

Nebraska Farm Bureau President Keith Olsen has commented on the Appropriations Committee's decision not to use checkoff dollars to balance the state's budget.

"Farm Bureau certainly welcomes the reports of the Appropriations Committee decision to leave the commodity checkoff programs untouched," said Olsen in response to the decision. "Farm Bureau's long-standing position has been opposed to any diversion of checkoff funds to the state's general fund. We believe the committee's decision is the right one."

"The checkoff programs were initiated by farmers as a self-help investment tool to fund research, education and promotion of their commodities," continued Olsen. "Farmers pay a tax when they sell their grain to fund these programs. It's an investment they make in the future of agriculture. To have transferred the dollars to assist with the state's budget problems would have undermined the integrity of the programs."