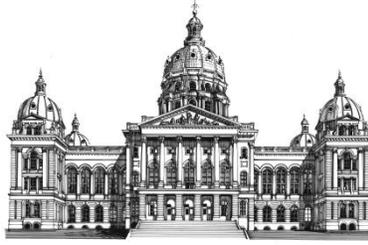


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The Senate

State of Iowa
Eighty-fifth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, IA 50319

COMMITTEES

Agriculture, Ranking Member
Natural Resources and Environment
Transportation

“FROM THE GROUND UP” By Senator Dan Zumbach Week 2

Being prepared for what’s ahead is great advice. I remember growing up and watching my parents practice this concept nearly every day of their lives.

My mother would can vegetables for future use. She would stock up on groceries and ensure the freezer was full. She knew full well our family of nine would consume volumes of food. She worked constantly to be prepared.

My father raised livestock which today would be referred to as the old fashioned way. The mission every day was to not only care for the animals’ daily needs, but to “stock up” for the long winter needs. From May to November, we would care for crops that would eventually be fed to the livestock during the November through the next May time period. The process of baling hay four to five times, harvesting oats and baling straw was strenuous work. Planting corn, caring for this crop and eventually harvesting and storing the grain was all in the name of “being prepared.”

What I remember most about this process wasn’t the hard work it took to achieve the tasks. Be assured, it was hard work. Knowing we had high quality and enough quantity of feed for the animals, what we were entrusted to care for was the real value.

You may be wondering why I shared this story. Let me explain. The first several days at the Capitol are spent “preparing for what is to come.” As legislators, we are bombarded with volumes of information on what is potentially coming down the pipeline. New bills are put on our desks daily and need to be reviewed and discussed. We respond to hundreds of emails. The lobby is filled with people sharing their concerns or praises of potential bills that will affect their lives. We are constantly sorting through this information to be “prepared for the future.”

The first few days in the Capitol quite often feel disjointed and don’t necessarily have a clear sequence. I am confident in the coming days we will have enough information in the “bins” and “hay mows” to be prepared for the next few months.

I am always happy to hear from you. Please forward my newsletter to your friends. The Senate phone number is 515-281-3371. My email address is dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov

Respectfully,
Senator Dan Zumbach
Honorably serving District 48