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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Please send inquiries, change of address and all correspondence to:
Nebraska LEAD Program
PO Box 830940
Lincoln, NE 68583-0940
Phone: 402-472-6810
FAX: 402-472-6799

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Director's Update

By Dr. Terry Hejny, Director
Nebraska LEAD Program

We are pleased to present to you this issue of The LEAD Review. It is our attempt to keep you updated on the happenings of the Nebraska LEAD Program.

Harold Geneen, the American businessman who served as president of the ITT Corporation from the late 1950’s through the 1970’s, is credited with, in my opinion, the most profound statement about leadership education, "Leadership cannot be taught. It can only be learned."

As we embark on raising another group of leaders in LEAD Group 37 and continue our journey with LEAD Group 36, as they begin their second year in the program, I’m reminded that the invaluable experience we provide to the participants in our leadership program is really just a part of the leadership journey. It is only in the application of what has been learned about leadership that a person truly becomes a leader. Leadership isn’t about the speakers, the industry visits, meetings with government leaders and higher education administrators and faculty, and our national and international travel, it is about what the LEAD Fellows learned from all of the above AND how they will apply that wisdom now and in the future.

While leadership seems as though it may be a lonely experience, our participants share their leadership journey in a class that includes up to 30 highly qualified agriculturalists—people who are already practicing in their varied fields of expertise. Now, they strive to further the industry by becoming leaders of others.

After graduation, class members realize that they are not alone, and that they can continue to call on their leadership cohort, including our alumni network, who are ready to assist them as they step out of the seminars and into service. The diversity of this network is astounding! With well over 1,000 graduates, LEAD alumni are making decisions daily that positively affect our industry, communities, state and nation, and the world.

We continually make changes to our leadership curriculum to further emphasize that leaders are grown from "the inside out," and the skills, knowledge and character (continued on next page)
A Message From the Chair of the Board

Leland Poppe

It is truly a pleasure for me to serve as Chair of the Board of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council. My LEAD XIII experience tops the list of opportunities I have had in my lifetime.

LEAD opened my eyes to the diversity, challenges and opportunities facing Nebraska agriculture and our state. The challenges of 24 years ago have not gone away, but I have a better perspective regarding the issues. My LEAD XIII International Study Travel Seminar was to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and South Korea. With the recent activities in North Korea, I often reflect and share my experience from the South Korea and the DMZ study tour.

As the previous chair of the NALC recruitment committee my passion continues to be providing the encouragement for potential LEAD Fellows to follow through with that next step of applying and interviewing for the LEAD Program. I often hear potential LEAD Fellows say, “I thought about the LEAD Program, but the time was never right and now I am past the time in my life to participate.”

We have heard that it takes a village to raise a child. In this case, it often takes a herd to recruit a LEAD Fellow. If you have a friend, neighbor, spouse, or community member, that you think can utilize the benefits of LEAD, encourage them (and their support team) to apply and take advantage of the LEAD experience. Visit with them and get their name and address on the “potential LEAD list” with Shana, Kimberly or Terry. Applications are due in June, but now is the time to plant the seed for our future LEAD Fellows. Get out and encourage!

Donor Recognition

The Nebraska LEAD Program would like to acknowledge the generous Gold Level contribution omitted from the 2016-2018 annual report from: Lois (LEAD XXII) and Mike Thom of Minden, Nebraska. Their generous donation is matched by The Leroy Thom, Jean Thom & T-L Foundation Inc. Thank You!

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!

Investing in the Future... 

This past June, the Lancaster County Farm Bureau established the Lancaster County Farm Bureau LEAD Fellowship Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation. This long-term investment is designed to provide future fellowships in the Nebraska LEAD Program.

On behalf of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council and the Nebraska LEAD Program, thank you to all the members of the Lancaster County Farm Bureau for your continued support of LEAD!

Support LEAD.
Support agriculture.
Watch for our End of Year 2017 NALC Appeal coming out in November!
During this time of year, with the changing of seasons and harvest, I always feel especially grateful to farmers. As we prepare for the holiday season, and sit around our tables with our families, I truly feel that many take all of the hard work that farmers do to put food on our tables for granted. Even though I wasn’t raised by farmers, I have many in my family and was raised to appreciate all that those in agriculture do. We have always sent our boys home to my family’s farms (in Missouri and Kentucky) to learn about planting, harvest, calving, and the work that goes into running a farming operation so that they grow up with an appreciation for this vocation.

I wish that many more had the opportunity to see the hard work and sacrifices (time away from family, long hours, missing out on social activities, etc.) that those in agriculture experience. With that said, this holiday season, when you sit down with your families, know that those of us in the LEAD office and our families appreciate all of your hard work and we are both THANKFUL and GRATEFUL for all you do!

Kimberly Braaten – kbraaten2@unl.edu

Most work days, I sit at my computer composing emails or making phone calls asking folks around Nebraska and beyond to help construct our seminars. My job is made easier by virtue of the past experience the people and organizations have had with the Nebraska LEAD Program Fellows, and alumni. We have a great reputation. It’s a reputation of people who are polite, seeking to connect, and thoughtful in their interactions.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the many people I work with including: faculty and staff of colleges and universities, hotel and catering staff from small towns and major cities, bus and facility schedulers, tour guides, assistants and speakers from a broad spectrum of government entities and private businesses and many others. In addition, our many alumni and board members are an incredible resource for support, contacts, ideas and expertise. So many people work together to make LEAD an awesome experience for each new group of Fellows.

I want you all to know, your contributions, input, assistance, and support, are truly valued. Thank you!

Shana Gerdes – sgerdes2@unl.edu

LEADing the Way

**Esther Rickert** (LEAD 34) was appointed to the Education Service Unit 10 Board of Directors at the August 21, 2017, board meeting.

**Dennis Arfmann** (LEAD VIII) retired from the D.C. law firm of Hogan Lovells, and is doing pro bono work with former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter and his CSU Center for the New Energy Economy. They are working with western states and utilities on reducing CO₂ emissions.

**Doug Saathoff** (LEAD XXV) was elected to the Nebraska Soybean Board to represent District 7.

**David Merrell** (LEAD XXIV) was re-elected as Chair of the Board of the Nebraska Corn Board.

**Wade** (LEAD I) and Sue **Nutzman** received the Heritage Farm Award for their 150 year family owned farm by the Aksarben Foundation.

**LEAD VI**

We are holding a 30-year reception in your honor before the **March 9, 2018**, banquet. Watch your mailbox for your invitation early next year.

*We hope to see you there!*

**Banquet 2018**

NALC members: mark your calendars for the Annual Recognition Banquet honoring LEAD 36 on March 9, 2018, held in the Nebraska East Union.

5:30 p.m. Social
6:30 p.m. Dinner
Welcome to Our New Board Members

My name is Jerry Catlett and I am honored to be a part of the NALC Board. I grew up in Ansley, Nebraska, and currently live in Bruning, Nebraska, with my wife, Jill. I work at the Bruning State Bank as the president and chief operating officer. Jill and I have a daughter, Cecelia, who is employed with the Bruning State Bank in Broken Bow, Nebraska.

My interest in agriculture has been lifelong. I was raised in eastern Custer County and have never strayed from my agricultural roots. I attended Kearney State College earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. I also attended the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Some work that has prepared me for the NALC Board are: acting as past board member of Nebraska State Records Board, school and village board memberships, varied committee positions, and committee chairman of the Nebraska Bankers Association. Two special honors that I have received include the AK-SAR-BEN Ike Friedman Community Leadership Award and service in the Nebraska Bankers Association.

In my free time, my hobbies and interests include just about anything sports related.

Condolences and Congratulations

The Nebraska LEAD Program mourns the loss of . . .

Kelly Eich (LEAD XII) who passed away on April 15, Gary Klein (LEAD I) who passed away on July 14. We also pass on our condolences to the family of Kim Peterson (LEAD XXVII) on the loss of her father, the family of Henry Rohla, Jr. (LEAD XXIV) on loss of his father, the family of Ryan Weeks (LEAD XXII) on the loss of his father, the family of Tony Hindman (LEAD XVII) on the loss of his mother, the family of Andy Jobman (LEAD 35) on the loss of his father-in-law, the family of David Merrell (LEAD XXIV) on loss of his father, the family of Tim Else (LEAD XIX) on the loss of his father, the family of Jecca Ostrander (LEAD XXVII) on the loss of her mother, the family of Ron Kulwicki (LEAD XVIII) on the loss of his mother, the family of Britt Anderson (LEAD XXVI) on the loss of his father, and the families of Larry Boswell (LEAD IX) and Ken Boswell (LEAD XI) on the loss of their mother.

Congratulations to:

Lee (LEAD XXIX) and Kali Andersen on the birth of their daughters, Lauryn Elizabeth and Kamryn Jo on April 20.
Seth (LEAD 35) and Nikki Davison of the birth of their son, Brooks Austin on May 2.
Marc (LEAD XXIX) and Ali Erickson on the birth of their daughter, Eve Rickelle on May 31.
Chris (LEAD 36) and Heather McQuillan on the birth of their daughter, Maura Kay on June 6.
Logan (LEAD 35) and Brianna Pribbeno on the birth of their daughter, Prairie Susan on July 5.
Jordan (LEAD 35) and Sarah Nun on the birth of their son, Adrian Blaise on August 2.
Hannah (LEAD 36) and Lukas Rupprecht on the birth of their son, Rodey George on September 7.
Matt Dolch (LEAD 33) and Dana Newton who were married on June 3.
Jess Waddell (LEAD 33) and Brooke Steinhauser who were married July 29.
Kevin Griess (LEAD XXVIII) and Rachel Simmons who were married July 1.
Sarah Werner (LEAD 34) and Andrew Kabes (LEAD 32) who were married on August 5.
Hannah Riddle (LEAD 36) and Lukas Rupprecht who were married on August 13.
Brian James (LEAD 32) and Elizabeth Zito who were married on September 30.

My name is Gerald Clausen and I too am honored to serve on the NALC Board. I am a Bloomfield, Nebraska, native though I currently live in Lincoln, Nebraska, with my wife of 58 years, Beverly. We have three children. Our son Marty was in LEAD XI, and I was in LEAD I.

I attended Midland University. Prior to my recent retirement, I worked for 29 years as a municipal manager.

My interest in agriculture began on a Knox County farm. I returned to farming after 6 years away. The following experiences have prepared me to serve the NALC Board: managing 100+ employees, relating to public needs and desires, and service on numerous statewide boards. I have traveled extensively since my LEAD ISTS, lobbied local, state, and federal elected officials, and served as a judge at FFA events at the state and national levels. I have received multiple local, state, and national awards all related to public service. Also, I have been named Rotary Paul Harris Fellow multiple times.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, lifetime learning, travel, collecting farm toys and observing public policy development. I feel that my LEAD experience created a positive atmosphere for the balance of my working years and now in retirement, I look forward to serving on the NALC Board and helping to ensure that LEAD Fellows have the same experience.
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 36) Chris McQuillan, Holdrege; Hannah Rupprecht, Bladen; and (LEAD 37) Bree DeNaeyer, Seneca; MerleAnn Raichart, Benkelman and Allison Warner, Waverly.

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

Through the "Gudmundsen Fellowship", the late Pete and Abbie Gudmundsen again touched the life of LEAD 36 Fellow, Shelly Kelly of Sutherland. Through their generous financial support, a major portion of Ms. Kelly’s year two 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 1980’s. 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 1970’s, the Gudmundsen’s 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.

Shelly is the eleventh Nebraska LEAD participant to be designated as a “Gudmundsen Fellow”.

Sibert Fellowship

The Nebraska LEAD Program continues to benefit from the financial support for Nebraska LEAD Fellows. “Fellowships” cover the total program cost (less participation fees) for each of the participants. Through a permanently established two-year endowment, Adam Grabenstein, (LEAD 37) of Farnam has been named the “Frank and Shirley Sibert Fellow” for this, his first year. Grabenstein is the owner/manager of LA Farms raising corn, wheat, oats, rye, cane feed and runs a feedlot and cow/calf operation.

Establish Your LEAD Legacy

Individuals provide billions of dollars each year in support to their favorite charities and non-profit organizations. Organizations like the Nebraska LEAD Program are highly dependent upon the generosity of such donors through annual contributions and through established endowments and other longer term gifting programs.

People contribute for a host of reasons including: social obligation, establishing a legacy, personal desire to make a difference, as well as to take advantage of tax provisions that incentivize charitable giving.

For most who have accumulated wealth, it is the result of a lifetime of hard work by one or more generations. Proper estate planning allows one to preserve accumulated assets for the benefit of family or charity, including programs such as the Nebraska LEAD Program, and to minimize the amount lost to estate taxes.

Controlling ones assets requires planning on your part. Planning must include both what you can do now during your lifetime, as well as what happens after your passing. Gifting assets during your lifetime allows you, rather than someone acting upon your behalf, to clearly determine the beneficiaries of your assets and allows you to see the results of your contributions.

For further information on charitable giving, consult with your attorney, tax consultant, financial advisor, or call the offices of the Nebraska LEAD Program.

Destination: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay — January 2018

Chadron State College was the site of the announcement to the group for the destination for the Nebraska LEAD 36 International Study/Travel Seminar for January 2018. In making the announcement, Program Director, Dr. Terry Hejny, stated, “Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay were selected, as special emphasis was placed on the considerations of safety and learning opportunities, as well as destinations of previous groups. The fifteen day study/travel seminar will include the major cities of Santiago, Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Those familiar with the program know of the intensity of the schedule 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 Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay in 2003.
Applications for Nebraska LEAD Group 38 are available now for an application deadline of June 15, 2018. Seminars begin fall 2018. Whether you are applying for the first time or reapplying, there is no time like the present to complete your application.

Contact Kimberly in the LEAD office at 402-472-6810 or kbraaten2@unl.edu.

Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council (NALC)

Notice of Annual Meeting

Friday, March 9, 2018
4:30-5:00 p.m.

Current NALC Members who have contributed at least $100 to NALC for the Nebraska LEAD Program, memberships are invited to attend the annual meeting of the NALC.

WHO:

Current NALC Members

WHAT:

Election of board of directors

WHERE:

Nebraska East Union, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska