

2019 SENATE AGRICULTURE

SB 2080

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SB 2080
1/4/2019
Job # 30415

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Dan Johnston II

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to federal meat inspection revision.

Minutes:

Attachment: 1

Vice Chair Myrdal: Opens hearing on SB 2080.

Dr. Andrea Grondahl, Livestock Industries Director, North Dakota Department of Agriculture: See attachment 1 for testimony in support of SB 2080.

Senator Klein: How many facilities are we inspecting?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: We currently have 15 official state establishments and approximately 78 custom exempt.

Senator Klein: and how many inspectors do they require?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: we have two senior inspectors and seven implant inspectors.

Senator Klein: We often talk to the equals who, I mean that's a word we kicked around for many years and I know when Senator Solberg was here, the idea was find grey areas, but I think because of federal regulation we've had to match the equals. Generally, we're not beyond that, are we?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: No, and we strive every day, every month, every year to not be beyond that, we want to help promote the industry and just be there to help them achieve compliance. But the equal to requirements are very strict, we're actually up for a federal audit this year and we will have three teams of people, 1 looking at official establishment, 1 looking at financial review and 1 looking at the civil rights portion of our program.

Senator Hogan: How often do you receive federal audits, and what kind of information have you found through that audit?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: we have annual audits; it is more of a distant audit, I have to submit a report outlining how North Dakota achieves equal to through the various aspects of the program, and then the onsite audit is every three years.

Senator Osland: I've got a question concerning the federal and state inspection; why do certain processers opt for one or the other?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: The one difference used to be that state inspected products had to be sold within state lines, and so prior to a couple years ago, that is the primary reason people would choose federal inspection. Many parts of our state, just because we offer more assistance to get the grant of inspection and then transition, we had a couple of plants transition to federal inspection, but we recently entered into a new cooperative agreement call cooperative interstate shipment" and that allows a plant to stay under state inspection and then transition to federal inspection. So since that has happened there has only been one plant that I'm aware of that chose federal inspection, and that's because we had a lack of inspection staff and weren't able to commit to the days of inspection that he wanted.

Senator Klein: Just getting back to the amount of facilities that we're inspecting, you said how many custom exempt?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: 78

Senator Klein: 78, does that mean like going to the grocery store?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: It's kind of a big variety, there are some grocery stores that do some custom processing of deer, livestock. The more traditional is just a typical like, Butcher block in Mandan is a common one people know of that does a lot of deer, a lot of custom processing of livestock.

Senator Klein: Bowman would be?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: Bowman is an official establishment.

Senator Klein: And how many of those do you have?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: 15

Vice Chair Myrdal: Maybe off subject, but I live in a very rural area and the whole thing of true butcherers has disappeared. Its an art and it has just vanished. You take an animal in, whether it be deer or hog, and you get it back and you cook it and you have no idea what cut your getting because they just kill the thing and cut it up in the same way I would cut it up in my garage. As far as true butcher shops in North Dakota, are we on a serious decline?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: There has been a decline; it does tend to go up and down. I was recently looking at some numbers, overall in the last twenty year we have seen a decline. I think the original number was 115 total plants, now it is a little over ninety.

Vice Chair Myrdal: Do you know the reason for that?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: I think it is very hard work; I have talked to many of the plant owners who have said that. A lot of them tend to have older facilities, so to find someone willing to take that over and make the repairs necessary, is difficult. So I think that is the primary reason, but we have, I would say, in the last year or two seen more of an incline. I think with the oil boom there is actually a decline because there is more money to be had elsewhere, but now we're on more of an incline again.

Senator Klein: I learn to cut meat on swinging beef, which of course now the art is to use box beef which really has been a god send. I can in half an hour/an hour I can have most of you trained because we're not lifting a quarter of beef. However, that certainly turns into a black eye when you take your critter to a facility and you don't recognize what you doing, which was happening a lot close to my town and people began complaining. But it is hard to find somebody and their backed up. It's not cheap any more to have a critter processed. And so I just recommend everybody just buy it at the grocery store.

Vice Chair Myrdal: Senator Klein, let me just make a comment back; I eat lamb, so you tell me find lamb and I'll buy it at the grocery store.

Senator Larsen: I think it is NDSU that has a program with doing meats; is that still a process, are they wanting to remodel or has that gone away? Are you involved with them? Who teaches how to cut meat, besides going to the grocery store.

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: I'm not real familiar with what they have going on. They do have a meat slab and they do some teaching of cutting of meat. I don't believe they offer a sort of degree in that; there used to be a meat cutting school in Pipestone MN, but that closed several years ago. We just had contact with someone from Bellfield, who went to a meat cutting school in Canada; he's coming back to North Dakota and wants to start a new plant.

No Further Testimony

Vice Chair Myrdal: Chairman Luick requested we recess until he is present.

(10:30) Chairman Luick: Opens discussion on SB 2080.

Senator Klein: Motions a Do Pass on SB 2080.

Vice Chair Myrdal: Seconds.

A Roll Was Taken: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent.

Motion Carries.

Vice Chair Myrdal Will Carry the Bill.

**2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2080**

Senate Agriculture Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Senator Klein Seconded By Senator Myrdal: Vice Chair

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Luick: Chairman	x		Senator Hogan	x	
Senator Myrdal: Vice Chair	x				
Senator Klein	x				
Senator Larsen	x				
Senator Osland	x				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Myrdal: Vice Chair

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2080: Agriculture Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2080 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2019 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

SB 2080

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2080
2/28/2019
Job #32982

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: ReMae Kuehn

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the federal meat inspection revision

Minutes:

Attachment #1

Dr. Andrea Grondahl, Livestock Industries Director: (Attachment #1)

(1:39)

Chairman Dennis Johnson: So we are just changing the dates?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: Correct.

Chairman Dennis Johnson: Our rabbit bill is in the Senate now. Can you inspect for processing rabbits now?

Dr. Andrea Grondahl: Yes. That is in the Senate.

Representative Satrom: Has there been any changes in the code on the federal level since the last time we did this?

Dr. Grondahl: There has been minor changes. There used to be a trichinae requirement that required processing plants to treat pork products in a certain manner to kill that product. That is no longer an issue. Plants address it through other means. There has not been anything of significance in the last 2-4 years.

Vice Chair Wayne Trottier: I heard of problems with people that want to sell a quarter of beef. If it is a state inspected plant, can they follow the federal regulations and sell a quarter or half beef?

Dr. Grondahl: There are strict regulations when it comes to a producer selling their own meat. If they want to sell a quarter, they can go through a custom-exempt establishment. There are about 80 of them in the state. They have to sell the animal while it is still alive. If they want to sell the meat at home, they have to go to either a state or federal official establishment as required by the federal government.

Vice Chair Wayne Trottier: What was the third classification?

Dr. Grondahl: Custom-exempt is offering a service and not selling local meat. They may do a retail exemption where they buy federally inspected meat and sell that meat retail.

Vice Chair Wayne Trottier: They are not subject to inspection?

Dr. Grondahl: They have to hold sanitation and facility requirements, record keeping requirements. We inspect them on a quarterly basis.

Representative Schreiber-Beck: Moved Do Pass

Representative Satrom: Seconded the motion

A Roll Call vote was taken: Yes 11, No 0, Absent 3.

Do Pass carries.

Representative Richter will carry the bill.

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2080**

House **Agriculture** Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation

- Adopt Amendment
- Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
- As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
- Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Schreiber Beck Seconded By Rep. Satrom

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Dennis Johnson	X		Rep. Ruth Buffalo	X	
Vice Chairman Wayne Trottier	X		Rep. Gretchen Dobervich	X	
Rep. Jake Blum	X				
Rep. Jay Fisher	X				
Rep. Craig Headland	AB				
Rep. Dwight Kiefert	AB				
Rep. Aaron McWilliams	X				
Rep. David Richter	X				
Rep. Bernie Satrom	X				
Rep. Cynthia Schreiber Beck	X				
Rep. Kathy Skroch	AB				
Rep. Bill Tveit	X				

Total **Yes** 11 **No** 0

Absent 3

Floor Assignment Rep. Richter

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2080: Agriculture Committee (Rep. D. Johnson, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2080 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

SB 2080

COMMISSIONER
DOUG GOEHRING



1-4-19

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SB 2080 Attachment #1

**Testimony of Dr. Andrea Grondahl
Livestock Industries Director
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Senate Bill 2080
Senate Agriculture Committee
Roosevelt Park Room
January 4, 2019**

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am Dr. Andrea Grondahl, Livestock Industries Director for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA), and I am representing Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2080, which would adopt the most current federal meat inspections regulations.

The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) allows states to operate their own meat inspection program, provided the State develops and maintains laws, regulations, and procedures that are "at least equal to" the federal program operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The most effective way to meet "equal to" regulation requirements is to adopt most of the federal regulations related to meat inspection. This was originally done through Administrative Rules during the initial implementation of the program. Last session, the federal regulations were adopted into the Century Code. We are here today to update the statute to the most current federal regulations through Senate Bill 2080. There are no new regulations being incorporated.

Chairman Luick and committee members, thank you for your consideration of SB 2080. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



**Testimony of Dr. Andrea Grondahl
Livestock Industries Director
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Senate Bill 2080
House Agriculture Committee
Peace Garden Room
February 28, 2019**

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Dr. Andrea Grondahl, Livestock Industries Director for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA), and I am representing Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2080, which would adopt the most current federal meat inspections regulations.

The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) allows states to operate their own meat inspection program, provided the State develops and maintains laws, regulations, and procedures that are "at least equal to" the federal program operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The most effective way to meet "equal to" regulation requirements is to adopt most of the federal regulations related to meat inspection. This was originally done through Administrative Rules during the initial implementation of the program. Last session, the federal regulations were adopted into the Century Code. We are here today to update the statute to the most current federal regulations through Senate Bill 2080. There are no new regulations being incorporated.

Chairman Johnson and committee members, thank you for your consideration of SB 2080. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.