

The LEAD Review

Leadership, Education, Action Development (LEAD)

“To Prepare and Motivate Men and Women in Agriculture for More Effective Leadership”

Mission Statement, Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council

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UNIVERSITY OF
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Nebraska
LEAD
Program

The LEAD Review is a publication of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council. The NALC, a membership organization, sponsors the Nebraska LEAD Program.

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DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

By Terry Hejny, Director
Nebraska LEAD Program

In the 1980's movie classic, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, Matthew Broderick's character quips, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and take a



look around once in awhile, you could miss it." I believe the Nebraska LEAD Program forces one to stop and look around. It is 60 days of structured lessons in leadership, self-evaluation, of challenging oneself, and stopping to take a look beyond one's own corner of the agricultural world to see things from another perspective. It is 60 days that go by with the blink of an eye.

Last March with the "graduation" of Nebraska LEAD Group XXVII, over 800 individuals have now completed the Nebraska LEAD Program and are taking positions of leadership at local, state and national levels.

Summer is now behind us and we find ourselves in the midst of fall. "Life moves pretty fast" as we spend our time with daily obligations. Our office has had an extremely busy summer with the planning of the in-state seminars for the coming year as well as both the national and international study/travel seminars.

The "Fellows" for Nebraska LEAD Group XXIX were announced the first of September and are well into their first year of study related to local, state, national issues. It appears to be another great group and it will be exciting to see them "come together" as a group in the months ahead.

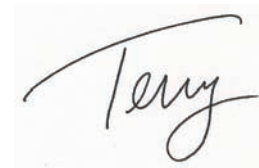
The second year group, Nebraska LEAD Group XXVIII, is also well into their second year study of the

international/global community. They were excited to learn of the destination of their International Study/Travel Seminar in January of 2010, to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Each group continues to live up to our highest expectations with respect to quality. I certainly believe that many participants from both of these groups will undoubtedly emerge in the years ahead as leaders in the agriculture industry.

During the past year, we have had the honor of working with some of the finest people in the world . . . participants, members of the board, program donors, program presenters, and Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources administrators, faculty, and staff. I believe that without the ongoing support of NU Vice President/Harlan Vice Chancellor John Owens and IANR, we would not be where we are today.

In closing, I remind you that the Nebraska LEAD Program is a cooperative venture. There are hundreds of individuals and organizations that share our program's vision, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude including: donors, campus administrators, campus coordinators, meal sponsors, presenters, the media, members of the Board, LEAD Alumni, "Fellows" and many others who make the Nebraska LEAD Program possible. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as Program Director for the Nebraska LEAD Program.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

The Leadership Education Action Development Program has been a part of my life for approximately 26 years. I feel I have a vested interest in this premier program and therefore, would like to share a few of my thoughts that I feel are important.

The associations that the LEAD program provides over the lifetime of the LEAD Fellows, the donors, the board members and the facilitators are paramount. I would challenge anyone to find a better opportunity in a similar organization. The benefits to all are only limited to each individual's imagination.

With Director Hejny's leadership, I feel the Board of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council has positioned the LEAD Program to be a positive and influential organization for years into the future. These men and women are serving at the right time with the right frame of mind that will pay dividends for the LEAD Fellows as well as the future LEAD Alumni.



Doug Johnson

There can be a host of continuous issues to alter the appropriate course for the Leadership Program. I want to assure you that the Board of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council will keep their eye on the ball. LEAD will always be a conduit for Nebraskans to enhance their personal goals and stimulate leadership throughout their lives.

The Nebraska Leadership Program is an organization that is exciting. If you have not been involved in the past or you have been out of touch for awhile, it is time to catch the fever! Call Terry and let him know you want to be a player in the foremost leadership program in Nebraska.

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Follow the LEADer

School is back in session, Huskermania has returned to most Nebraskans and the Nebraska LEAD Program office embarked on our current seminar year. September 20th was an exciting day as we welcomed thirty new LEAD Fellows into the program. I am also excited to share with you the renovation of our website.

This past spring, Terry and I started to look at what information you are most interested in when you visit our website. After deciding on six major categories, the fun began! I've been known to put together a few jigsaw puzzles in my lifetime, and designing our website was very similar. Hopefully I was successful in putting the pieces together so that you can quickly find what you need. Since the Nebraska LEAD Program would not be possible without the generous support of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we are pleased to now be compliant with their website guidelines.

I hope you will take a few moments to visit us at www.lead.unl.edu. We would be very pleased if you use the website to nominate a possible candidate for next year's LEAD XXX (30th) class. Throughout the website you will find several links to click and send an email to Terry, Shana or me. Please follow the LEADer and check it out! We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Angi McAndrew
Administrative Associate
amcandrew3@unl.edu



Angi McAndrew

Office Notes

Fall is here and with it a new LEAD Class. Congratulations LEAD XXIX Fellows; I have enjoyed meeting some of Nebraska's future agricultural leaders. You are in for some great perspective-broadening and learning experiences.

I will sound my regular beat by asking for your support of the LEAD Program by sending or calling in nominations for LEAD Fellows as well as through your NALC dues and Alumni Dinner attendance. Please remember to make use of your memo line on your checks to indicate your intended purpose, be it an alumni dinner, seminar support, NALC dues or a general donation.

Finally, please help us save resources both natural and fiscal by contacting us if you are receiving duplicate mailings, have an address change or no longer wish to be on our mailing list.

Have a safe and bountiful fall.

Shana Gerdes
Secretary
sgerdes2@unl.edu or
402-472-6810



Shana Gerdes

Welcome new NALC Board Members Bob Balfany and Rob Robertson

Rob Robertson is a name many LEAD Alumni will recognize for his participation as a seminar presenter during the past 10 years, representing the Nebraska Farm Bureau Services, Inc. He is currently serving as the Chief Administrator but has also spent 18 years as Nebraska Farm Bureau Lobbyist. Rob is a Certified Association Executive; a professional designation he earned in 2004. He is also a former President of Nebraska Society of Association Executives.



Rob Robertson

The family farm where Rob grew up is near Roca. He earned a B.S. in Agricultural Economics and his MBA from UNL. He is married to his wife Barb. Together, they have three children: Benjamin 18, Jake 15 and Lauren 9. Rob enjoys farming, sports and many other outdoor activities.

Rob understands the need for effective leadership in the agricultural community and has been very involved with the leadership development processes within the Bureau. He looks forward to participating in making the Nebraska LEAD Program a continued success.

Bob Balfany is a man who has been connected with agriculture from his childhood. Bob grew up and worked for the family owned cow-calf and farming operation. He further cultivated his work ethic at the Norfolk Livestock Market also run by his family.



Bob Balfany

Bob is a graduate of UNL and is currently the President of US Bank of Lincoln. In his position with US Bank, he is involved in assisting a variety of agricultural operators and agribusinesses with their financial needs. Bob has been asked to serve on many boards where he has had the privilege to meet diverse populations of people with varying perspectives.

Bob and his wife Becky reside in Lincoln with their three daughters ages 16, 14 and 12. When time allows, Rob enjoys Nebraska sports, woodworking, hunting and skiing.

Thank You to Departing NALC Board Members

Thank you NALC board members Joe Gangwish (LEAD XIX) and Don McCabe for your wisdom, time and leadership skills.

APAL Conference in Wyoming

Terry Hejny will represent the Nebraska LEAD Program at the annual International Association of Programs of Agricultural Leadership (IAPAL) in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to be held on October 15-17. The conference provides Directors an opportunity to discuss issues and challenges of agricultural leadership development programs: funding, programming, public relations, marketing, recruitment, legal issues, and personnel.

Destination: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania — January 2010

Chadron State College was the site of the announcement to the group, for the destination for the Nebraska LEAD XXVIII International Study/Travel Seminar for January 2010. In making the announcement, Program Director Terry Hejny, stated that “Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were selected as special emphasis was placed on the considerations of: safety, learning opportunities, and costs, as well as destinations of previous groups. A good number of formal contacts have been finalized as we attempt to tailor the international experience to fit our objectives.” The fifteen day seminar will consist of a broad variety of experiences that include exciting, new encounters with individuals, government, business and industry. The program last traveled to Estonia in 1998 at which time Nebraska LEAD Group XVI visited Estonia, Russia, and Finland. This will be the program’s first visit to Latvia and Lithuania.

Congratulations – Nebraska LEAD Group XXVII

With a full house of supportive attendees on hand March 13, 2009, the following Nebraska LEAD XXVII Fellows received their program completion certificates during the 2009 Nebraska LEAD Recognition Banquet:

Wayne Bahler, Lamar

Diane Becker, Madison

Frank Beel, Johnstown

Lynn Belitz, Fullerton

Glenn Beller, Lindsay

Andrew Bose, Wayne

Bruce Bostelman, Brainard

Don Bristol, Fairmont

Melissa Dearmont, Rose

John Doerr, Osmond

Alan Estes, Stuart

Doug Ferguson, Blue Springs

Adam Fischer, Valentine

Curt Friesen, Henderson

Eugene Goering, Platte Center

John Hay, Palmyra

Joel Kuehn, Heartwell

Troy Linn, Overton

Steve Nelson, Schuyler

David Nichols, Chambers

Ostrander Jecca, Gordon

Mike Oswald, Aurora

Kenneth Rahjes, Elwood

Julie Rau-Ruhter, Ainsworth

Todd Reichardt, Aurora

Stephanie Stedman, Burr

Bryan Terrell, Hay Springs

Brandy VanDeWalle, Ohiowa

Ryan Walker, Scottsbluff

Travis Wenzel, Hyannis

Mark Your Calendar

The Annual Nebraska LEAD Program Recognition Banquet recognizing Nebraska LEAD Group XXVIII will be held:

Friday, March 12, 2010

Nebraska East Campus Union
Further Details Forthcoming

THANK YOU — Omaha Agribusiness Club and Nebraska Agribusiness Club

We extend our thanks to Omaha Agribusiness Club and the Nebraska Agribusiness Club for supporting the Nebraska LEAD Program by underwriting a portion of the cost of the Annual Recognition Banquet. Their generous support allows us to hold a fine dinner program to honor our LEAD Fellows.

LEAD XXVII Banquet Table Sponsors

Each spring, many businesses and individuals sponsor a table at the Annual LEAD Recognition Banquet. Sponsors for the spring of 2009 were:

Belitz Farms

Farm Credit Services of America

Goering Farms

M.A.D. Farms

Nebraska Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

Nebraska Soybean Board

Nelson/Neidig

Stedman Farms

UNCTA

For further information on sponsoring a table next spring, please call the Nebraska LEAD Program Office at 402-472-6810.

Nebraska AgRelations Council and Ag at the Crossroads

This year as in the past, LEAD XXVIII Fellows will participate in the Ag at the Crossroads conference to be held on Thursday, November 5, 2009, from 8:00 to 4:30 at the Lancaster Event Center. This year's theme will be Agriculture and the Environment, Animal Welfare, and Social Media. The Nebraska AgRelations Council in cooperation with UNL Department of Agricultural Economics sponsors this annual event. Current second-year LEAD Fellows will be guests of the conference through the courtesy of both special consideration and a grant from the Nebraska AgRelations Council.

Frank and Shirley Sibert Fellowship Awarded

This past month, Frank and Shirley Sibert touched the life of LEAD XXIX Fellow Marc Ericksen of Mullen. Through their “Frank and Shirley Sibert LEAD Program Excellence Fund”, the Sibert’s chose Mr. Ericksen to be the 2009 recipient of their “Sibert Fellowship”. Because of their generous financial support, a major portion of Mr. Ericksen’s participant fees for the LEAD Program are being underwritten.

Frank and Shirley Sibert are both graduates of Red Cloud High School. In addition, both graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Frank with a degree in Animal Science and Shirley with a degree in Music and Elementary education. Shirley was a school teacher serving in Sutton, Kearney, Lincoln, Valentine and Omaha. Frank worked for the Nebraska Extension Service, the Sandhills Cattle Association, and the Stock Yards Bank in Omaha.

In 1975 the Sibert’s purchased and lived at the Rolling Stone Ranch near Valentine, moving there in 1977. They spent the next 20 years working on the ranch and pursuing a lifestyle they loved. They sold the ranch in 1998 and currently reside in Kearney. Through much of their married life, they have volunteered countless hours and significant funding in support of Nebraska agriculture.

Our congratulations to Marc Ericksen, co-manager of Ericksen Ranch, for being selected the “Frank and Shirley Sibert Fellow” for this year.

Nebraska Farm Bureau Scholarship

Since 2003, the Nebraska Farm Bureau Services, Inc. has offered \$1000 scholarships to Nebraska LEAD Program Fellows meeting certain criteria. Scholarship applicants must be a “Professional Producer” status Farm Bureau member for the past two years. Upon their completion of the LEAD Program, the scholarship recipients must agree to serve in county Farm Bureau leadership in one of the following capacities: officer, director, committee member or committee chair; or on a state Farm Bureau committee.



Please join us in congratulating the following LEAD Fellows for being selected as this year’s Nebraska Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Scholarship recipients: LEAD Group XXVIII; Brian Brown, Central City; Linda Schwarz, Bertrand; and from LEAD Group XXIX; Vernyce Olcott, Burwell.

Hastings Tribune Scholarship

LEAD XXIX Fellow, Keith Keller of Harvard is the recipient of this year’s Hastings Tribune Scholarship. The Hastings Tribune is proud to have awarded a Nebraska LEAD Program Scholarship since 2001. The \$500 scholarship is presented to a newly selected LEAD Fellow whose primary occupation is agricultural production and who resides in the newspaper’s coverage area.

The Tribune covers the Nebraska counties of Adams, Webster, Clay, Nuckolls, Fillmore, Thayer and Franklin, plus most of Kearney County and portions of Harlan, Hall and Hamilton counties.

The Tribune’s purpose in presenting this award is to assist a producer from one of their “Tribland” communities in meeting the financial commitment associated with participation in the Nebraska LEAD Program.

Personal Notes

Deepest Condolences

Kolton Jason Hall was born at rest Thursday, January 29, 2009 at York, NE. He is survived by his parents Jason and Dana (LEAD XXV) Hall of McCool Junction, NE and his sister Bailey Hall also of McCool Junction.

We mourn the loss of LEAD XXI member Janet Eckmann of Bloomfield, NE. She passed away July 11th, 2009.

We extend our condolences to LEAD XXVII members Brian Brown for the loss of his mother and to Ernie Newquist for the loss of his father.

Our condolences to Greg (LEAD XXVIII) and Erin Feather on the passing of Erin’s father this past spring.

Congratulations

Birth

Lex (LEAD XXV) and Jennifer Larsen, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Natalie Rose Larsen, born December 19, 2008.

Honored Fellows

Hats off to Ken Rahjes (LEAD XXVIII) for receiving the the Nebraska Corn Board’s annual Media Award.

LEAD XXVII Fellows Julie Rau-Ruhter, Ainsworth and Adam Fischer, Valentine were asked to sit on Senator Mike Johanns’ Ag-Advisory Committee.



Larry Teahon (left) from the Crow Butte Operation of Cameco Resources briefs LEAD XXVIII Fellows and spouses on the mining of uranium near Crawford. LEAD Fellow Steve Tippery (right) of Gretna looks on.

Nominate someone to become a triple threat. . .

Nominate someone you know for LEAD Group XXX (30th class). Applications are now available with seminars to begin in fall 2010. Encourage your nominee to get a jump start on this life changing experience we call the Nebraska LEAD Program. Call or email Shana at the LEAD office now and an application can be emailed right away.

Nominations are also accepted on our website: www.lead.unl.edu

402-472-6810 or sgerdes2@unl.edu

The application deadline is **June 15, 2010**.

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln does not discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran’s status, national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation.



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