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Nebraska Farmers Union 113th Annual State Convention Agenda Announced

December 9-10, 2026 Ramada Midtown Conference Center, Grand Island

Lincoln, NE. "Farming is more than a business, it is a way of life" is the theme for the 113th annual Nebraska Farmers Union (NeFU) state convention. NeFU President John Hansen said "For 113 years, our organization has harnessed the power of cooperation based on education to serve family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. This year's convention will focus on the economics of the farm economy as well as our quality-of-life challenges.

This year's convention brings 23 state and national speakers and leaders who will discuss a wide range of national, state, and local issues facing family farmers and ranchers. Farmers and rural residents are facing yet an additional year of record setting high ag input costs, below the cost of production ag commodity prices, high property taxes, painful price hikes from higher fertilizer and diesel prices from the war with Iran, the third straight year of $25 billion plus balance of ag trade deficits, Medicaid and SNAP funding cuts coupled with lost eligibility thanks to HR1, and a do nothing Congress that has been either unwilling or unable to pass a badly needed Farm Bill. "Like always, our 'can do' organization will focus on turning challenges into opportunities," said NeFU President Hansen

In addition to adopting next year's policy, NeFU will elect two NeFU Board of Directors to 3-year terms, select a member from the membership to the NeFU Foundation Board, and elect 3 delegates and 3 alternates to the NFU Convention next March 7-9 in San Antonio, Texas. The President's Award will be presented to two Farmers Union members who are retiring State Senators, Myron Dorn of Beatrice and Tom Brandt of Plymouth.

Wednesday Morning, December 9, 2026

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-currently Gayland Regier
9:20 NeFU Education Report—John Hansen
9:30 Nebraska Rural Radio Association Report—Ben Steffen, NRRA President & Tim Marshall, CEO
9:45 **Refreshment Break**
10:15 Vern Jantzen, NeFU Vice President's Report
10:30 Andrew Tonnies: The Nebraska Conservation Mentorship Network
11:00 NeFU Preliminary Bylaws Report with John Hansen and Vern Jantzen
11:15 Meet the NFU Convention Delegate Candidates & Caucus

- Introduce NeFU Delegate candidates to NFU Convention March 7-9, 2027
  Hyatt Regency, San Antonio, Texas
- Districts 1 & 3 caucus to see if there are additional candidates
- NeFU District Presidents caucus to select their representative to the NeFU Foundation

11:45 **Break for Lunch**
12:00 **Noon Luncheon**
12:20 Keynote Speakers:

- Michael Stranz, National Farmers Union Vice President of Advocacy
- Rob Fischer, Farmers Union Midwest Agency General Manager

Wednesday Afternoon, December 9, 2026

1:15 First Round Elections for NFU Delegates & Alternates, and NeFU Districts 1 & 5 Directors
1:30 Annual Health Care Checkup: John Hansen, Moderator

- Sarah Maresh, Program Director, Nebraska Appleseed
- Angie Lauritsen, State Director, Nebraska for Us
- Dr. David Palm, Director, UNMC Center for Health Policy

2:30 Checking in With Our Partners: John Hansen Moderator
- Mike Gage, President, Nebraska AFL-CIO
- Al Davis, Lobbyist, Nebraska Sierra Club & Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska
- Chelsea Johnson, Deputy Director, Conservation Nebraska

3:15 2026 NEBFARMPAC Report with Vern Jantzen, President

3:30 **Refreshment Break**
3:30 Second Round of Elections if needed for NFU Convention Delegates
4:00 Nebraska Legislature NeFU State Senators Panel
- Senator Tom Brandt
- Senator Myron Dorn
- Senator Dan Quick
- Senator Elect Mark Schoenrock

5:00 **Recess**
5:15-6:15 NEBFARMPAC Wine & Cheese Social
6:30 Friday Evening Banquet & Celebration—John Hansen, Master of Ceremonies

Remembering those who have passed on

NeFU President's Award Winners
- Myron Dorn & Tom Brandt

What One Farmer Learned by Visiting With Nebraskans for Six Months
- Lt. Governor Candidate Ben Steffen Shares His Thoughts About the Future

Unlocking the Keys to Farmers Union's Organizational Success:
Farmers Union Symbols, and Emblems Are Nuggets of Wisdom
- Tom Giessel, NFU Voluntary Historian
- John Hansen, Head NeFU Youth Camp Counselor

Thursday Morning, December 10, 2026
7:00 Builders Club Breakfast
7:00 Complimentary Breakfast—Hotel Lobby
8:30 Updates on Federal Research & Development Tax Credits
- Trey Jones Financial Strategist, Research and Development Tax Credit

9:00 Data Ownership Laws Emerge & Status of Agricultural Right to Repair Lawsuits – The Ongoing War Continues!
- Willie Cade – Right to Repair Expert & NeFU Member

9:30 USDA NRCS Program Update
- James Huntwork, Assistant State Conservationist for Nebraska NRCS

9:55 **Refreshment Break**

10:25 USDA FSA Program Update
- Tim Divis, Deputy State Executive Director for Nebraska FSA

10:45 Outdated U.S. Farm & Trade Policies Need an Overhaul
Moderator: John Hansen, United States Trade Representative Advisor Retired
- Mike Stranz, NFU Government Advocacy Director
- John Dittrich, Farm and Trade Policy Analyst

11:30 Adjourn and Hotel Checkout
12:00 **Noon Luncheon**
12:50 John Hansen, NeFU President's Report to Membership

Thursday Afternoon, December 10, 2026
1:15 NeFU Financials: John Hansen and Lisa Orem
1:30 Consideration of Proposed Bylaw Changes & Policy Consideration: Vern Jantzen, NeFU Policy Chair
3:30 Convention Wrap Up: John Hansen