As summer finally fades away and we slide into fall, we are reminded of the fundamental changes of life. This is one of my favorite times of the year. Husker football and volleyball, harvest time, high school sports. This also means we have started a new class in the Nebraska LEAD Program. The in-state seminars are in full swing, and the international and national seminars will soon be here. Of course, fund raising, promotion, and recruitment activities continue.

We are pleased to introduce you to the members of Nebraska LEAD Group 39 (see insert) who represent our 39th year of operations. This means that we now have almost 1,150 individuals, either who are in the program or who have completed our program. We are confident that we have selected another diverse group of aspiring leaders and we look forward to working with them in the coming months.

Since the Thanksgiving holiday will soon be here, allow me to say thank you to the people and organizations that make our leadership program possible. Let me start by thanking the members of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council and its Board of Directors and the members of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association and its Board of Directors. These are working boards who keep our program on the front edge of leadership development through their diligent efforts on committees and at board meetings. We are thankful for Vice Chancellor Mike Boehm and the Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources for their continued support of our program. In addition, we are thankful for support of the many public and private higher education institutions that host the LEAD Fellows on their campuses each year.

Clearly, our flagship two-year leadership program would not be possible without funding. There is no one major donor writing a big check. Rather, there are over 150 businesses and organizations and over 325 individuals and alumni who make this program possible. They are investing in the future of agriculture in Nebraska. They share our vision. We thank you for your investment.

As stewards of these investments, we make sure that the vast majority of our funding is used for educational purposes. We are a lean organization with three employees. Thank you to Shana and Cassondra for your dedication and hard work.

In closing, to all who have played a role in the success of our program, I say thank you. As always, I will do everything within my power to continue the strong tradition that you have come to expect. Thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege to serve as the director of the Nebraska LEAD Program.
OUR MISSION: TO PREPARE AND MOTIVATE MEN AND WOMEN IN

A Message From the Chair of the Board

This year has been a year to remember, or maybe we’d rather forget. Between the tight profit margins, international trade wars, and seemingly every kind of weather-related challenge, 2019 has presented a great deal of adversity. How we respond to that adversity is critical.

Apple founder Steve Jobs once said, “Everyone here has the sense that right now is one of those moments when we are influencing the future.” In other words, opportunity lies in adversity. There is a tremendous opportunity to step forward in order to help the industry through these challenging times. Nebraska agriculture needs passionate individuals to take an active role to influence our future.

This is where the LEAD Program shines. Our mission statement is “to prepare and motivate men and women in agriculture for more effective leadership”. To date, LEAD has prepared over 1,000 graduates with the skills needed to be effective leaders. Many have leveraged those skills to help their industry and their communities: from taking an active role in community or civic groups, to serving on industry boards, to government roles and political appointments, the impact of LEAD has been tremendous. Yet the need is still there. My challenge to you is to leverage what you’ve learned through this program and to become more involved. Take an active role in something that you’re passionate about. It’s an exciting opportunity to influence our future. When you look back on the time and energy that you’ve invested, I promise that you’ll be proud.

I would also ask you to challenge someone that you know to apply for the LEAD Program. Who do you know that is passionate about agriculture and that would benefit from the LEAD experience? If you’ve been through LEAD, I’m guessing that someone saw that same passion in you and encouraged you to apply. Pass it on and continue to influence our future!

Bryan Barret

Congratulations and Condolences

Congratulations to:

Clint Shipman (LEAD 35) and Monica Smith who were married on August 1, 2019.
Teri (LEAD 34) and Austin Zimmerman on the birth of their son, Kade Dean on December 6, 2018.
Chelsea (LEAD 37) and Jordan Luthy on the birth of their daughter, Eve Alise on April 9, 2019.
Chris (LEAD 37) and Sarah Stillahn on the birth of their daughter, Cambrie Ann on April 22, 2019.
Nathan (LEAD 33) and Ashley Hughes on the birth of their daughter, Payton Kay on May 28, 2019.
Aaron (LEAD XXX) and Ali Raymond on the birth of their son, Hugh James on June 6, 2019.
Jeff (LEAD 34) and Robin Schroeder on the birth of their son, Jack William on July 1, 2019.
Hannah (LEAD 36) and Lukas Rupprecht on the birth of their son, Ransom John on August 2, 2019.
Ross (LEAD 37) and Shantel Daake on the birth of their son, River Joseph on August 2, 2019.
Reed (LEAD 34) and Heidi Allen on the birth of their daughter, McKinley Constance on August 7, 2019.
Jerad (LEAD 31) and Megan Hutchens on the birth of their daughters, Ariel Lane and Elvee Elizabeth on August 14, 2019.
Luke (LEAD 37) and Ashley Beckman on the birth of their daughter, Kate Elizabeth on September 16, 2019.
Rene (LEAD 38) and Brad Blauhorn on the birth of their son, Noah Robert on October 4.

The Nebraska LEAD Program passes on our condolences to the family of Lois Thom (LEAD XXII) on the passing of her mother-in-law, Jean Thom, who passed away on April 15 in Hastings. Jean, her late husband, LeRoy and T-L Irrigation have been longtime supporters of LEAD and in 2011, Jean and LeRoy, the T-L Foundation and the Thom family began providing significant financial support to the Nebraska LEAD Program.

The Nebraska LEAD Program passes on our condolences to the family of Betty Majors, who passed away on July 5. Betty was instrumental in the formation of the Nebraska LEAD Program and received the Allen G. Blezek Friend of LEAD award in 2015.

The Nebraska LEAD Program also passes on our condolences to the families of:
Paul (LEAD XXVIII) and Deb Gangwish (LEAD 34) on the passing of Paul’s mother.
Bob Rikli (LEAD XII) on the passing of his mother.
Larry (LEAD XXIII) and Pat (LEAD XIV) Heyen and Stanley (LEAD XVI) and Jo (LEAD XIV) Heyen on the passing of Larry’s and Stanley’s father.
Brian Keiser (LEAD V), Doug Keiser (LEAD VII), and Joe Keiser (LEAD XVII) on the passing of their mother.
Gigi Gardener (LEAD XXVIII) on the passing of her mother.
When I began to write my article for our fall newsletter, I thought back to our Kickoff Seminar for LEAD 39. A speaker briefly touched on his belief that integrity is a crucial trait of a good leader. The topic of integrity has come up before, but given what’s going on in the world today, I wanted to delve more deeply into this leadership tenet.

There are some people’s word you should be able to take at face value like when your spouse says they’re working late, your boss says you’re up for a promotion, or when elected officials say...well, anything.

We need to be able to take one another at face value - trust in each others’ integrity - because when people play fast and loose with facts and the truth we all lose. It’s even more dangerous when people in positions of leadership lack integrity and bend reality to meet their agendas. When individuals use phrases such as: fake news, alternate facts, or when people cry hoax, it’s a slippery slope. When we become conditioned to believe that everything is being manipulated to fit any agenda, how do we determine who’s right, what’s right, what’s factual? People will disengage when they can’t determine what’s real. This is incredibly dangerous to all of us. Whether it’s in our homes, at our jobs, or as a country; engagement is the first toehold lost on a slope greased by leadership that lacks integrity.

Leaders of substance do not try to misdirect and obfuscate. Leaders own mistakes, speak truthfully and can be taken at face value. Perhaps most importantly, leaders worth following demonstrate integrity - even when facing adversity.

I started writing this just as the weather finally turned, going from ninety degrees on Monday afternoon to forty-something on Wednesday morning (with quite a bit of rain in between). It suddenly felt like time to reprogram the thermostat and pull winter clothes out of storage. This is the time of year when, as we head into the holiday season and the current year winds down, I start thinking about what to give thanks for and as well as my hopes for the coming year.

I know that this has been a difficult year for many, and it feels like there is an endless stream of bad news locally, nationally, and internationally. But I read an article this summer that gave me a glimmer of hope. The article was about the results of a poll which showed an increase in community involvement, which the author attributed to people helping their neighbors after the flooding last spring. While overall political activity had slowed down, more respondents than ever before reported that they had worked directly with others in their community to solve a problem. This year I am thankful for the actions of these fellow Nebraskans and for all of those who recognized their capacity to make a difference in their communities. And looking ahead to 2020, I am hopeful that they will continue to stay involved and inspire others to do the same.

Donor Recognition

The Nebraska LEAD Program would like to acknowledge the following generous contributions omitted from the 2018-2019 annual report and apologize for the oversight.

**Silver Contributions $500-$999**
Gerald and Beverly Clausen

**Seminar Support $500 and above**
21st Century Equipment/John Deere
First National Bank of Omaha
John Deere International
Nebraska Cattlemen
NPPD

**Bronze Contributions $100-$499**
Arbor Day Farm
Tom Baker
CLAAS of America, Inc.
Don and Donna Hutchens
Michael Foods Egg Products
National Corn Growers Association

**Banquet 2020**

NALC members: mark your calendars for the Annual Recognition Banquet honoring LEAD 38 on March 13, 2020, held at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

5:30 p.m. Social
6:30 p.m. Dinner

**LEAD VIII**

We are holding a 30-year Reception in your honor before the March 13, 2020 Banquet. Watch your mailbox for your invitation early next year.

We hope to see you there!

**Alumni Dinners**

Information regarding the Alumni Dinners is on the READ ABOUT LEAD tab under Current Events on our web page.

http://lead.unl.edu/currentevents

Bring a LEAD recruit - their meal is on us! Be sure to RSVP to your co-chair!
Our New Board Members

Jay Rempe is the Senior Economist for Nebraska Farm Bureau. As the senior economist, Jay is responsible for agricultural economic outlook, policy analysis, and education programs.

Jay has been employed at Nebraska Farm Bureau for more than 20 years and has a long career working on agricultural issues with the Unicameral and state officials. He has a great deal of expertise on state water issues facing farmers and ranchers.

Jay is a graduate of the University of Nebraska. He earned a Bachelor of Science in agriculture in 1985, majoring in agribusiness and a Master of Science in agricultural economics in 1993. Prior to earning his master’s degree, Jay worked in Omaha as a commodity merchandiser.

Jay and his wife, Jan, have three children, Davis, and twins Jackson and Maggie.

Raymond Morse is the Vice President of the Meat Division at Henningsen Foods and also serves on their board of directors. He has worked in agriculture for most of his career.

Raymond was a member of LEAD 35. He earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1992. Growing up, he worked with his father in a grain elevator during summers and corn harvest.

Raymond and his wife, TiAnne, have three children. Their daughter Kylie is in her senior year at Colorado State University. Their younger daughter Kaitlyn and son Aiden attend Norfolk Public Schools.

Scott Meredith has 25 years of combined ag banking experience, working for First National Bank of Omaha, Wells Fargo, and is currently with US Bank in Lincoln.

Scott graduated with an accounting degree from the University of Nebraska and went on to sit for the CPA exam.

Scott grew up on a farm east of York and took over the farm in the late nineties before transitioning to banking full time in 2001.

Scott has three daughters, a stepdaughter and stepson, and several grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys running, biking, music, and gardening.

Nicole Bohuslavsky is a Senior Credit Analyst at CoBank in Omaha.

Nicole is a graduate of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She was a member of LEAD 34 and currently serves on the LEAD Alumni Board.

Nicole grew up on a farm and was an active participant in 4H, showing pigs, sheep, and cattle, and she continues to feed cattle with her family.

In her spare time, Nicole enjoys antiquing, thrift-shopping, and refinishing items. She also enjoys seeing shows at the Orpheum and Lied Center, as well as watching Husker football and volleyball games.

LEADing the Way

Alan Emshoff (LEAD V) was elected Chairman of the Nebraska Bankers Association for 2019-2020.

Hilary Maricle (LEAD 34) will be serving as a Rural Recruitment Coordinator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln serving students and their families in the Albion, Columbus, Humphrey, and Genoa communities.

Adam Grabenstein (LEAD 37) was appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to represent District 5 on the Nebraska Corn Board.

Eugene Goering (LEAD XXVII) was recently elected to represent District 4 on the Nebraska Soybean Board. Goering will begin his third term on the board.

Clay Govier (LEAD 37) was recently re-elected to represent District 8 on the Nebraska Soybean Board.

Renee Blauhorn (LEAD 38) was appointed as a Special Assistant Attorney General and will represent the state in child welfare cases in 25 counties in central Nebraska.

Support LEAD.
Support agriculture.
Watch for our End of Year 2019 NALC Appeal coming out in November!
Chadron State College was the site of the announcement to the group, for the destination for the Nebraska LEAD 38 International Study/Travel Seminar for January 2020. In making the announcement, Program Director, Dr. Terry Hejny, stated that “Costa Rica and Brazil were selected as special emphasis was placed on the considerations of: safety and learning opportunities, as well as destinations of previous groups. The 16-Day day study/travel seminar will include the major cities of San Jose, Sao Paulo, and Cuiaba. Those familiar with the program know of the intensity and opportunities for learning. While a good number of formal contacts have been finalized, we will continue to tailor the international experience to fit our objectives.” The program last traveled to Costa Rica in 2011 when Nebraska LEAD Group XXIX visited Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The program last traveled to Brazil in 1989 when Nebraska LEAD Group VII visited Argentina, Brazil, and Peru.

Scholarships

Nebraska Farm Bureau Scholarship

Since 2003, the Nebraska Farm Bureau Services, Inc., has offered $1,000 scholarships to Nebraska LEAD Program Fellows meeting certain criteria.

Please join us in congratulating the following LEAD Fellows for being selected as this year’s Nebraska Farm Bureau Scholarship recipients: from LEAD 38 Shane Grevling, Chapman; Haley Miles, Ainsworth; Paula Peterson, Waverly; Becky Schwarz, Bertrand and from LEAD 39 Tiffany Hemenway, Elgin and Cale Pallas, Stromsburg.

Scholarship applicants must be a current member of their local Farm Bureau and have “Professional Producer” status. 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.

Gudmundsen Fellowship

Katie Kaliff-Jagels (LEAD 38) of Davenport is now in her second year as the recipient of the Gudmundsen Fellowship. Through their generous financial support, a major portion of Ms. Kaliff-Jagels’s participant fees for the LEAD Program are being underwritten.

Pete and Abbie Gudmundsen had ranched near Whitman, Nebraska, prior to retiring to Arizona in the early 1980s. Their strong support of the University of Nebraska can be seen in a variety of scholarships, programs, and projects funded during the past 30 years. After retiring from ranching in the 1970s, the Gudmundsens donated their ranch to NU Foundation for use by IANR. The Rafter C Ranch became the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory and now serves as a 12,800 acre research and educational facility.

Katie is the twelfth Nebraska LEAD participant to be designated as a Gudmundsen Fellow.

Harlan Fellowship

Mindy Wolf has been selected as the Neal and Leone Harlan Fellow for Nebraska LEAD Group 39. Through their Neal E. and Leone S. Harlan LEAD Program Excellence Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation, Mrs. Harlan chose Mindy to be the 2019 recipient of their Harlan Fellowship.

The Harlans have taken an active interest in supporting agriculture and law programs at this University. Their contributions include the Harlan Vice Chancellorship in the Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources, the Neal Harlan Professorship of Agribusiness, the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Scholarship Program, and the Judge Harry A. Spencer Professorship of Law which honors Lee’s father, a former Nebraska Supreme Court Justice.

M. Eighmy Fellowship

Zachary Paulman has been selected as the M. Eighmy Fellow for Nebraska LEAD Group 39. Through the M. Eighmy Foundation LEAD Fellow Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation, the board of directors at the M. Eighmy Foundation chose Zach to be the 2019 recipient of their M. Eighmy Fellowship.

Before his death in 2000 at the age of 91, Mervin R. Eighmy established a foundation, which pledged steadfast support to Nebraska agriculture, youth and education.

Today, the philanthropic plan laid out by Mr. Eighmy, a Custer County ranch owner, animal scientist and president of Gooch Feed Mill, is to become longtime benefactors of the University of Nebraska and its students. This includes support for the Mervin Eighmy Agricultural Scholarship, the Eighmy Farm Management Fund, and the Nebraska LEAD Program and with more with gifts made to the University of Nebraska in the future.

Sibert Fellowship

Anthony Sibert has been selected as the Frank and Shirley Sibert Fellow for Nebraska LEAD Group 39. Through their Frank and Shirley Sibert LEAD Program Excellence Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation, Mr. Sibert chose Anthony to be the 2019 recipient of their Sibert Fellowship.

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. Through all of their married life, which was for over 65 years, they volunteered countless hours and provided significant funding in support of the Nebraska LEAD Program, the University of Nebraska and Nebraska agriculture. Shirley passed away in July of 2018.
Applications for Nebraska LEAD Group 40

There’s No Time Like the Present

Applications are available for Nebraska LEAD Group 40. The application deadline is June 15, 2020. Seminars begin fall 2020.

Contact Cassondra in the LEAD office now for an application at 402-472-6810 or cdobbs2@unl.edu.

Whether you are applying for the first time or reapplying, there is no time like the present to complete your application.

Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council (NALC)
Notice of Annual Meeting
Friday, March 13, 2020

All current members of the NALC are invited to attend the annual meeting of the NALC. In addition to other applicable requirements for membership, current members are those who have contributed at least $100 to NALC for the Nebraska LEAD Program. Membership contributions must have been received in the Nebraska LEAD Program office between July 1, 2019, and the March 13, 2020, annual meeting.

WHO:
Current NALC Members

WHAT:
Election of Board of Directors

WHEN:
Friday, March 13, 2020, 4:30-5:00 p.m.

WHERE:
Nebraska Innovation Campus