



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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STATEMENT

Senator Dan Clemens Condemns Cattle Theft in Christian County

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Dan Clemens (R-Marshfield) today issued a statement about the 53 head of Brahma cross-bred cattle stolen from a farm in Christian County over the weekend. Christian County is located in Sen. Clemens’ district.

Senator Clemens is currently sponsoring a bill that expands the crime of stealing livestock. [Senate Bill 159](#) was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee last week (2/2). The committee is expected to vote on the legislation soon.

“This despicable act happened right in my own backyard, and is likely to happen more often as times get tougher. We need to take action and strengthen the laws by increasing the penalties for stealing livestock. This is someone’s livelihood we are talking about here, not just some scene out of an old western movie.

“I urge my colleagues in the General Assembly to pass this legislation and to consider creating stronger penalties down the road for the theft of livestock. Under current law, stealing livestock in Missouri is a Class C felony. In Texas, for example, even stealing 10 head of cattle valued less than \$20,000 is a state jail felony with a mandatory punishment of jail time between 180 days and 2 years and a possible fine up to \$10,000. The punishment goes up with the value and number of cattle stolen. I would support the same for Missouri and urge the Legislature to consider supporting it as well.

“I hope the person responsible is caught and brought to justice. I will continue to fight in the Senate for Missouri farmers and ranchers and do all I can to protect our state’s number-one industry.”

– State Senator Dan Clemens

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