

## *112<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention*

# NEBRASKA FARMERS UNION

December 5-6, 2025

Norfolk Lodge & Suites and Divots Conference Center  
4200 W Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska 68701



12 of 14 NFU 2025 Convention  
Participants from Nebraska



Keith Dittrich asks “the question” at NFU Fall Fly-In.  
“Based on your USDA data, how much money do we lose  
on every bushel of corn and soybeans we raise this year?”



Art Tanderup, Lynn Belitz & Ron Todd-Meyer  
at the NeFU Convention Booth in Columbus



NeFU Women volunteered to provide the  
entertainment, have some fun, and save  
some money!

# “In Good Times and Bad, You Can Count on Nebraska Farmers Union”



# Nebraska Farmers Union Mission Statement

*"Nebraska Farmers Union is a general farm organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the quality of life and economic well-being of family farmers and ranchers, and their rural communities."*

September 13, 1996  
NeFU Board of Directors



# NEBRASKA FARMERS UNION

## 112<sup>TH</sup> Annual State Convention

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### EXHIBITORS

Farmers Union Midwest Agency, LLC	New Power Nebraska
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	USDA Rural Development
USDA Farm Service Administration	Nebraska Farmers Union
Center for Rural Affairs	NeFU Foundation
	S1 Advisors

### CONVENTION SPONSORS

Farm Credit Services of America	S1 Advisors	Farmers Union Midwest Agency, LLP
Geronimo Power	Invenergy	NextEra Energy
Tallgrass Prairie Pipeline	Norfolk Co. Visitors Bureau	Renewable Fuels Nebraska
Sandhills Energy	Nebraska Rural Radio Association	Central Valley Ag
Farmers Union Insurance	Husker AG, LLC	NeFU Foundation
Ranger Power	Nebraska Ethanol Board	Interconnection Systems Inc.

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Nebraska Farmers Union Thanks

#### **NE Rural Radio Association**

**KRVN 880 AM Rural Radio/Lexington**

KRVN FM 93.1 The River/Lexington

**KNEB 960 AM Rural Radio/Scottsbluff**

KNEB 94 FM 94 Country/Scottsbluff

**KTIC 840 AM Rural Radio/West Point**

KWPN FM 108/West Point

Tune Into

#### ***Irons In The Fire***

Mondays & Wednesdays

KRVN 1:40 P.M.

KNEB 1:15 P.M.

KTIC 1:40 P.M.

North Central Nebraska's Most Comprehensive News and Information

KBRB 1400 AM 92 FM Ainsworth

PO Box 285, Ainsworth, NE 69210 – (402) 387-1400

Tune into 'Irons in the Fire' on KBRB every Monday & Wednesday at 1:20

“NeFU Members, welcome to your 112<sup>th</sup> annual State Convention,

Our member-owned grassroots organization gets a lot of important work done in two days. In addition to greeting old friends and making new ones, we will review last year’s accomplishments while setting the course for next year. We take pride knowing that we are a “everyone is welcome” general farm organization. Good for us!

The issues we face remind us that during tough economic times, it is more important than ever to work together and have each other’s back. We continue to minimize the negatives and maximize the positives as we use our knowledge and skills to turn challenges into opportunities

This year’s theme, ***“In Good Times and Bad, You Can Count on Nebraska Farmers Union,”*** says a lot about who we are as an organization, why we come together, work together, and why we have been such a positive force for the last 112 years. NeFU is the helpful and dependable neighbor, good friend, and trusted leader rural Nebraska needs, and can depend on.

Our elected Delegates set our NeFU policy and approve our Special Orders of Business. This year, we will elect our State President, Board of Directors from Districts three and seven, and three of our members as delegates and three as alternates to represent our organization at the NFU convention March 7-9, 2026 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Members elect their representative to the NeFU Foundation Board, and the NeFU Board of Directors selects someone from their ranks to serve on the NeFU Foundation Board. We review our NeFU Foundation financials, NeFU financials, and hear reports from our NeFU PAC.

We visit with candidates, elected officials, organization leaders, guests, and each other. We hear presentations on the issues of the day, ask questions, and if so moved, share our opinions and ideas. Education is at the base of the Farmers Union triangle for a reason. The success of the legislative and cooperative sides of the triangle depends on solid education. For that matter, the same can be said for organizational and public policy efforts. Positive communication and mutual respect make all matters and efforts better. We all do better when we all do better together. That is the Farmers Union way.

Like a cooperative, our organization is owned by its members, one membership at a time. It is up to us to think and act like the owners we are as we work to make our organization more useful, effective, and powerful. We are a major player in our state. Thanks to our efforts and leadership, rural Nebraska has harnessed the power of value-added agriculture to the economic well-being and quality of life of rural Nebraskans. From biofuels to renewable energy to cooperative development to our unique 100% public power system to our non-partisan unicameral legislature, NeFU has been and continues to be a game changing leader. What we think and what we do matters.

We must continue to believe in ourselves, our values, our vision, and our ability to work together as a team to change the course of history to the good. Yes, in good times and bad, we all can count on Nebraska Farmers Union.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John K. Hansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John K. Hansen, President



# Nebraska Farmers Union Districts

The map displays the following counties for each district:

- District 1:** SIOUX, DAWES, SHERIDAN, CHERRY, BOX BUTTE, GRANT, HOOKER, THOMAS, MORRILL, GARDEN, ARTHUR, McPHERSON, LOGAN, BANNER, KIMBALL, CHEYENNE, DEUEL, KEITH, LINCOLN, PERKINS.
- District 2:** KEYA Paha, BROWN, ROCK, BOYD, HOLT, BLAINE, LOUP, GARFIELD, WHEELER, CUSTER, VALLEY, GREELEY, SHERMAN, HOWARD, DAWSON, BUFFALO, HALL.
- District 3:** CHASE, HAYES, FRONTIER, GOSPER, DUNDY, HITCH COCK, RED WILLOW, FURNAS, HARLAN, FRANKLIN, WEBSTER.
- District 4:** NUC-KOLLS, THAYER, JEFFERSON, PAWNEE, RICHARDSON, GAGE, JOHN-SON, NEMAH.
- District 5:** HAMILTON, YORK, SEWARD, LANCASTER, CASS, OTOE.
- District 6:** BURT, WASH., SARDY, DOUGLAS, SAUNDERS, BUTLER, COL-FAX, DODGE.
- District 7:** KNOX, CEDAR, DIXON, ANTE-LOPE, PIERCE, WAYNE, THURSTON, MADISON, STANTON, CUMING, BOONE, PLATTE, NANCE, MERRICK, POLK, BUTLER, SAUNDERS, LANCASTER, CASS, OTOE.



The Hilton New Orleans Riverside Welcome the 2026 NFU Convention  
& Spring Board Meeting  
Make your reservation today!

# **December 5-6, 2025**

## **Divots Conference Center, Norfolk, Nebraska**

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### **Friday Morning, December 5, 2025**

#### **8:00 Registration Begins and Exhibits Open**

#### **8:30 NeFU Convention Committees Meet**

- By Laws- Vern Jantzen, Chair
- Credentials- Lynn Belitz, Chair
- Elections- Ron Todd-Meyer, Chair

#### **8:45 Door Prize Drawings- FREE STUFF- Must be Present to Win**

Lynn Belitz, Darrel Buschkoetter, Vern Jantzen,  
Ron Todd-Meyer, Andrew Tonnies & Art Tanderup

#### **9:00 Convention Comes to Order & Welcome**

NeFU President John Hansen

- Call to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Opening Prayer, Andrew Tonnies, District 6 Director
- Previous Convention Minutes

#### **9:10 NeFU Foundation Report & Elections**

NeFU Foundation Secretary John Hansen

- 2025 Foundation Activities Report
- Election of At-Large Member to NeFU Foundation
- One Year Term- Gayland Regier- current member

#### **9:20 NeFU Education Report**

NeFU President John Hansen

- Nebraska Wind & Solar Conference Report

#### **9:30 Nebraska Rural Radio Association Report**

- Ben Stephen, President, NRRA Board of Directors

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

- KTIC-840 AM- West Point – KWPN-107.9 FM
- KRVN-880 AM- Lexington – KRVN-93.1 FM
- KNEB-960 AM- Scottsbluff – KNEB-94.1 FM



***The NeFU Country Store has the perfect gift for your loved one!***

## Friday Morning Continued

### **10:15 Northeast Community College: Ag Technology Center**

Using Technology to Grow Urban Agriculture Opportunities

- Tee Bush & Jill Heemstra-Director of Ag Programs

Getting Drone Technology and Training off the Ground

- Courtney Nelson & Jill Heemstra-Director of Ag Programs
- Keith Dittrich, Moderator

### **11:00 (L) First Congressional District Candidate Nik Sandman (NeFU Member)**

### **11:15 NeFU Elections**

- Introduce NeFU Delegate candidates to NFU Convention March 7-9, 2026  
Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, LA
- Districts 3 & 7 caucus to see if there are additional candidates
- Last call for nominations for NeFU President

### **11:45 Break for Lunch**

### **12:00 Noon Luncheon Sponsored by:**

Farmers Union Midwest Agency and Geronimo Power

### **12:30 Rob Larew, President National Farmers Union**



*Shop NeFU Country Store for Christmas!*

*Remember: The Early Bird Gets the Best Items!*

## Friday Afternoon

### **1:10 NeFU First Round Elections**

- Elect NeFU President for 2-year term 2026-2027
- Elect NeFU Board of Directors for Districts 3 & 7 for 3-year term-2026-2028
- Elect Top Six NFU Convention Delegates: Vote for 1, 2, or 3 candidates)

### **1:25 Door Prize Drawings- FREE STUFF- Must be Present to Win**

Lynn Belitz, Darrel Buschkoetter, Vern Jantzen,  
Ron Todd-Meyer, Andrew Tonnies & Art Tanderup

### **1:30 Health Care Options**

John Hansen, Moderator

- Kevin Harrington  
Regional Financial Services Manager, Farmers Union Midwest Agency

### **2:00 U.S. Senator Peter Welch, Vermont**

John Hansen, Moderator

### **2:45 (I) U.S. Senate Candidate Dan Osborn**

### **3:00 (D) First Congressional District Candidate Eric Moyer (NeFU Member)**

### **3:15 NEFARMPAC Report**

- Vern Jantzen, NEBFARMPAC President

### **3:30-4:00 Refreshment Break Sponsored by: Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation**

### **3:30 If Needed: Second Round Elections- Elect NFU Convention Delegates & Alternates**

- Top Three are Delegates – Bottom Three are Alternates ranked by votes  
(Vote for 1, 2, or 3 candidates)



***Be Sure to Stop by the County Store!***



## Friday Afternoon Continued

### **4:00 Exploring Federal Research & Development Tax Credits**

- Trey Jones S1 Advisors

### **4:45 (D) First Congressional District Candidate Chris Backemeyer**

### **5:00 Recess**

### **5:15-6:15 NEBFARMPAC Wine & Cheese Social**

- Hosted in the Madison/Carson Rooms (North Hallway)

### **6:30 Friday Evening Banquet & Celebration**

John Hansen, Master of Ceremonies

- Remembering those who have passed on

### **Farmers Union Midwest Agency Report**

- Jeff Downing, General Manager, FUMA Report & Introduction of Agents

### **NeFU President's Award Winner: Jeff Downing**

**"Investing in our Future"** Dr. Derek McLean

Ben Steffen, Moderator

- Dean and Director of the Agricultural Research Division  
Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Nebraska

### **Banquet Sponsors:**

**Farm Credit Services and S1 Advisors**



# **Farm Credit Services of America**



# Saturday Morning, December 6, 2025

## **7:00 Builder's Club Members Breakfast:**

- Get your food at the Hotel Lobby, then mosey on down to the Madison/Carson Rooms (North Hallway)

## **7:00 All- Member Complimentary Breakfast: Hotel Lobby**

## **8:15 Door Prize Drawings- FREE STUFF- Must be Present to Win**

Lynn Belitz, Darrel Buschkoetter, Vern Jantzen,  
Ron Todd-Meyer, Andrew Tonnies & Art Tanderup

## **8:30 Convention Reconvenes**

## **8:30 NeFU Vice President's Report**

Vern Jantzen, NeFU District 4 Director, Plymouth

## **8:45 Estate Planning Basics: Intergenerational Transfer of Assets**

Vern Jantzen, Moderator, Nebraska Rural Response Council

- Weston Svoboda Nebraska Rural Response Hotline

## **9:45 Refreshment Break Sponsored by: Sandhills Energy**



## **10:15 National Farmers Union Government Relations Report**

- Charlie Decker, NFU Government Relations Director

## **11:00 "Agricultural Right to Repair – The State of the War!"**

- Willie Cade – Right to Repair Expert & NeFU Member

## **11:30 Adjourn for lunch & hotel checkout**

## **12:00 Saturday Noon Luncheon**

## **12:30 Rob Lawson, USDA NRCS State Conservationist**

## **1:00 NeFU President Hansen's State of the Union Report'**

- John Hansen, President, NeFU

Noon Luncheon Sponsored by: NextEra and Tallgrass Prairie Pipeline



Saturday Afternoon, December 6, 2025

**1:30 NeFU Financials**

- John Hansen, NeFU President
- Lisa Orem, NeFU Office Manager

**1:45 Policy Consideration & Adoption Until Completed**

- Vern Jantzen, NeFU Policy Chair

**3:15 Convention Wrap Up**

- John Hansen, NeFU President



**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
From Nebraska Farmers Union Officers  
John & Karen Hansen & Lisa Orem  
Drive & Ride Home Safely!**

# 2026 NFU Convention

## Delegate Candidates

District 1- None

District 2- None

District 3- None

District 4- Marci Regier

4- Ben Steffen

District 5- Don Andrews

5- None

District 6- Bill Armbrust

6- Stephanie Finklea

District 7- Keith Dittrich

7- None



124<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention

**New Orleans, Louisiana 2026**

March 7-9, 2026

Hilton New Orleans Riverside

Two Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70130

<https://book.passkey.com/event/51011627/owner/107/home>

# About our Speakers & Board Members

## **Chris Backemeyer** (Speaker)



Chris was born and raised in Lincoln, miles from where his great-great-grandparents homesteaded their family farms in Cass County. A graduate of Lincoln East High School, Chris learned from an early age that hard work isn't optional, neighbors look out for each other, and community is everything.

After college, Chris followed a conventional path, until 9/11 changed everything. Watching the towers fall, he felt a gut-deep call to serve his country.

He answered that call at the U.S. State Department, taking on tough assignments under both Democratic and Republican administrations-tackling counterterrorism, economic policy, and the challenges of the Middle East. He wasn't interested in politics or credit, just getting things done. That reputation for results led to his service on the White House National Security Council and later as an advisor in the Executive Office of the Vice President.

Chris is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from the School of Global Policy and Strategy at the University of California San Diego, as well as Bachelor's degrees in Finance and Political Science from Arizona State University.

## **Lynn Belitz** (District 2 Board Member)



Lynn farms in Nance County with his son, Scott (Kelsey, Rowen, and Onyx). Lynn raises corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and has a cow/calf herd. Lynn has served on the Nancy County Planning Committee since 1997. Lynn also served on the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Checkoff Board as Secretary, Vice President, and President for a total of 22 years.

Lynn attends St. John's Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, and has served on the Council. Lynn was a member of the Nebraska LEAD XXVII Class. Lynn served as Nance County Farmers Union President from 2012-2022, District President from 2018-2022, and as District 2 Board of Directors since 2022. He has attended multiple NFU Fly-Ins. Lynn was also honored to serve as a Delegate from Nebraska to NFU Convention in 2017 at San Diego, CA, 2019 in Bellevue, WA, 2022 in Denver, CO, and 2024 in Scottsdale, AZ.

## **Darrel Buschkoetter** (District 3 Board Member)



Darrel Buschkoetter and his wife, Kathy live on the family farm west of Lawrence in Webster County. They have five daughters and 10 grandchildren. They own and operate their diversified family farm that includes dry-land corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and a cow/calf operation.

For the past nine years Darrel served on the CPI (Cooperative Producers, Inc.) Board of Directors. CPI is a large farmer-owned cooperative headquartered in Hastings, NE that paid out \$7.7 million in patronage refunds in 2024. While on the Board, Darrel served on the Policy, Election and Scholarship Committees. At the local level, Darrel served on the Lawrence Public School Board of Education for eight years, Lawrence-Nelson TEAMMATES Board of



Directors for four years, and was a TEAMMATES mentor for 9 years. Darrel and Kathy are members of the Blue Hill United Methodist church where Darrel serves as the Administrative Council Chair and Nebraska Central District Vice-President of United Methodist Men. Darrel is a 30-year member of the Lawrence Sons of the Legion, Post #45. For years, Darrel has served as the NeFU Nuckolls/Webster County Secretary, and the district 3 Secretary-Treasurer.

## **Tee Bush** (Speaker)



Dr. Tee Bush is a Horticulture and Agriculture Instructor at Northeast. She is also the principal investigator (PI) for an NSF Advanced Technological Education grant on incorporating precision management into urban agriculture.

## **Willie Cade** (Speaker)



Willie Cade is CEO of Graceful Solutions, a management consulting firm offering expert analysis and litigation support on antitrust issues in the agricultural sector. As Director of the Theo Brown Society and Regional Director of [Repair.org](https://www.repair.org), he advocates tirelessly for Agricultural Right to Repair and data ownership, working with law firms filing anti-monopoly suits and helping farmers regain control over their equipment. His expertise has contributed to landmark cases, including recent judicial actions involving John Deere and FTC enforcement actions.

Willie serves as Co-Principal Investigator on an NSF grant focusing on privacy and environmental management for used and end-of-use electronic devices, bringing both litigation support and rigorous research to the right to repair movement. He founded and led PC Rebuilders & Recyclers/Computers for Schools Program from 2000 to 2017, employing over 300 formerly incarcerated individuals while becoming one of Microsoft's first Community Authorized Refurbishers. As co-author of 25 academic papers on the sustainability of used electronics and Adjunct Faculty at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, he has shaped both industry standards and academic discourse. He has participated in developing multiple sustainability-focused consensus standards including R2, NSF 487, ULE 110, and IEEE 1601.1, and currently contributes to creating repairability standards for electronic products. Willie also serves as CEO of Kamo Nano Solutions, a deep-tech startup leveraging nanowire technology to advance solar energy and pioneering microelectronic applications.

Willie's passion for right to repair carries a deeply personal dimension—he is the grandson of Theo Brown, the legendary John Deere Chief Engineer who accumulated 158 patents, led the development and commercialization of the tractor for Deere & Company, and served on John Deere's board of directors for 30 years. His father was a chief engineer for International Harvester. This heritage informs his unique perspective on agricultural equipment monopolization and repair restrictions. Willie holds a BS in Chemistry with honors from the University of Hawaii—Manoa and has served on Caterpillar's external sustainability advisory board. He has provided testimony before the House Committee on Science and Technology and

formerly served as Senior Warden of Church of Our Saviour in Chicago, where he oversaw the construction of a \$10.5 million Parish Center. A proud grandfather of five and engaged to be married, Willie brings both technical expertise and lived understanding to the fight for farmers' rights.

## **Al Davis** (District 1 Board Member)



Al represents District 1 on the Board. Davis also serves on the Foundation Board and the PAC board. Al owns a cattle ranch in SW Cherry County which has been in his family since the 1880s when his grandfather homesteaded in the Davis valley. Al served on Class I school boards, on the K-12 Hyannis Area School Board, the Sandhills Fire Protection District Board, the Sandhills Chamber of Commerce and the Windmill Tourism board in Hyannis before running for the Legislature in 2012 and winning representation for District 43. Following his service in the Legislature Al ran for Lt. Governor in 2022 and has worked as a registered lobbyist for the Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska and the Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Al recently completed board service on Voices for Children and recently returned to the board of Non-partisan Nebraska which is dedicated to protecting and strengthening the Non-partisan legislative traditions which seem to be under threat these days.

## **Charlie Decker** (Speaker)



Charlie Decker is the advocacy coordinator at National Farmers Union. He serves on the Government Relations team, advocating on behalf of Farmers Union's legislative and policy priorities. He also coordinates efforts to help Farmers Union members become more involved with federal policy issues and advocacy campaigns. Charlie graduated from American University in 2021 with a BA in public policy and interdisciplinary studies. He has been with NFU for four years.

## **Jeff Downing** (Speaker)



Jeff grew up in a small rural town in Iowa. He and his parents moved off the farm and into town when he was 14. After graduating high school, he attained his Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education and Industrial Technology from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO. While in High School and College Jeff spent his summers and weekends working for area farmers.

Once out of college, Jeff briefly substituted as a high-school shop teacher before moving to Omaha to work for Lozier Corporation as an engineering draftsman. After two years his career path leads him into Insurance, where he worked for companies such as Prudential, Shelter, Liberty Mutual and Nationwide before joining the Farmers Union family in July of 2008. On April 1st, 2013, he assumed his current position as General Manager of the Midwest Agency LLP.

Jeff and his wife Miranda currently reside in Ashland, Nebraska. They have two children, Olivia age 26, works for Planit Omaha, and is engaged to get married next June. Alex age 23 works as a financial services agent for FUMA. Jeff enjoys supporting University of Nebraska sports, The Chicago Bears, golf, classic cars and seeing the country's blacktop roads on two wheels. Jeff has served as a member of the Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation Board of Directors since 2013, contributes to the Foundation on "Give to Lincoln" day, and contributes to the Nebraska Farmers Union Builders Club.

## **Rob Fisher** (Speaker)



Rob has been with FUMA since 2019 as both an agent and as the Regional Production Director. Prior to joining FUMA, Rob has over 27 years in the insurance industry, working in various roles on both the agency and carrier side.

He is a graduate of Fort Hays State University, with degrees in Political Science, Organizational Leadership and will be completing his MBA in December of 2026. Rob is active in local government and with nonprofits within his community and on the state level. Rob is married to wife Jodie for over 28 years and has 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

## **John Hansen** (Board Member & Speaker)



John has served as the elected President of Nebraska Farmers Union since 1990. In his 17th two-year elected term, Hansen serves as Secretary for the NeFU Foundation and NEBFARMPAC Boards. At the national level, Hansen serves on the NFU Executive Committee, NFU Budget and Audit Committee; Vice Chair of the NFU Legislative Committee; Chairs the NFU Meritorious Service Committee, and is a member of the NFU Foundation Board, and NFU Service Association Board.

He is the longest serving president of Nebraska Farmers Union and the current NFU Board of Directors. Hansen serves as Chair of the Nebraska Wind Working Group that organizes and has sponsored the annual Wind and Solar Power Conference since 2008. Hansen currently serves on USDA's Nebraska State Technical Committee; Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Farm Crisis Council and on the Coalition for a Prosperous America Board.

John is a sixth-generation family farmer from Newman Grove, Nebraska whose Great-great-great grandparents homesteaded several miles from his farm in 1892. John and his wife Karen have four grown and married children and five grandchildren. In addition to awards received from the Center for Rural Affairs, Nebraska Sierra Club, Nebraska Grange, U.S. Department of Energy, Nebraskans for Peace, American Corn Growers Association, he received the NE Rural Radio Association "Service to Agriculture" award in 2018.

## **Kevin Harrington** (Speaker)



As a military veteran and former police officer, Kevin Harrington came to Farmers Union Midwest Agency in 2017. Kevin was born and raised on a dairy farm in central Minnesota until his family sold out when he was a junior in high school. After high school he worked as a Deputy Sheriff in his hometown area. His father strongly encouraged him to join the military, so he joined the United States Air Force where he spent nearly 10 years working with federal agencies in the war on drugs in Central America.

His passion to serve others with the intensity and tenacity of a veteran brought him to the insurance world in 2008. Kevin's passion to serve others earned him numerous awards and accolades from the carriers with whom he works with every day, including being named to the Chairman's Circle as the top agent in the U.S. for one company three consecutive years. Taking advantage of the military education opportunities, he has an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Minot State, his Master of Science in Human Communication, and MBA from Eastern Washington University. He has three children and three grandchildren and is extremely active helping kids (and some adults) learn how to hunt and enjoy the outdoors. Kevin resides in Lincoln, Nebraska.

## **Jill Heemstra** (Speaker)



Jill Heemstra is the Ag Program Director for Northeast. She is working with several ag faculty to create an Ag Drone Pilot Certificate that, if given final approvals, will begin in Fall 2026.

## **Vern Jantzen** (District 4 Board Member & Speaker)



Vern and his wife Dolores own and operate their fourth-generation family farm southeast of Plymouth in Jefferson County. They raise corn and soybeans and have a small flock of laying hens.

Vern operates a custom bagging operation and is a substitute bus driver for Tri-County Public Schools. Vern has made many trips to Washington, D.C. for the NFU Fly-Ins, served several times as a delegate to NFU annual conventions and has served on the NFU Policy Committee four times. He continues to serve as NeFU District 4 director, NEBFARMPAC president and NeFU vice-president. Vern fills in as needed to cover Bills before the Nebraska Legislature. He also serves as president of the Nebraska Rural Response Council which sponsors the longest continuously operating rural crisis hotline in the nation.



## **Trey Jones** (Speaker)



Trey W. Jones is a financial strategist and R&D Tax Credit specialist focused on helping agricultural producers, rural businesses, and essential industries access federal innovation incentives. With more than 20 years of experience preparing personal tax returns, Trey combines practical tax knowledge with a mission-driven approach to serving hard-working communities. A proud veteran of the United States Coast Guard, Trey served as the Assistant to the Comptroller, supporting the financial oversight of an annual \$5.8 million operational budget. His military experience shaped the leadership style he carries today—disciplined, direct, and rooted in service before self. Trey strengthened his leadership foundation through earning Management and Leadership certificates from the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame, along with professional certifications in Lean and Six Sigma from Villanova University.

In the private sector, Trey has become a trusted resource for farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and small-business owners seeking to understand and utilize the federal R&D Tax Credit. His process-driven approach and accounting background allow him to identify overlooked opportunities that support business growth and strengthen rural economies.

Trey operates under a simple principle forged during his military service: Lead from the front. Serve with purpose. Protect the mission.

## **Rob Larew** (Speaker)



Rob Larew is President of National Farmers Union (NFU), the nation's foremost grassroots agriculture organization dedicated to supporting and empowering family farmers, ranchers, and their communities. Elected to lead the organization in 2020, Larew previously served as NFU Vice President of Public Policy and Communications.

Larew's career includes more than two decades working in Congress and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he played a pivotal role in shaping and implementing agriculture policy. As Staff Director of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, he coordinated and oversaw key initiatives during the formulation of the 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills.

Larew's lifelong connection to agriculture began, and continues, in Greenville, West Virginia, where he actively participates in the management of a diversified family farm that has been in continuous operation since 1798. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in dairy science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and pursued graduate studies in agronomy at Pennsylvania State University. Larew also serves as an active board member of the Cultivating Change Foundation and Consumer Federation of America.



## **Rob Lawson** (Speaker)



Rob Lawson is the State Conservationist for Nebraska USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Rob has worked throughout the Upper Midwest with NRCS for over 20 years. He started his current position as State Conservationist in February 2022 where he oversees technical and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, private landowners and local communities of soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources. Rob grew up on a family farm in Southeast Iowa and attended Iowa State University.

## **Derek McLean** (Speaker)



Derek McLean has served as dean of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Agriculture Research Division since January 1, 2023.

McLean previously served as a senior science adviser in the Offices of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, where he worked to ensure that research funding aligns to the priority areas established by the National Institutes of Health. This effort requires expertise in building relationships, establishing groups to develop funding plans and policy and working across the more than 20 institutes and centers at NIH.

Prior to NIH, McLean was a senior director of collaborative research for Phibro Animal Health Corporation. He also served for 10 years as a faculty member in the animal sciences department at Washington State University.

McLean holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematical sciences and a Master of Science in animal physiology from Clemson University and a doctorate in animal sciences from Oregon State University.

## **Eric Moyer** (Speaker)



Eric Moyer was born and raised in Northeast Nebraska, in the small town of Madison. Growing up he spent every fall polishing apples and once tall enough, picking apples at his Grandparent's orchard. In the summer preceding his junior year in high school, he worked as a ranch hand for Zebro Cattle Company in Stanton County and continued to help as needed during the school year. He also somehow found the time to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America while participating in extracurricular activities like football, baseball, theater, and marching band.

Eric holds multiple degrees from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater and a Master's in Marketing, Communication, and Advertising (MCA) and has spent nearly a decade building renewable energy projects throughout the Midwest. Before renewable energy, Eric worked as an actor, marketer, events manager, ranch hand, and Sunday School Teacher. This wide range of experience has given him a broad perspective to understand and relate to the challenges facing working families. Eric is proud to call Lincoln, Nebraska home where he lives with his wife of 25 years and their two children.

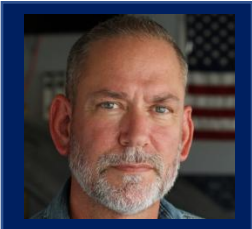
“I love Nebraska and its people. Too often, the hardworking people of this amazing state have been marginalized or ignored. We are more than “fly-over country” or a quaint little blue dot. Nebraskans deserve respect and representation in Washington, D.C. from our elected officials. It’s time to stand up for ALL the incredible people who make this place like no other. Let’s stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our neighbors, no matter what they look like or who they love and be Nebraska strong, together.”

## **Courtney Nelson** (Speaker)



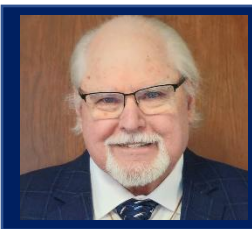
Courtney Nelson is the Precision Ag Trainer at Northeast. She develops and delivers hands-on learning activities for middle- and high school ag and science classrooms. She is also a licensed drone pilot.

## **Dan Osborn** (Speaker)



Dan Osborn, 50, is a steamfitter and former union leader who gained national attention leading the 77-day Kellogg's strike in Omaha in 2021. A U.S. Navy and Nebraska Army National Guard veteran, Osborn is a husband and father of three who has spent the last 20 years punching a clock as a steamfitter and industrial mechanic, work that he continues to do while campaigning for Senate. He is running as an independent candidate focused on economic issues affecting working families.

## **Nik Sandman** (Speaker)



I am a retired wheat, milo, and melon farmer and mail man after 26 and 15 years respectively. I am married to Colleen for 45 years and we have 3 children, Amy, Ben, and David, all of who are gainfully employed.

I am standing for election as Nebraska’s 1st district Congressman in 2026. I am 77 years of age and in reasonably good health, so I carry an obvious term limitation for the 2-year term to office. I can stand steadfastly better than I can run. Additionally, I am standing as a Libertarian for this election although I was a lifelong Democrat until 1 and half years ago. I believe our country needs to find a different direction from where we are now headed.

My three biggest issues are peace vs war, freedom vs censorship, and economic sanity vs whatever we have now.

## **Ben Steffen** (Speaker)



Ben and his wife Paula Sue farm near Humboldt in Southeast Nebraska. After forty years of dairy farming, they recently sold their dairy herd but continue to produce corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. Ben currently serves as Chairman of the Nebraska Rural Radio Association. In addition, he represents the University of Nebraska as a delegate to the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET) where he serves on the national Executive Committee working to help secure federal funding for ag research. Ben is a past president of both Nebraska Agriculture Builders and the Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards. He holds a private pilot's license and has directed his local church choir for 34 years!

## **Weston Svoboda** (Speaker)



A native of Burwell, Nebraska, and a fifth-generation rancher, Weston brings rural values and work ethic to the practice of law. His unique combination of ag experience, small town roots, and entrepreneurial passion give him a practical understanding of the challenges faced by individuals and family businesses across the state.

Weston is no stranger to UNL's East Campus, having earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and his law degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law. He focuses his practice on estate planning and business transactions, with a special emphasis on farm and ranch succession planning.

## **Art Tanderup** (District 7 Board Member)



Art and his wife Helen own and operate a small family farm north of Neligh, NE. They grow corn, soybeans and rye. In 2002, Art made a conversion to no-till farming. A couple years later, he added cover crops to the operation. They also winter some cattle.

Art grew up on farms and ranches in northeast Nebraska. He graduated from Wheeler Central High School in Bartlett. He has college degrees from Northeast Community College, Wayne State College and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He taught school in Naper, Orchard and Tekamah-Herman. For three years he served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In 2011, they moved to Helen's family farm by Neligh.

Art thought that retirement on the farm would involve conservation farming, spending time with family and doing a little traveling. Protecting water, land and people's livelihood soon became a top priority. Intensive study of our nation's energy issues prodded them to install a 9 KWH solar unit and purchase an electric car in 2014. Art currently serves on the NeFU Board of Directors and the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District Board of Directors.

## **Ron Todd-Meyer** (District 5 Board Member)



I live near Lincoln with my wife, Lois. I retired from dryland and diversified farming in Nuckolls County 10 years ago. Lois is a retired high school English teacher and taught in two rural communities.

I served as a Marine during the war on Vietnam, served on the local school board, extension Board and as a NeFU County and District office. I have served as Nebraskans for Peace Board of Director for a number of years, and also as their chairman.

## **Andrew Tonnies** (District 6 Board Member)



Andrew owns and operates Hideaway Farm near North Bend, NE where he raises and directly markets pastured pigs, pastured broiler chickens, fruits and vegetables. He is a first-generation diversified farmer. He grew up in several different small towns in Nebraska and calls Cedar Rapids his hometown, which provided him with a solid foundation in the advantages and challenges of rural life and a desire to help build strong communities that support local economies.

Andrew has a passion for agriculture and for helping others thrive, which is why he is proud to serve as the representative for District 6 on the board of the Nebraska Farmers Union. He also serves on the board of directors for the Lower Platte North Natural Resource District in Wahoo and works as a policy associate at the Center for Rural Affairs in Lyons.

## **Peter Welch** (Speaker)



U.S. Senator Peter Welch has spent the bulk of his life working to improve the lives of folks who too often get left behind. Peter was born in Springfield, Massachusetts. After working in Chicago to fight housing discrimination, he enrolled in law school at the University of California, Berkeley, and graduated in 1973. He then settled in White River Junction, Vermont, where he worked as a public defender before founding a small law practice. He was first elected to represent Windsor County in the Vermont Senate in 1980. Peter was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served for 16 years before being elected to the Senate in 2022.



# REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

Just as dying plants and leaves enrich the soil and rebuilt its fertility, the strength of Farmers Union rests on those who have come before.

It was their planning, work, and unity which created Farmers Union and defended family farmers for generations.

They built coops, educated their youth and neighbors, worked for good farm policy, and enjoyed the fellowship of other members.

They made an indelible mark on our generation and our nation. So long as we carry on their work, they live on.

## **2025 Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation Contributions of \$19,427.18**

### ***In Memory of Mary Alice Corman \$16,647.18***

Farmers Union Shipping Assn. (\$15,550.38)

Jo Siebert (\$150)

Darrel Buschkoetter (\$100)

John & Jeanne Dittrich (\$100)

Jeffrey Downing (\$100)

John & Karen Hansen (\$100)

Vern & Dolores Jantzen (\$100)

John & Karen Hansen (\$100)

Art & Helen Tanderup (\$100)

Ron & Lois Todd-Meyer (\$100)

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John & Karen Hansen (\$50)

### ***In Memory of Bill Burrows \$250***

John & Karen Hansen (\$100)

Vern & Dolores Jantzen (\$100)

Don Schuller (\$50)

### ***In Memory of Merle Hansen \$200***

Keith & Tammy Dittrich (\$200)

### ***In Memory of John Stencel \$200***

John & Karen Hansen (\$100)

Vern & Dolores Jantzen (\$100)

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Mardell Goeller (\$130)

### ***In Memory of Norman Kavan \$100***

Mark & Lin Kavan (\$100)

### ***In Memory of Gregory Lauby \$100***

Roy Lauby (\$100)



# 2025 NeFU President's Award Recipient

2025 President's Award  
Presented to Jeff Downing for his  
Outstanding Leadership and Development  
of the Farmers Union Midwest Agency  
and Service to Nebraska Farmers Union,  
Family Farmers & Ranchers, & Rural America



Jeff grew up in a small rural town in Iowa. He and his parents moved off the farm and into town when he was 14. After graduating high school, he attained his Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education and Industrial Technology from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO. While in High School and College Jeff spent his summers and weekends working for area farmers.

Once out of college, Jeff briefly substituted as a high-school shop teacher before moving to Omaha to work for Lozier Corporation as an engineering draftsman. After two years his career path leads him into Insurance, where he worked for companies such as Prudential, Shelter, Liberty Mutual and Nationwide before joining the Farmers Union family in July of 2008. On April 1st, 2013, he assumed his current position as General Manager of the Midwest Agency LLP.

Jeff and his wife Miranda currently reside in Ashland, Nebraska. They have two children, Olivia age 26, works for Planit Omaha, and is engaged to get married next June. Alex age 23 works as a financial services agent for FUMA. Jeff enjoys supporting University of Nebraska sports, The Chicago Bears, golf, classic cars and seeing the country's blacktop roads on two wheels.

Jeff has served as a member of the Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation Board of Directors since 2013, contributes to the Foundation on "Give to Lincoln" day, and contributes to the Nebraska Farmers Union Builders Club.

# Past President's Award Recipients

## 1991

Raymond & Esther Lessman

## 1992

Floyd & Evelyn Herman

Walter & Francis Schoenrock

LaVerne & Leona Plambeck

## 1993

Carl & Geneva Schoenrock

Maurice & Wilma Flick

Milford & Arlene Nelson

## 1994

Don & Karen Hansen

Vernor & Dorothy Magnusson

U.S. Senator J. James Exon

## 1995

Vic & Lorraine Hass

Merle Hansen, Al V. Krebs

Dr. William Heffernan

Ralph & Jean Lubeck

## 1996

Rudy & Myrna Axmann

Lloyd & Geraldine Berggren

Senator M.L. "Cap" Dierks

Daniel T. McGuire

Neil & Leikny Oxtun

## 1997

Merle & Mabel Jensen

Paul & Gwen Grabouski

## 1998

Darrel, Juanita, Audrey, Abby

& Whitney Buschkoetter

Eugene & Jeannette Gabel

Bill Hoppner

Ron & Carol Schooley

## 1999

LeRoy & Vergie Hansen

Herbert & Shirley Nielsen

Mike Callicrate

## 2000

Anthony & JoAnn Aschoff

U.S. Senator J. Robert Kerrey

Emmet Connealy, Susan Frazier

Ruth Lech

Senator Wayne Ziebarth

## 2001

Vern & Dolores Jantzen

John & Jeanne Dittrich

Fred & Sandy Christensen

## 2002

Chuck Hassebrook

Neil Oxtun

Senator Jennie Robak

Senator M.L. "Cap" Dierks

## 2003

Alan Guebert

Daryll Ray

## 2004

Senator Matt

Judy Connealy

Max Brown

## 2005

John Stencel, III

## 2006

Walt Basel

Dale Enerson

## 2007

Linda Kleinschmit

Senator Don Preister

## 2008

John & Mardelle Goeller

Bill Bullard

## 2009

Wayne Frost

Don Eret

## 2010

Lynda Buoy

## 2011

Dr. Eric Brown

Todd Sneller

Dr. C. Robert Taylor

## 2012

Stan Brown

U.S. Senator Ben Nelson

Dale Williamson

## 2013

Roy & Mary Stoltenberg

Larry & Karen Knuth

Gale & Laurie Lush

## 2014

Senator Norm Wallman

Senator Russ Karpisek

Senator Annette Dubas

Senator Danielle Conrad

## 2015

Dennis Buse

## 2016

Susan Frazier

Fred Christensen

Leo Hoehn

Linda Kleinschmit

Bill Armbrust

Roy Stoltenberg

Dan Steinkruger

Maxine Moul

Senator Al Davis

Senator Ken Haar

## 2017

Art & Helen Tanderup

## 2018

Ron Todd-Meyer

Dr. Jon Habben

## 2019

Craig Larson

Martin Kleinschmit

NE Rural Response Hotline

## 2020

Ben Gotschall

Senator Dan Quick

## 2021

Jim & Carol Knopik

## 2022

Bryce Anderson

Senator John McCollister

## 2023

Kay Walter & Tim Rinne

## 2024

Janece Mollhoff

# 2024 Nebraska Farmers Union Builders Club

## Millennium Builders (\$1,000 or more)

Vern & Dolores Jantzen  
David & Cindy Goeller

John & Karen Hansen  
Al Davis

Wayne & Janece Mollhoff  
Sue Schutt

## Legacy Builders (\$500-\$999)

Paul Poppe  
Martin & Linda Kleinschmit  
Keith & Tammy Dittrich

John & Jeanne Dittrich  
Jim Schoenrock

Milton & Carol Talcott  
Richard & Susan Frazier  
Gregory Hansen

## Guardian Builders (\$200-\$499)

Ron & Lois Todd-Meyer  
Bill & Diane Armbrust  
Don & Julie Schuller  
Andrew & Kate Tonnies  
Mark & Lin Kavan  
Calvin & Connie Kropatsch  
Roy & Mary Stoltenberg  
Dennis Demmel  
Ben & Paula Sue Steffen

Myron & Julie Dorn  
Ron & Annette Dubas  
Merlin & Marcia Fick  
Matthew & Judy Connealy  
Jeff & Glenda Kirkpatrick/Pierce  
Darrel Buschkoetter  
Claude & Linda Jensen  
Kevin & Jessica Raun  
Richard & Maureen Johnson

Art & Helen Tanderup  
Gayland & Marcia Regier  
M.A. Harding  
Paul & Susan Rice  
John & Debra Melton  
Dale & Levada Nielson  
Anne DeVries  
David Sprague  
Bill Hansen

## Century Builders (\$100-\$199)

Lynn Belitz  
Jonathan Leo  
Marilyn McNabb  
Lynn Oberg  
William & Arlene Rolf  
DeVern & Phyllis Pohlmann

Chuck Hassebrook & Kate Borchman  
Larry & Carol Hudkins  
John & Mary Ann Birkett  
Tom & Gail Knopik  
Harlan Jacobson  
Amy Svoboda & Don Andrews

Ted & Ramona Thieman  
Ruth Brown  
David & Cathy Negus  
Ben Schole  
Julie Hindmarsh  
Graham Christensen

## Charter Builders (\$50-\$99)

Robert & JoAnn Berry  
John & Marlice Sullivan  
Kristy Barnes  
Melvin & Delores Meister

Lisa Orem  
Scott & Becky Potmesil  
Robert Chilcoat

David Muraskin  
Lowell & Betty Poppe  
James & Carolyn Knopik  
Todd Wojtalewicz

## Builders (\$5-\$49)

David & Juanita Benson  
Vonnie Barr  
Karen Knuth  
Richard & Heidi Hammond  
Royce Schlueter

Donald Berggren  
Paul & Cheryl Kimmerling  
Ronald & Doris Quandt  
Victor & Marlys Jensen  
Edison McDonald

Michael & Susan Dux  
Marcia Forbes  
Norman Kavan  
Erma Rasmussen  
David Sprague

## Total Donations as of 12/31/2024: \$21,072.00

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# 2025 Nebraska Farmers Union Builders Club

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Vern & Dolores Jantzen  
David & Cindy Goeller

John & Karen Hansen  
Al Davis  
Richard & Susan Frazier

Wayne & Janece Mollhoff  
Dennis & Ruth Demmel

## Legacy Builders (\$500-\$999)

Daniel & Janie Mullanix

Keith & Tammy Dittrich

Jim Schoenrock

## Guardian Builders (\$200-\$499)

Larry & Julie Moenning  
Mark & Lin Kavan  
John Turek  
Midwest Agency, LLP  
Ben & Paula Sue Steffen  
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Don & Julie Schuller  
Richard & Maureen Johnson  
Andrew & Kate Tonnies

Merlin & Marcia Fick  
Art & Helen Tanderup  
Lynn Belitz  
Paul & Susan Rice  
John & Jeanne Dittrich  
Claude & Linda Jensen

## Century Builders (\$100-\$199)

Lee & Kim Hansen  
Gayland & Marcia Regier  
Jeff & Miranda Downing  
Roy & Mary Stoltenberg  
Ben Schole  
Chuck Hassebrook & Kate Borchman

Ron & Lois Todd-Meyer  
David & Cathy Negus  
Graham Christensen  
Anne DeVries  
Tom & Sandra Brandt

John & Marlice Sullivan  
Tom & Gail Knopik  
Diane Schroeder  
Kristy Barnes  
Kevin & Jessica Raun

## Charter Builders (\$50-\$99)

Helen Greer  
William & Arlene Rolf

Robert & JoAnn Berry  
Paul Poppe  
Lisa Orem

Jonathan Leo  
Kevin Herrold

## Builders (\$5-\$49)

Paul & Cheryl Kimmerling  
Sandy Leiser  
Ronald & Doris Quandt  
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David & Juanita Benson  
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- **KAMI AM 1580 / FM 100.1 / FM 92.7** Cozad
- **KNEB AM 960 / FM 100.3** Scottsbluff
- **KNEB FM 94.1** Scottsbluff
- **KNEB FM 106.9** Scottsbluff
- **KMOR FM 93.3** Gering
- **KOLT AM 690 / FM 101.7** Scottsbluff
- **KOZY FM 101.3** Bridgeport
- **KTIC AM 840 / FM 98.3 / FM 98.7** West Point
- **KTIC FM 107.9** West Point
- **KAWL AM 1370 / FM 103.5** York
- **KTMX FM 104.9** York
- **KBRY FM 92.3** Broken Bow



Together, we're stronger.

Around the table or in the field, every voice matters—  
every sacrifice, every win.

# The table is set.

We're saving you a seat.



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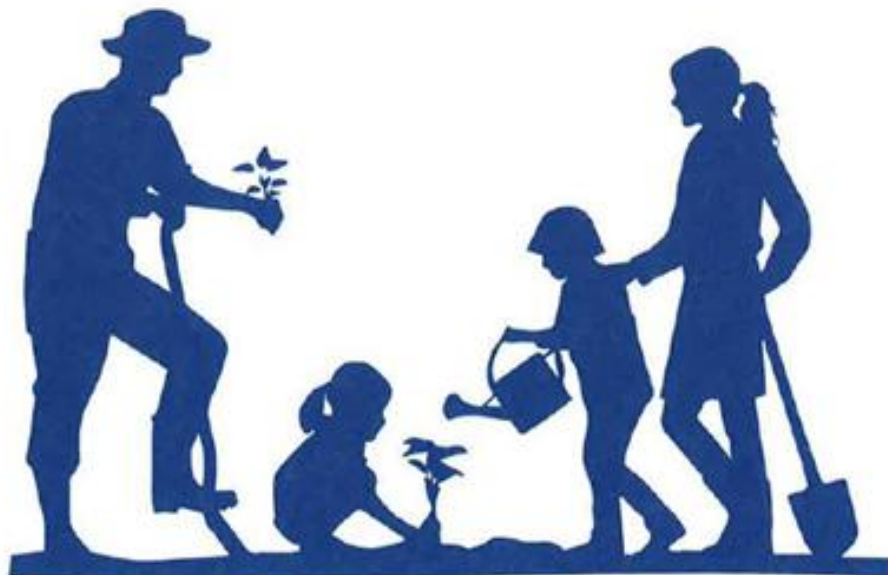


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# Nebraska Farmers Union --- Foundation

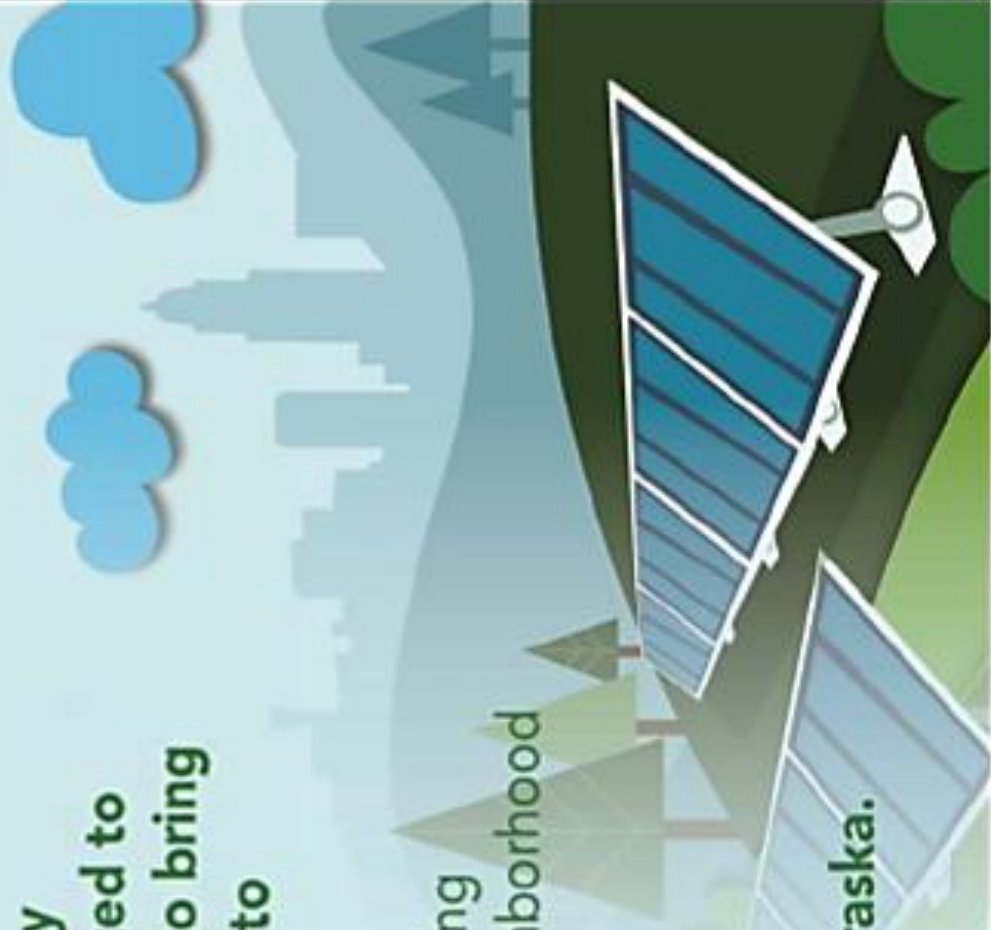
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- **Community-first approach:** Engaging residents through face-to-face neighborhood outreach, meetings, and forums.
- **Developer of the Salt Creek Solar project,** a utility scale solar farm located in Lancaster County, Nebraska.







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308-946-3974

1620 19th St, Central City, NE 68826

# Ethanol: The Right Fuel, Right Now



## Benefits of Ethanol

### Environment & Health

- Ethanol reduces greenhouse gases by 46% (USDA)
- Ethanol is a renewable energy source
- Ethanol's energy balance ratio is 2.3 to one, meaning that 2.3 units of energy are created for every one unit of energy required in additional inputs (USDA)
- Ethanol reduces CO<sub>2</sub> by 35%, particulate matter by 41%, and ozone by 22%
- Ethanol lowers carbon emissions now
- Ethanol adds octane and replaces cancer causing aromatics such as benzene, toluene, and xylene
- Corn oil derived from ethanol production is used to make biodiesel

### Consumer

- Ethanol costs less - every percentage increase in an ethanol blend at the pump results in a lower-priced product for Nebraska consumers
- Ethanol means cleaner air for Nebraskans to breathe
- Ethanol enhances engine performance



### Economic

- Nebraska is the number two ethanol producing state in the nation outputting 2.5 billion gallons per year
- Our ethanol industry represents a \$5 billion impact on Nebraska's economy
- 40% of Nebraska's corn crop begins its value-added journey at a Nebraska ethanol plant
- The protein value of corn is preserved and used by the animal feeding industry
- Nebraska's 24 plants directly employ over 1,300 people and provide an economic boost to rural areas

## Who We Are

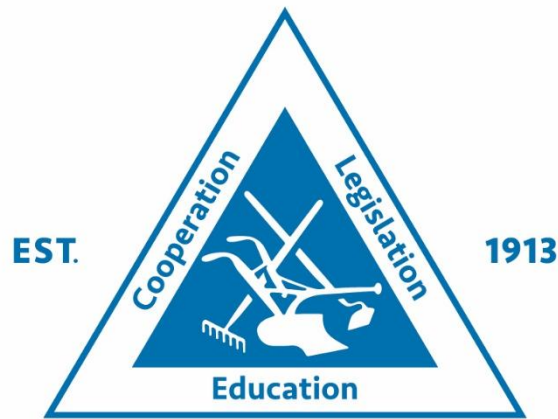
Renewable Fuels Nebraska (RFN) is the trade organization for Nebraska's ethanol industry. RFN serves as an industry resource encouraging public policy that ensures the growth and expansion of the nation's second largest renewable fuels industry.

## Contact Us

Renewable Fuels Nebraska  
1327 H Street, Suite 103  
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402.325.0045  
[renewablefuelsne.org](http://renewablefuelsne.org)







**Nebraska  
Farmers Union**

# **Directory of Officers & Staff**

**December 2025**

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## Vice President

## Secretary

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Fall Elections

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

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Fall Elections

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# District 1

## President

### ***BOX BUTTE COUNTY***

Vacant

## Vice President

Vacant

## Secretary

Vacant

### ***CHEYENNE COUNTY***

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

### ***SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY***

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

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Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

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Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

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### Vice President

Vacant

### Secretary

Vacant

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Vacant

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### Secretary

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Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

## District 6

### President

#### ***BURT, THURSTON, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES***

Vacant

### Vice President

Vacant

### Secretary

Vacant

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**Nebraska  
Farmers  
Union**

# Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation

## 2025 Board of Directors

NAME	POSITION/TERM LENGTH	TERM DEFINITION
<b>Jeff Kirkpatrick, President</b> 7300 Stevens Ridge Road Lincoln NE 68516 (402) 742-9245 Office (402) 440-6913 Cell <a href="mailto:jeffreyk97@gmail.com">jeffreyk97@gmail.com</a>	Appointed by NeFU President 2-year term 2024-2025	Term coincides with NeFU President Odd numbered years
<b>Al Davis</b> 7200 SW 27th Street Lincoln, NE 68523 (308) 458-9948 (Cell) <a href="mailto:OLOranch@gmail.com">OLOranch@gmail.com</a>	NeFU Board Appointee 1-year term 2025	Selection made at NeFU Board of Directors reorganization meeting
<b>John Hansen, Secretary</b> 3540 Sewell Street Lincoln NE 68506 (402) 476-8608 Home (402) 476-8815 Office <a href="mailto:john@nebraskafarmersunion.org">john@nebraskafarmersunion.org</a>	NeFU President 2-year term 2024-2025	Elected at state convention Odd numbered years.
<b>Jeff Downing</b> 8521 Northwoods Drive, Suite B Lincoln NE 68505 (402) 483-1045 Office (402) 616-3427 Cell <a href="mailto:jdowning@fumainurance.com">jdowning@fumainurance.com</a>	General Manager, Farmers Union Midwest Agency, LLC	Term coincides with the position as State Manager of Midwest Agency, LLC
<b>Keith Dittrich</b> 53495 840 <sup>th</sup> Road Tilden, NE 68781 (402) 368-7777 Home (402) 990-7570 Cell <a href="mailto:keithdittrich1@gmail.com">keithdittrich1@gmail.com</a>	NeFU District President 2-year term 2025-2026	Selected by NeFU District Presidents during convention in even numbered years.
<b>Sally Herrin, Vice President</b> 2945 Sherman Lincoln, NE 68502 (402) 429-7833 Cell <a href="mailto:sjherrinphd@gmail.com">sjherrinphd@gmail.com</a>	Appointed by NeFU Foundation President 1-year term	Selection made at the NeFU Foundation reorganization meeting at the first of each year
<b>Gayland Regier</b> 25762 SW 45 <sup>th</sup> Road Beatrice, NE 68310 (402) 228-0631 Home (402) 520-1094 Cell <a href="mailto:gregier@hotmail.com">gregier@hotmail.com</a>	Member at-Large 1-year term 2025	Elected from the registered members at the NeFU annual convention

## FARMERS UNION COOPERATIVE



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# Nebraska Farmers Union

## Thanks Our Associate Members

### **Alliance**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Katelyn Barragan  
Panhandle Rural Electric  
Membership Assn.

### **Bassett**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Jack Olson

### **Beatrice**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Danielle Benash  
Amanda Fritch

### **Blair**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Ryan Scheetz

### **Clay Center**

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### **David City**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Hilary Christian

### **Elkhorn**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Nicole Johnson

### **Fairbury**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Lacey Lange

### **Fremont**

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Nicole Tonjes  
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### **Grand Island**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Tommy Velasquez  
Kyle Wade

### **Hastings**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Andrew Malone

### **Holdrege**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Tye Johnson

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Farmers Union Insurance  
Sara Swackhamer

### **Kearney**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Curtis Hinrichs

### **Lincoln**

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Lavelle McFarland  
Theresa Burnell, Financial  
Service Specialist  
Alex Downing, Financial  
Service Specialist  
Jeff Downing, General Manager  
Rob Fisher, Regional  
Production Manager  
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State Manager  
Wendy Jurgens, Regional  
Marketing Manager  
Peyton Stammer, Financial  
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Sara Stucky, Financial  
Service Specialist



**Nebraska  
Farmers  
Union**

### **Maywood**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Clayton Schmitz

### **Norfolk**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Brian West

### **Omaha**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Ryan Scheetz  
GC Resolve  
Membership Assn.  
GC Revolt  
Membership Assn.

### **Plattsmouth**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Pam Cab

### **Plymouth**

Plymouth Electric  
Membership Assn.

### **Red Cloud**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Amber Conway  
Dan Conway

### **St. Paul**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Jay Obermiller

### **Tekamah**

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Vicky Elliott

### **Tilden**

Farmers Union Insurance  
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### **Wallace**

Wallace Agency  
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### **Missouri**

Farmers Union Insurance  
Tracie Warder

**Please support the businesses that  
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