Dear Nebraska Farm Bureau Members,

2023 has strengthened our members. We have watched farmers and ranchers be innovative as they navigate historic drought. We've seen our grassroots model in action as county Farm Bureau members advocate to protect their farms from annexation. Nebraska farmers and ranchers have handled disease, market irregularities, and a slow down on international trade with grace. Regardless of what life throws our way, it is evident that Nebraska agriculture is strong and Nebraska Farm Bureau is here protecting those who have a stake in the agricultural community.

Over the course of this year, we have seen first-hand the power of our counties. I am so proud that our voice comes directly from our farm and ranch families who steward the land each day. Together, we generate a unified voice for Nebraska agriculture.

Nebraska is the home of cutting-edge innovation, bountiful yields, and intentional guardians of the land. As a team, Nebraska Farm Bureau continues to work hard to help our members do more with less because of higher costs. Your resilience in the face of challenges makes Nebraska agriculture thrive.

As we embark into 2024, I challenge you to remain hungry. Hungry for new ideas, new relationships, and new successes. Nebraska Farm Bureau is committed to creating engaging opportunities for our members, building strong connections with our partners, and advocating on behalf of our state’s driving industry. Thank you for a memorable year. I cannot wait to see the strides we make in 2024!

Mark McHargue
President

Nebraska Farm Bureau, It has been a historic year for our organization! 2023 has been filled with big wins because of your hard work and commitment to serving as the trusted voice of agriculture. Nebraska Farm Bureau is prospering. We have seen growth in membership, more engagement and success in political efforts, and deeper connections with influencers across the state. It is certainly a year to celebrate! The keys to our success are the farmers and ranchers across the state who actively participate in our grassroots policy development process and engage with their elected officials. Grassroots wins like LB 580, where Sarpy County Farm Bureau members took on city annexation of farmland, reminds us that our grassroots process works and together, our voice is stronger.

2023 has been a year of growth. Membership is growing. Our team is expanding. We are reaching farther than ever before. The future of Nebraska Farm Bureau is bright, and I am thankful each of you are a part of it.

Rob Robertson
President

Board of Directors

Mark McHargue, President
Katie Olson, First Vice President
Lance Atwater, Second Vice President, Youth At-Large
Bree DeNaeyer, North Central Region
Dennis Beethe, Southeast Region
Matt Jedlicka, Central Region
Marthy Stewart, Northeast Region
David Grimes, South Central Region
Steve Stroup, Southwest Region
Andy DeVries, Northwest Region
Dawn Kucera, Ag Promotion At-Large
Jason Perdue, Agri-Business or Production Ag At-Large
Membership: an investment in the future of agriculture and yourself

TOTAL MEMBER NUMBER

55,417

GROWTH

5,577
new members

2.3% increase

56 Quota Counties

- Box Butte
- Dawes
- Garden
- Grant
- Keith
- Kimball/Banner
- Sheridan
- Antelope
- Cedar
- Cuming
- Dixon
- Madison
- Stanton
- Thurston
- Chase
- Dundy
- Frontier
- Harlan/Furnas
- Hitchcock
- Phelps/Gosper
- Red Willow
- Boone
- Buffalo
- Colfax
- Gage
- Lancaster
- Nemaha
- Otoe
- Richardson
- Sarpy
- Saunders
- Washington
- Blaine
- Boyd
- Cherry
- Garfield
- Holt
- Keya Paha
- Loup
- McPherson
- Rock
- Wheeler
- Adams/Webster
- Fillmore
- Jefferson
- Kearney/Franklin
- Seward
- Thayer
- York

New Member Benefit for 2023

Nebraska Farm Bureau members signing up for new Starlink internet services using the unique members-only link receive 2-months of service free!

“Starlink provides my family with a seamless way to be connected to the Internet and the world around us.”

Audrey Schipporeit
Custer County Farm Bureau

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Custer County Farm Bureau

Teaming Up to Protect your Future

“Insurance and agriculture are two of the most economically impactful industries in Nebraska. It makes sense for them to have a common voice. The Federation provides a legislative voice, education for our youth, and leadership opportunities and our insurance products provide protection to reduce a client’s financial uncertainty during the time of loss. Both operate to deliver a teamwork of usable integrated tools for our customers.”

Jay Engel
NE FBFS Agents Association

Membership:

an investment in the future of agriculture and yourself
**2023 Advocacy in Action**

**REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES AND EDUCATION SPENDING**

- **Estimated 30% relief in property tax by 2030**
- **State K-12 funding**
- **Income tax rates**

*Preserved special valuation of annexed agricultural land. Up to $50,980 saved annually for affected farms.*

**PROMOTE AND SUPPORT ANIMAL AGRICULTURE**

- **Tax credits for growing employment at livestock operations.**
- **Additional 9000+ operations eligible for the Livestock Modernization tax credit.**

*Joined the SCOTUS suit against California Prop 12.*

**RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- **Expansion of Beginning Farmer Tax Program**
- **Up to $430,018 per county in matched state dollars for bridge construction and repair.**
- **Child Tax Credit delivered tax credits to support child care.**

**WATER**

- **American Rescue Plan Act**
- **Secured $ for reverse osmosis units for safe drinking water.**

*Big WOTUS win in Sackett v. EPA.*

**RURAL CONNECTIVITY**

- **$405 M in federal funding secured for broadband expansion.**
- **Establishment of Nebraska Broadband office.**
- **Up to 50,625 new locations will be connected.**

**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE INITIATIVES**

- **Support the establishment of energy development committees.**
- **Climate change mandate not linked to federal crop insurance.**

**TRADE**

- **Priorities:**
  - Trade missions to promote Nebraska agricultural products
  - Pushed back on Mexico’s ban of GM white corn

**Want:**

- **Aggressive approach on agricultural trade expansion**
- **Provide more clarity and flexibility in EID tag rule for cattle and bison 18+ months of age**

**REGULATIONS**

- **Pushed the Biden administration to:***
  - Expand biofuel production
  - Opposed opening U.S. borders to beef from Paraguay
  - Put teeth in USDA’s product of the U.S. label

**INCREASE ENGAGEMENT IN NEFB ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

- **11 county leaders lobbied in Washington, D.C. during inaugural county leader fly-in.**
- **Hosted all 5 members of Nebraska congressional delegation at Farm Bill roundtable with agricultural leaders.**
- **Invited delegation to member’s operations to keep them connected to agriculture.**

**Our position:***

- **EATS Act**
- **Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act**
- **Prop 12**

**Priorities:**

- **Invited delegation to member’s operations to keep them connected to agriculture.**

82% of NEFB-PAC endorsed candidates were elected.
Leadership/Field Services

Our members drive our mission and our success. Check out some amazing wins we saw from the field in 2023!

Custer County: Wildfire Relief Event
NEFB volunteered and supported a firefighter appreciation event after the wildfires swept through the Sandhills. Over 700 people came to support local volunteer fire departments raising more than $3,000.

Frontier County: National Finals Rodeo (NFR) Watch Party
Nearly 50 young people gathered together for an NFR watch party where they were able to network and learn about Farm Bureau growing new engagement.

FBFS District 1: FBFS/NEFB Collaboration Event
FBFS Agents and NEFB staff collaborated and built stronger relationships with each other to promote the success of the Federation and Insurance.

Buffalo County: Free Family Fun Night
Sponsored by Buffalo County Farm Bureau, NEFB Promotion and Education Committee Member Julie Wilke hosted Free Family Fun Night at the Kearney Children’s Museum, highlighting the vitality of agriculture through hands-on activities for the whole family.

Cedar County: Growing Potential
200 fifth graders experienced agriculture hands-on during the Growing Potential Ag Festival co-hosted by the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation and Northeast Nebraska Corn Growers Association.

York County: First Annual Golf Tournament
22 members hit the golf course at the first annual York County golf tournament, fellowshipping with other members and building connections.

Sarpy County: Grassroots in Action
Members came to Farm Bureau because their farms were being annexed causing their property taxes to skyrocket. Members voiced their concern. NEFB pushed policy through the Legislature and those farms were saved.

Custer County: Wildfire Relief Event
Frontier County: National Finals Rodeo (NFR) Watch Party
FBFS District 1: FBFS/NEFB Collaboration Event
Buffalo County: Free Family Fun Night
Cedar County: Growing Potential
York County: First Annual Golf Tournament
Sarpy County: Grassroots in Action
State Fair
We are proud to sponsor the Nebraska State Fair. 2023 was our 11th year giving out “Producer of Livestock” t-shirts to youth exhibitors.

Leadership/Field Services
Nebraska Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Rancher program invests in the development of the next generation of agricultural leaders. In 2023, networking events were hosted in each of NEFB's seven regions to encourage our young members to grow community. Nearly 200 individuals attended our annual YF&R Conference participating in industry tours, dynamic speakers, and innovative breakouts.

Leadership Academy equips the future leaders of Farm Bureau with the tools they need to successfully advocate for agriculture, connect with members, and embody the grassroots mission. This year, 10 cadets successfully completed the program experiencing agriculture across Nebraska and life on the Hill in Washington, D.C. while learning firsthand how to effectively communicate, develop their personal leadership, and strengthen Farm Bureau.

Husker Harvest Days is a time to connect with our members and thank them for their support and membership. We were able to connect with over 1,300 people, gain 34 new members, and serve over 3,000 of our signature snow cones!

Student Members
Membership starts early! Our student members are the next generation of Farm Bureau leaders! Nebraska State FFA Convention connected high school students to the countless opportunities, engaging them in the Farm Bureau Family! Four colleges and universities have collegiate Farm Bureau Chapters: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Northeast Community College, Chadron State College, and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.
Membership, Marketing, & Communications

Nebraska Farm Bureau News
- 6 issues
- 15,126 copies per issue/around 90,756 copies annually
- $69,000 in newspaper ad revenue

Social Media Stats
- Facebook: 13K+ followers, 372 posts, 30K+ page content clicks
- Twitter/X: 10K+ followers, 343 tweets
- Instagram: 133 new followers in 2023, 126 posts

Newswire
- 8,836 subscribers, 45 editions of Newswire

Videos Produced: 92

County Farm Bureaus
- 22 Facebook accounts

News Releases: 50

Radio spots: 1,345 minutes of air time

Email Campaigns: 300+

“I am able to stay up to date on current events and opportunities through Nebraska Farm Bureau’s social media posts and Newswire.”

Sam Gifford
Lancaster County Farm Bureau
IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

72 FFA chapters enrolled in Connecting Chapters
152 Classrooms exchanged letters with an Ag Pen Pal
450 current and future teachers attended our workshops at 8 universities and ESU partners
$81,442 awarded to 70 scholarship recipients
3,500+ youth enjoyed summer programming in 17 Nebraska communities
767 students attended a farm field trip
812 Classroom Visits (up 67%)

NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) promotes awareness and understanding of agriculture to Nebraska students and teachers. AITC educators provide in-person classroom instruction, free resources aligned to state education standards, and professional development for teachers, all free of charge to participants.

NEFB FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mark McHargue, Nebraska Farm Bureau
Vice President: Matt Gunderson, Farmers National Company
Secretary-Treasurer: Rob Robertson, Nebraska Farm Bureau
David Briggs, Western Cooperative Company
Bob Campbell, Farm Credit Services of America
Stan Garbacz, Special Assistant to IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor
Mike Boehm
Teresa Ibach, Farmer and Rancher in Dawson County
Andra Smith, Chair of NEFB Promotion and Education Committee
Dawn Kucera, NEFB Foundation Board of Directors Representative

STAFF

Megan Schafer, Executive Director
Courtney Shreve, Director of Outreach Education
Lora Thompson, Director of Development
Emily Kammerer, Education Specialist - North Platte
Brooke Tempel, Education Specialist - Lincoln
Ashley McClinton, Administrative Coordinator

NEFB FOUNDATION

The Promotion and Education Committee (P&E) is an appointed group of nine individuals who spearhead the Foundation’s volunteer program through member engagement, training, and outreach education. They serve as an active statewide voice promoting a positive public perception of agriculture to consumers of all ages.

P&E HIGHLIGHTS

• All About Agriculture Free Family Fun Night, Legacy of the Plains Museum, Gering
• Learn About Agriculture Free Family Fun Night, Kearney Children’s Museum
• Growing Together Video Campaign
• Nebraska State Capitol Ag Promotion Visits
• Making the Connection Conference Presenters

I am passionate about helping kids think how agriculture is a part of their everyday life. I hope that by reading accurate agriculture books to students, we can help more students understand how their food starts on a farm and ends up on their plate.

First Lady, Suzanne Pillen

Committee Members: Southwest Region: Teresa Stinson, Hayes County; Northwest Region: Natasha Schumacher, Box Butte County; Northeast Region: Karen Grant, Madison County; Southeast Region: Joy Lauritsen, Washington County; South Central Region: Melissa Haack, Sarpy County; North Central Region: Andra Smith, Blaine County; At-Large Federation Board Representative: Dawn Kucera, Madison County; Central Region: Julie Wilke, Clay County

Bushels of Stories with First Lady Suzanne Pillen

STAFF

Megahn Schafer, Executive Director
Courtney Shreve, Director of Outreach Education
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Protect Your Future!

Protect your Farm
Protect your Ranch
Protect your Freedom
Give to NEFB-PAC!

Your contribution to NEFB-PAC helps elect farm-friendly candidates to office and fight what threatens agriculture’s future!

Donate Today!

Bronze - $20-$249  Silver - $250-$499
Gold - $500-$999  Diamond - $1,000+

Learn more at www.nefb.org/nefbpac