County Farm Bureau Leaders,

Like you, we have spent the last several days and weeks learning about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and how it is impacting our world. For Nebraska Farm Bureau (NEFB), that means understanding how it affects our employees, members and communities, and then making the necessary adjustments to our work and operations.

We have one simple objective that guides us, keeping employees and our members safe. This has been at the center of our conversations every step of the way. With that in mind, our objectives include: a.) reducing transmission among staff as well as members, b.) protecting people who are at higher risk for adverse health complications, c.) maintaining business operations, and d.) minimizing adverse effects on other entities that we do business within the normal course of our activities.

**Social Distancing Strategies:** Due to growing concern about the spread of novel coronavirus and COVID-19, NEFB is adopting new policy for the health and welfare of employees, members, colleagues and the broader community. The intent of the policy is to encourage employees to work from home, to avoid meetings and gatherings in the office, and avoid business travel — all with the aim of reducing the risk of infection among employees and minimizing the spread of the virus in the community.

This policy is effective March 16, 2020 and will be looked at on a week-by-week basis for the next 30-days. During this period of remote working, NEFB employees will be accessible and responsive to members and stakeholders as they would normally be.

Here is a framework for upcoming NEFB events involving the Legislature, County Farm Bureau meeting/events and State meeting/events.

**Legislative Events:** The Speaker of the Legislature has suspended any extracurricular activities for State Senators because the COVID-19 outbreak and in the interest of public safety the Nebraska Farm Bureau has cancelled several upcoming events.

Canceled events include:
- March 16 – Legislative Dist. 1 District Evaluation Committee (DEC) Candidate Interviews
- March 24 – Property Tax Day at the Capitol/Burgers, Brats & Brews
- March 26-27 – Meeting of the Nebraska Leadership Academy
- March 26-27 – Meeting of the Nebraska Young Farmer and Rancher Committee
- March 30 – Legislative Dist. 30 (DEC) Candidate Interviews

The Nebraska Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting scheduled for March 25-26 and the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Directors meeting scheduled for March 23 will be held via conference call.
State Farm Bureau specific events: We will continue to monitor the situation with coronavirus and communicate directly with attendees and participants as decisions are made with respect to any potential postponement or cancellation. Event plans are changing quickly, please confirm plans before attending any Farm Bureau event.

Here are a list of event cancellations and changes:

- Effective immediately the YF&R and Leadership Academy Meeting in Lincoln - March 25-26 has been canceled.
- The NEFB March Board and the NEFB Foundation Board Meetings have been switched to a Video/Phone Conference.

County specific events: We are directing members to contact their County Farm Bureaus or Regional Managers regarding any questions they may have relative to upcoming local events and activities. The Regional Manager should consult with county leadership regarding any decision to postpone, cancel or modify any event or activity.

To facilitate this discussion, these key questions should be considered regarding any changes to these upcoming events and activities:

- Is the event necessary?
- Has the size of the event and potential associated risk been considered?
- Will there be attendees at the event who may have a compromised immune system or be at a generally higher risk of exposure?
- Have you considered all relevant recommendations from the CDC regarding hygiene protocols?
- Is additional guidance from local authorities being followed?
- Have you considered holding the meeting virtually?

Communicate Options for County Farm Bureau Meetings

NEFB has put together a list of ideas for how County Farm Bureaus can meet and conduct business remotely as needed. For more information about these communication methods, contact your Regional Manager, Phil Erdman at phile@nefb.org or Jay Ferris at jayf@nefb.org.

- Use Telephone/Mobile Phone Options
  - FreeConferenceCall.com
  - FaceTime (I-phone can hold up to 32 People)

- Zoom (Video/conference Call)
  - Free – up to 45 min and 100 people
  - Paid – (If your county chooses to pay Zoom for this service the cost is $15/month)

We will continue to provide additional information relevant to Farm Bureau and its members as needed.
What you need to know about Coronavirus

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with soapy water several times a day. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. (Sing Happy Birthday twice and scrub your nails)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick (except to visit a health care professional) and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces each day. Use bleach or a household according to label instructions.
- Avoid large gatherings.
- Use online transactions when possible.
- Avoid visiting nursing homes -- and if you are sick, do NOT visit nursing homes.
- If you have an older person in your home or someone with compromised health, such as asthma, understand that the biggest threat to them maybe you are bringing the virus into the home.
- If you or a loved one are older, think twice about an upcoming trip.

Other resources: The following additional resources from the CDC can be used and reviewed:

5. [USDA Coronavirus Page](https://www.fda.gov/CoronavirusResponse)

Summary: Like many other organizations, please know that Nebraska Farm Bureau is implementing a plan which ensures that we will continue to provide essential services to our members. We will continue to provide additional information relevant to Farm Bureau staff and members as needed. Our employees’ and members' health and safety are of the utmost priority to the organization.

If you need to reach a member of the NEFB staff please contact them via email. You can find a listing of our NEFB Staff Directory ([Here](https://www.nefba.org/staff-directory)).

Thank you for your cooperation in implementing these commonsense policies.

Steve Nelson
President
Nebraska Farm Bureau

Rob Robertson
Chief Administrator
Nebraska Farm Bureau