

Senators listen to testimony in debate over jury-duty bill

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times, and after the first time, he had to repeatedly bring in signed letters from his professors saying he couldn't miss class.

"The excuses were not granted until the 11th hour," Dane said.

People suggested that his son change his county of residence from York to Lancaster, but even then, he would still be eligible for jury duty in Lancaster County, Dane said.

"We are talking about young adults who are busy with their classwork," Stuhr said.

Dane added that students were paying for classes, and should not be forced to waste their investments.

"It would be very unfortunate if a student would not be able to receive the education time they had paid for," he said.

But students can't shirk civic responsibil-

ity, committee member Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha said.

"There are no exemptions for a doctor or a lawyer," Chambers said. "Do you think jury duty is a requirement or a choice?"

"If a student is on trial, how can he have a jury of his peers if no students are on the panel?"

The bill does give students the choice to ask for an exemption, so they can serve on a jury if they wish. But, Chambers said, if they were guaranteed an exemption, no one would want to serve.

Eric Marintzer, president of the Association of the Students of the University of Nebraska, came to voice ASUN's support of the bill.

Marintzer told the committee that while students recognize their civic duties and would like to fulfill them, a semester is a very short period of time to work for good grades.

"This time period is rather intense, and it takes strict adherence and discipline," Marintzer said.

Arctic winds cause cattle deaths

From The Associated Press

With eight dead cows and more than seven weeks of winter left, dairy farmer Larry Fritz in northeast Nebraska has figured out a way to cut his losses — flee the cold.

"The only thing you could do is be smart enough to get out of this country," Fritz said Saturday.

Farmers and ranchers in northeast and north-central Nebraska have been hit hard this year by ground blizzards, arctic winds and heavy snowfalls.

The region's struggles resembles those of the Dakotas, which are reporting devastating cattle losses.

Livestock losses have reached 36,000 head in South Dakota as of last Tuesday and 13,000 in North Dakota, farm officials said.

In Nebraska, the numbers won't be available until the middle of this week.

Officials expect the losses to be small in comparison and confined to the state's northern tier.

Fritz said this was the worst winter he'd experienced in 25 years as a dairy farmer.

He blames the harsh, northern winds for much of his problems.

"With that darn wind, they (livestock) just suck that cold air in and it freezes their lungs," Fritz said.

Ranchers in western and central Nebraska paint an entirely different picture.

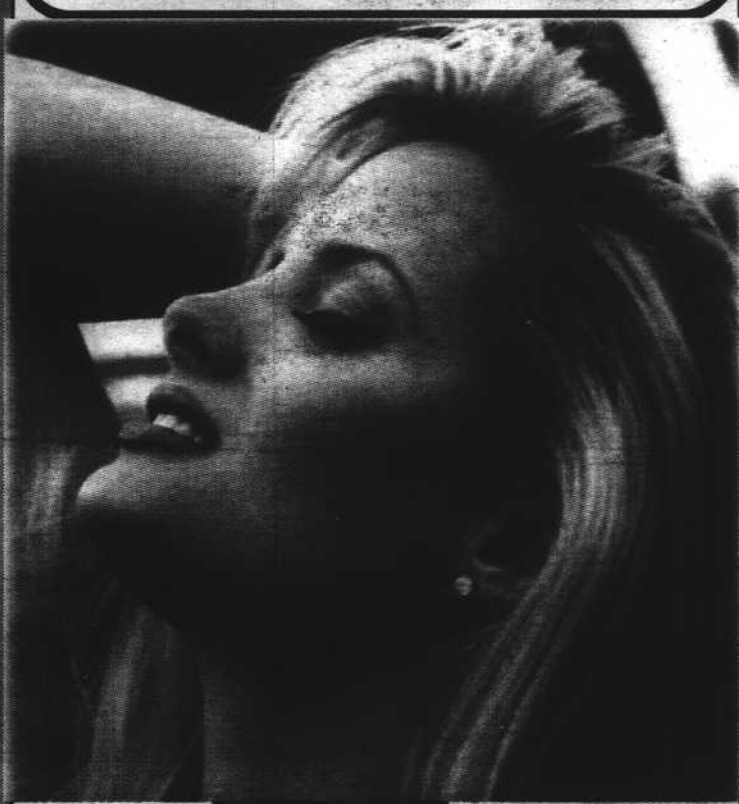
With less snow, and fewer days of arctic air, the winter is shaping up to be a good year for livestock.

"About 90 percent of Nebraska is what we would call a better-than-average year. It's cold but dry," said Jeff Pribbeno, an Imperial rancher and past president of the Nebraska Cattlemen.

He also said farmers in the central and western region had a surplus of feed compared to their counterparts in the north.

The blustery, cold weather was expected to continue into the week, with highs around zero in the northeast to the low 30s in the southern Panhandle on Tuesday.

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