

For Immediate Release
November 16, 2023

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Upcoming Nebraska Farmers Union Convention Agenda and Highlights Announced

December 8-9, 2023

Divots Conference Center, 4200 W. Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701

Lincoln, Nebraska. "*Proudly Serving Family Farm, Ranch, & Rural Families Since 1913*" is the theme for the 110th annual Nebraska Farmers Union (NeFU) state convention. John Hansen, NeFU President said, "We have a solid meat and potatoes program with 20 speakers addressing a wide range of topics.

We will hear from two of our states top USDA officials Friday morning. USDA NRCS State Conservationist Rob Lawson will report on the unprecedented additional funding that is available for conservation programs from the "Inflation Reduction Act." Tim Divis, USDA NE FSA Executive Director and Roy Stoltenberg, Chairman of the State Committee will report on FSA programs, challenges, and opportunities.

Friday noon Mayor Josh Moenning will provide the "Welcome to Norfolk" and Aaron Shier, NFU Government Relations Director will report on National Farmers Union (NFU) legislative issues.

Friday afternoon, members will hear from Chad Spohn about the exciting new "Norfolk Crush Plant" soybean processing facility. Dr. Eric Hunt, Climate Resilience Extension Educator will report on new climate-based tools that can be used for agricultural decision making. Aaron Lapointe, Senior Director of Business Operations for Ho-Chunk Inc. will discuss Nebraska Tribal agricultural initiatives.

Jeff Kippley, NFU Vice President and Tom Giessel, NFU Amateur Historian will keynote the Friday evening banquet. This year's President's Award will be presented to Kay Walter and Tim Rinne of Lincoln for their pioneering efforts in urban agriculture.

Saturday morning programs includes a report from NeFU Vice President Vern Jantzen, a report from John Liewer, Lead Wind Energy Technology Instructor from Northeast Community College about their Wind Energy Technology training program, and remarks from John Berge, USDA Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs.

The final morning program will be "Unscrambling the Extended Farm Bill" with NFU Vice President Jeff Kippley, NFU Government Relations Director Aaron Shier, and USDA Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs John Berge.

NeFU President John Hansen will present his State of the Union report Saturday noon. Schedule permitting, Rep. Mike Flood is invited to provide noon luncheon remarks.

Hansen noted, "Delegates will set our NeFU state policy, elect our state president, elect two members to our NeFU Foundation Board, two NeFU Board of Directors, and three delegates to National Farmers Union Convention to be held next March 10-12 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Our organization first started organizing farmer owned cooperatives in 1911 in Antelope County. We are excited to be back in northeast Nebraska for our convention."

NeFU Vice President Vern Jantzen will chair the 2023-2024 NeFU policy day that will be held Thursday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the Divots Conference Center, and policy consideration Saturday afternoon.

Registration is \$35 and begins at 8:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday mornings. Meals are separate. Convention begins at 9:00 a.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Saturday. As always, all members and the public are welcome. More information is available at: www.nebraskafarmersunion.org or call (402) 476-8815.

For room reservations at the Norfolk Lodge & Suites, call **(402) 379-3833**. The NeFU Convention block room rate is \$125 per night plus taxes and includes a complimentary hot continental breakfast. The NeFU convention block reservation registration deadline is November 22th. Room rates after the deadline may vary.

-Short Agenda Follows-

Friday Morning, December 8, 2023

- 8:00 Registration Begins and Exhibits Open
9:00 Call to order: Convention Convenes, Welcome, Pledge, Prayer, Past Convention Minutes
9:10 NeFU Foundation Report & Elections-- John Hansen, NeFU Foundation Secretary
Elect At-Large Member to NeFU Foundation, 1 year term (Doug Dittman is current director)
9:20 NeFU Education Report—John Hansen
9:30 Nebraska Rural Radio Association Report
- Tim Marshall, NRRRA Chief Operating Officer
 - Dwight Lane, KTIC Station Manager
 - Ben Steffen, NRRRA President

9:45 Refreshment Break Sponsored by: Nebraska Rural Radio Association

- 10:15 USDA NRCS Conservation Programs Opportunities
- Rob Lawson, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 10:45 USDA FSA Programs, Challenges, and Opportunities
- Tim Divis, Acting Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Administration
 - Roy Stoltenberg, Chair, NE FSA State Committee
- 11:15 NeFU Elections: Report by Elections Chair, Richard Corman
- Last call for additional nominations for NeFU President (2024-2025)
 - Introduction of candidates for NeFU Delegates to NFU Convention
March 10-12, 2024 National Farmers Union Convention, Plaza Resort Hotel, Scottsdale, AZ
Elect Top Six NFU Convention Delegates--Vote for 1, 2, or 3 candidates
(Top 3 vote getters are Delegates—next 3 are Alternates)
 - Districts 1& 5 caucus for additional NeFU District Director Nominations (2024-2025-2026)
 - District Presidents caucus to select their representative for NeFU Foundation Board of Directors

12:00 Noon Luncheon

- 12:20 Welcome to Norfolk: Mayor Josh Moenning
12:30 NFU Government Relations Report: Aaron Shier, NFU Government Relations Director
1:15 First Round of Elections

Friday Afternoon, December 8, 2023

- 1:30 Farmers Union Midwest Agency, LLP report, introduction of agents, & Branded Insurance Products Update
- Jeff Downing, Farmers Union Midwest Agency
 - Kevin Harrington, Financial Services Director
- 2:00 Norfolk Crush Plant Update
- Chad Spohn
- 2:30 Climate Based Tools for Agricultural Decision Making
- Dr. Eric Hunt, Climate resilience Extension Educator
- Nebraska Farmers Union PAC report—Vern Jantzen

Refreshment Break

Second Round of Elections if needed for NFU Convention Delegates

Friday Afternoon, December 8, 2023 Continued

4:00 Nebraska Tribal Agricultural Initiatives

- Aaron Lapointe, Senior Director Business Operations, Ho Chunk Incorporated

5:15 NEBFARMPAC Wine & Cheese Social

6:15 Friday Evening Banquet & Celebration

- President's Award Presentation: Kay Walter & Tim Rinne
- "The State of our Farmers Union"—Jeff Kippley, Vice President, National Farmers Union
- "Farmers Union, the Key to Success"—Tom Giessel, NFU Amateur Historian, Larned, KS

Saturday Morning, December 9, 2023

7:00 Builders Club Breakfast—Madison Room in North Lobby

7:00 Complimentary Breakfast—Hotel Lobby

8:30 Convention Reconvenes

8:30 NeFU Vice President's Report—Vern Jantzen

8:45 Wind Powered Jobs for Rural Kids in Rural Communities

- John Liewer, Wind Energy Technology Instructor, Northeast Community College

9:15 USDA Farm Service Programs

- John Berge, Acting USDA Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs

10:00 Refreshment Break

10:30 Unscrambling the Extended Farm Bill

- Jeff Kippley, NFU Vice President
- Aaron Shier, NFU Government Affairs Director
- John Berge, Acting USDA Deputy Administrator for Farm Program

11:30 Adjourn and Hotel Checkout

12:00 Noon Luncheon

- NeFU President John Hansen, NeFU President's Report to Membership
- Rep. Mike Flood (Invited: Schedule subject to the Call of the Speaker)

1:30 NeFU Financials—John Hansen & Lisa Orem

1:45 Policy Consideration & Adoption Until Completed

3:15 Convention Wrap Up—John Hansen