**Program Overview**

The Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council founded the Nebraska LEAD (Leadership Education/Action Development) Program in 1981 in cooperation with Agricultural Builders of Nebraska, Inc. and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. All had recognized the need for a nonpartisan, nonpolitical organization to promote and develop future agricultural leadership. The council’s overall mission remains “to prepare and motivate men and women in agriculture for more effective leadership.”

**Program Purpose**

- Accelerate leadership development and improve leadership skills and abilities of Nebraska’s future agricultural leaders through exposure to diverse topics, issues, concerns, points of view, and innovative ideas.
- Increase knowledge of state, national, and international affairs.
- Prepare the problem solvers, decision makers, and spokespersons for the agriculture industry, while establishing a network of highly motivated leaders.

**Participant Criteria**

- Up to 30 highly motivated men and women, generally between the ages of 25-55, with demonstrated leadership potential selected annually from five geographic regions across Nebraska.
- Three years of Nebraska residency is required.
- Participants must be involved in farming, ranching, or agribusiness, complete a written application, and interview with a district screening committee. The Board of Directors of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council is responsible for the final selection of participants.

**Program Delivery**

- Twelve three-day, theme-driven seminars are conducted monthly from mid-September through early April. Over two years, participants visit almost every public and private college and university in Nebraska.
- First-year focus is on local, state, and national issues, with a ten-day national study/travel seminar in February.
- Second-year focus is on the international community and includes a 14- to 16-day international study/travel seminar.

**Program Expectations**

- Attend all seminars
- Secure spouse’s and employer’s full support for program participation (if applicable)
- Possess a sincere commitment to self-improvement
- Maintain an open mind and interest
- Pay a modest annual participant fee

**Program Support**

Dollars provided through the following sources:

- Annual membership dues in the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council
- Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association membership
- Numerous individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations
- Commitment of in-kind contributions, including campus administrators, presenters, and coordinators, statewide leaders, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and many others

**Program Outcomes**

Graduates say they have gained:

- Self-confidence, a positive can-do attitude
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Public speaking skills and a belief that they can make a difference
- New contacts and networking
- A broader view and understanding of “the bigger picture”
- Opportunities to seek out new role models and learn about different leadership styles
- Skills in proper etiquette

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

The application deadline of June 15, 2023 for Nebraska LEAD Class #42 is rapidly approaching.

Questions? Need application materials?

Contact: Terry Hejny, Director
Nebraska LEAD Program
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
P.O. Box 830940
104 AgCom Bldg
Lincoln, NE 68583-0940
Phone: (402) 472-6810
Fax: (402) 472-6799
Email: leadprogram@unl.edu
Visit our home page at www.lead.unl.edu
Dear Friend,

You are the future of the most essential industry in the world: agriculture. So I ask you, how serious are you about becoming a leader in our industry?

There are two fundamental truths about leadership. First, leaders are not born, they are developed. Leaders need training to sharpen their skills, broaden their knowledge base, and improve their self-confidence—traits that make them great leaders. That’s the job of the Nebraska LEAD Program. Your job involves the second fundamental truth: it’s easy to say “no” to becoming a leader . . . and that’s why you need to apply.

I know the excuses. You’re too busy in the field, at the office, or at home. You have small children, or you have growing children, you just got married, or you’re planning a wedding, or you’re busy with other commitments. Here’s why you should apply: the future of agriculture depends on you. Every day, American agriculture is impacted in a positive and profound way by a Nebraska LEAD Program graduate.

Now’s the time—apply today! Be the leader who will make a difference for our industry. The application deadline for participation in Nebraska LEAD Group 42 is June 15. From the pool of applicants, we select up to 30 men and women practicing in the diverse fields of agriculture in Nebraska. Will you be one of those receiving this opportunity of a lifetime?

If you have any questions about the Nebraska LEAD Program, contact me at 402-472-6810. I look forward to hearing from you!

Terry Hejny, Ph.D.
Director
LEAD XX Alumnus