Committee on Judiciary, to which  
2 was re-referred

3 S.F. No. 1908: A bill for an act relating to natural  
4 resources; establishing the Shooting Range Protection Act;  
5 requiring expedited rulemaking; proposing coding for new law as  
6 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 87A.

7 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill  
8 be amended as follows:

9 Page 4, line 6, after the first comma, insert "or as  
10 provided in paragraph (b),"

11 Page 4, line 13, after "structure" insert "subject to this  
12 section" and delete "under this section"

13 Page 4, line 14, after "seeking" insert "the" and after  
14 "approval" insert "or, at the discretion of the governing body,  
15 the approving authority"

16 Page 4, line 15, delete everything after the period

17 Page 4, delete lines 16 and 17

18 Page 4, line 18, delete everything before "The" and after  
19 "requesting" insert "an"

20 Page 4, line 19, delete "under" and insert "subject to"

21 Page 4, line 22, after "being" insert "found"

22 Page 4, line 25, before the period, insert "if the failure  
23 to provide the documentation or required mitigation is the sole  
24 basis for the range being out of compliance with the shooting  
25 range performance standards"

26 Page 5, line 3, before the period, insert ", as in effect  
27 on the effective date of this act"

28 Page 5, line 11, after "action" insert "for damages or  
29 equitable relief"

30 Page 5, line 13, delete everything after "prohibit" and  
31 insert "other actions."

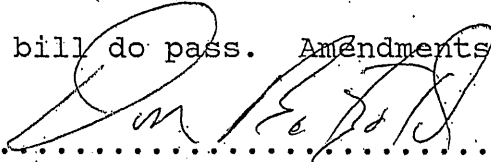
32 Page 5, delete lines 14 to 16

33 Page 5, line 24, before the period, insert "by a court of  
34 competent jurisdiction"

35 Page 6, line 21, after the period, insert "Nothing in this  
36 chapter shall supersede more restrictive conditions imposed by  
37 ordinances and permits that are in effect on the effective date  
38 of this section."

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And when so amended the bill do pass. Amendments adopted.  
Report adopted.

  
.....  
(Committee Chair)

May 4, 2005.....  
(Date of Committee recommendation)

1                                   A bill for an act

2           relating to natural resources; establishing the

3           Shooting Range Protection Act; requiring expedited

4           rulemaking; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota

5           Statutes, chapter 87A.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

7           Section 1. [87A.01] [DEFINITIONS.]

8           Subdivision 1. [APPLICABILITY.] The definitions in this

9           section apply to sections 87A.01 to 87A.08.

10          Subd. 2. [PERSON.] "Person" means an individual,

11          association, proprietorship, partnership, corporation, club,

12          political subdivision, or other legal entity.

13          Subd. 3. [SHOOTING RANGE OR RANGE.] "Shooting range" or

14          "range" means an area or facility designated or operated

15          primarily for the use of firearms, as defined in section

16          97A.015, subdivision 19, or archery, and includes shooting

17          preserves as described in section 97A.115 or any other Minnesota

18          law.

19          Subd. 4. [SHOOTING RANGE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.] "Shooting

20          range performance standards" means those rules adopted by the

21          commissioner of natural resources under section 87A.02 for the

22          safe operation of shooting ranges.

23          Subd. 5. [LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT.] "Local unit of

24          government" means a home rule charter or statutory city, county,

25          town, or other political subdivision.

1 Sec. 2. [87A.02] [SHOOTING RANGE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.]

2 Subdivision 1. [ADOPTION OF STANDARDS; REVIEW.] (a) The  
3 commissioner of natural resources must develop and adopt  
4 shooting range performance standards, according to the expedited  
5 rulemaking process under section 14.389. The shooting range  
6 performance standards must provide for compliance with  
7 applicable noise standards under section 87A.05 and for the safe  
8 use of shooting ranges within their boundaries, including the  
9 containment of projectiles.

10 (b) The shooting range performance standards must provide  
11 for the operation of shooting preserves within the boundaries of  
12 the preserve, including an exemption from any discharge distance  
13 limitations generally applicable to hunting on other land, when  
14 the shooting preserve is in compliance with all other applicable  
15 laws and is in operation on or before the effective date of the  
16 performance standards adopted under this section or prior to the  
17 development of any structure that would cause the preserve to be  
18 out of compliance with the discharge distance.

19 (c) The commissioner must review the shooting range  
20 performance standards at least once every five years and revise  
21 them if necessary for the safe operation of shooting ranges.

22 (d) In the adoption of any amendments to the shooting range  
23 performance standards adopted under paragraph (a), the  
24 commissioner shall follow all notice and public hearing  
25 requirements for the regular rule adoption process under  
26 sections 14.001 to 14.28.

27 Subd. 2. [INTERIM STANDARDS.] Until the commissioner of  
28 natural resources adopts the shooting range performance  
29 standards under subdivision 1, paragraph (a), the November 1999  
30 revised edition of the National Rifle Association's Range Source  
31 Book: A Guide to Planning and Construction shall serve as the  
32 interim shooting range performance standards, having the full  
33 effect of the shooting range performance standards for purposes  
34 of this chapter. The interim shooting range performance  
35 standards sunset and have no further effect under this chapter  
36 upon the effective date of the shooting range performance



1 standards adopted under subdivision 1, paragraph (a).

2 Sec. 3. [87A.03] [COMPLIANT RANGES; AUTHORIZED  
3 ACTIVITIES.]

4 Subdivision 1. [AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.] A shooting range  
5 that operates in compliance with the shooting range performance  
6 standards must be permitted to do all of the following within  
7 its geographic boundaries, under the same or different ownership  
8 or occupancy, if done in accordance with shooting range  
9 performance standards:

10 (1) operate the range and conduct activities involving the  
11 discharge of firearms;

12 (2) expand or increase its membership or opportunities for  
13 public participation related to the primary activity as a  
14 shooting range;

15 (3) make those repairs or improvements desirable to meet or  
16 exceed requirements of shooting range performance standards;

17 (4) increase events and activities related to the primary  
18 activity as a shooting range;

19 (5) conduct shooting activities and discharge firearms  
20 daily between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. A local unit of  
21 government with zoning jurisdiction over a shooting range may  
22 extend the hours of operation by the issuance of a special or  
23 conditional use permit; and

24 (6) acquire additional lands to be used for buffer zones or  
25 noise mitigation efforts or to otherwise comply with this  
26 chapter.

27 Subd. 2. [NONCONFORMING USE.] A shooting range that is a  
28 nonconforming use shall be allowed to conduct additional  
29 shooting activities within the range's lawful property  
30 boundaries as of the date the range became a nonconforming use,  
31 provided the shooting range remains in compliance with noise and  
32 shooting range performance standards under this chapter.

33 Subd. 3. [COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAW.] Nothing in this  
34 section exempts any newly constructed or remodeled building on a  
35 shooting range from compliance with fire safety, handicapped  
36 accessibility, elevator safety, bleacher safety, or other

1 provisions of the State Building Code that have mandatory  
2 statewide application.

3 Sec. 4. [87A.04] [MITIGATION AREA.]

4 (a) Except for those uses, developments, and structures in  
5 existence or for which approval has been granted by October 1,  
6 2005, no change in use, new development, or construction of a  
7 structure shall be approved for any portion of property within  
8 750 feet of the perimeter property line of an outdoor shooting  
9 range if the change in use, development, or construction would  
10 cause a preexisting outdoor shooting range in compliance with  
11 this chapter to become out of compliance.

12 (b) A change in use, new development, or construction of a  
13 structure may be approved under this section if the person  
14 seeking approval agrees to provide any mitigation required to  
15 keep the range in compliance with this chapter. The approving  
16 authority, instead of the person requesting the change in use,  
17 new development, or construction of a structure may provide any  
18 mitigation required under this section. The person requesting  
19 approval under this section is responsible for providing  
20 documentation if no mitigation is required under this section.  
21 Failure to provide the documentation or any mitigation required  
22 under this section exempts the range from being out of  
23 compliance with the shooting range performance and noise  
24 standards of this chapter with regard to the property  
25 responsible for the mitigation. Any action brought by the owner  
26 of the property against the range is subject to section 87A.06.  
27 With the permission of the range operator, any mitigation  
28 required under this section may be provided on the range  
29 property.

30 Sec. 5. [87A.05] [NOISE STANDARDS.]

31 Allowable noise levels for the operation of a shooting  
32 range are the levels determined by replacing the steady state  
33 noise L10 and L50 state standards for each period of time within  
34 each noise area's classification with a single Leq(h) standard  
35 for impulsive noise that is two dBA lower than that of the L10  
36 level for steady state noise. The noise level shall be measured

1 outside of the range property at the location of the receiver's  
2 activity according to Minnesota Rules, parts 7030.0010 to  
3 7030.0080. For purposes of this section, "Leq(h)" means the  
4 energy level that is equivalent to a steady state level that  
5 contains the same amount of sound energy as the time varying  
6 sound level for a 60-minute time period.

7       Sec. 6. [87A.06] [NUISANCE ACTIONS; COMPLIANCE WITH  
8 SHOOTING RANGE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.]

9       A person who owns, operates, or uses a shooting range in  
10 this state that is in compliance with shooting range performance  
11 standards is not subject to any nuisance action based on noise  
12 or other matters regulated by the shooting range performance  
13 standards. This section does not prohibit an action that seeks  
14 damages for personal physical injury or tangible damage to  
15 property caused by acts or omissions involving the operation of  
16 the range or by a person using the range.

17       Sec. 7. [87A.07] [CLOSURE OF SHOOTING RANGES.]

18       Subdivision 1. [CLOSURE.] Except as otherwise provided in  
19 sections 87A.01 to 87A.08, a shooting range that is in  
20 compliance with shooting range performance standards and the  
21 requirements of sections 87A.01 to 87A.08 shall not be forced to  
22 permanently close or permanently cease any activity related to  
23 the primary use of the shooting range unless the range or  
24 activity is found to be a clear and immediate safety hazard. In  
25 any action brought to compel the permanent closure of any range  
26 in compliance with shooting range performance standards and this  
27 chapter, or to permanently cease any activity related to the  
28 primary use of the shooting range, there is a rebuttable  
29 presumption that the range or activity is not a clear and  
30 immediate safety hazard. If the shooting range provides  
31 evidence that the cause of a proven safety hazard can be  
32 mitigated so as to eliminate the safety hazard, the court shall  
33 not order the permanent closure of the range, or permanent  
34 ceasing of the activity found to be a clear and immediate safety  
35 hazard, unless the range operator fails to implement the  
36 necessary mitigation to remove the safety hazard by the date

1 that is determined reasonable by the court.

2 Subd. 2. [PRELIMINARY INJUNCTIONS.] Nothing in this  
3 section prohibits a court from granting a preliminary injunction  
4 against any activity determined to be a probable clear and  
5 immediate safety hazard, or against any individual determined to  
6 be the probable cause of an alleged clear and immediate safety  
7 hazard, pending the final determination of the existence of the  
8 safety hazard.

9 Subd. 3. [PERMANENT INJUNCTIONS.] A court may grant a  
10 permanent injunction only against a particular activity or  
11 person instead of permanently closing the range unless the court  
12 finds that the remaining operations also pose a safety hazard  
13 under this section.

14 Sec. 8. [87A.08] [APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.]

15 Subdivision 1. [PUBLIC SAFETY LAWS; ZONING.] (a) Nothing  
16 in this chapter prohibits enforcement of any federal law. To  
17 the extent consistent with this chapter, other state laws  
18 regarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public may be  
19 enforced. To the extent consistent with this chapter, a local  
20 unit of government with zoning authority jurisdiction over a  
21 shooting range may enforce its applicable ordinances and permits.

22 (b) If the operator of the shooting range shows evidence  
23 that the range can be brought into compliance with the  
24 applicable state law, local ordinance, or permit, the range may  
25 not be permanently closed unless the range operator fails to  
26 bring the range into compliance with the applicable law,  
27 ordinance, or permit under this section by the date that the  
28 court determines reasonable. Nothing in this section prohibits  
29 a court from granting a preliminary injunction against any  
30 activity determined to be a violation of a law, ordinance, or  
31 permit under this section or against any individual determined  
32 to be causing an alleged violation, pending the final  
33 determination of the existence of the violation.

34 Subd. 2. [PERMANENT INJUNCTIONS.] A court may grant a  
35 permanent injunction only against a particular activity or  
36 person instead of permanently closing the range unless the court

1 finds that the remaining operations also create a violation  
2 under this section.

3       Sec. 9. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

4       Sections 1 to 8 are effective the day following final  
5 enactment.