

Issue 89, Spring 2025

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, changes of address and all correspondence to:

Nebraska LEAD Program
P.O. Box 830940
Lincoln, NE 68583-0940
Phone: 402-472-6810

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The LEAD Review

Director's Update

By Kurtis Harms, Director
Nebraska LEAD Program



As we move further into 2025, the Nebraska LEAD Program has been in full swing, providing invaluable leadership development experiences for our Fellows. From international and national seminars to new opportunities for our graduates, it has been an exciting start to the year. LEAD 42 recently completed their time as Fellows during the annual NALC recognition banquet on March 21. In January, they were in Eastern Europe as part of their International Study/Travel Seminar. During this experience, Fellows explored the agricultural, cultural and political landscapes of Romania, Hungary and Poland. This two-week experience broadened their perspectives and provided firsthand insights into global agricultural systems and trade. Meanwhile, LEAD 43 embarked on their National Study/Travel Seminar, visiting key agricultural, policy and industry leaders in Kansas City, Washington, D.C., Chicago and Moline. These experiences are essential in preparing our Fellows to be informed and engaged leaders in Nebraska agriculture.

A significant milestone for the Nebraska LEAD Program this year has been securing approval from the University of Nebraska to offer microcredentials in the form of digital badges to our graduates. This new credential provides an official recognition of the leadership competencies gained through the program, further enhancing the value of participation in LEAD.

As we continue to build on the legacy of the Nebraska LEAD Program, our mission remains steadfast: to develop knowledgeable and engaged leaders who will shape the future of Nebraska agriculture. Nebraska LEAD Fellows, both past and present, play a vital role in shaping the future of agricultural leadership. We encourage you to stay engaged by maintaining your NALC membership, recruiting and supporting future Fellows, and keeping the Nebraska LEAD Program office informed of any new leadership roles or career changes. Your continued involvement helps strengthen the program's impact. Additionally, by mentioning your Nebraska LEAD experience during these milestones, you can help promote the program and inspire the next generation of leaders.

Just a reminder, applications for Nebraska LEAD Class 44 are due to the office by June 15. If you know of any farmers, ranchers or agribusiness professionals who exhibit leadership potential, encourage them to take the next step in the journey. Thank you for your continued support of the Nebraska LEAD Program. Your investment in our Fellows and our mission makes a lasting impact on the future of Nebraska agriculture.

A Message From the Chair of the Board

Raymond Morse



It's spring! Well, maybe. As I write this in early March it is 63° F today on Sunday. Wednesday it was snowing with 65mph wind gusts, with many roads, schools and businesses closed. Typical Nebraska weather in March, I guess. As the saying goes, "If you don't like the Nebraska weather, wait 10 minutes and it will change." As agricultural leaders, we must be able to adapt and overcome challenges all the time: weather, water issues, animal disease, politics, (That's as far as I will go with that one!). My point is, anyone working in Nebraska agriculture understands there will always be challenges, and the Nebraska LEAD Program strives to help prepare Fellows to be ready to navigate them.

One never knows when change will come, only that it *will* come. Case in point: Dr. Hejny asked me if I would consider following in Jolene Messenger's footsteps in being the chair of the NALC Board. I thought about this for about half a second and said "of course." He said, "Great, we will present this to the nominating committee and vote at a later board meeting." Then, he followed up with, "Oh, and by the way, I will be retiring after this fiscal year." I thought at the time, "Well, okay, maybe would have been nice had he led with that..." Yet, here I am completing my second term on the NALC Board, with the last year as chair. It has been a whirlwind full of challenges and change over these six years (we worked through a global pandemic and hired a new director for the Nebraska LEAD Program just to name a couple). I want to say "thank you" to all the NALC Board members I have had the privilege to serve with. Shana and

Irene, no way can the board do what they do, nor the LEAD Program do what it does without these two wonderful people. I appreciate all the help - and there was a lot from you two. THANK YOU!! Thank you for the support from the UNL team, the partnership we have is a great one. Alumni, and Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association, thank you for all that you do. We need to remember, the LEAD experience does not end after two years, and being part of the Alumni Association helps keep this collaboration strong. Dr. Terry Hejny, my LEAD Director, with LEAD 35 and serving five years on the NALC Board with you, I cannot put into words the amount of thanks I owe you. I would never say it was easy this last year. However, because you continued to enhance and build this program, we were able to hire a new director and maintain our path of success. Director Kurtis Harms, thank you for your patience with me over the last year. You have big shoes to fill, but I am certain you will continue to grow the LEAD Program and keep it at its preeminent level while putting your "spin" on it.

Last, but not least, LEAD Class 42, congratulations! Your group had the challenge/benefit of two LEAD Directors. Thank you for understanding that even though it is a time commitment and not an easy thing to do, you have stepped up to become better leaders in Nebraska agriculture! The Nebraska LEAD Program has provided you all with more education and tools to go out and become better leaders. Now, it is your turn to give back, go out and LEAD ON!

A Good Fit

Shana Gerdes
Admin. Assoc.



I admit to curiosity and some trepidation as to what kind of boss Director Harms would be and what changes he would bring to our program. Irene and I agree that we lucked out. Kurtis is a genuinely good boss and has a quick wit to boot. His media/marketing skills are helping us refresh some of our communication and PR materials. He took the crazy weather challenges during the National Study Travel Seminar in stride. Kurtis is also making content tweaks this first year and is taking note of where other changes might grow our program into the future. So, to the various search committee members who tapped him as our new director I will quote the Grail Knight in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, "You have chosen. . . wisely."

Participant Fee Increase Notice

Please note: the cost of the LEAD participant fee will be increasing to \$1,500 per year (starting with LEAD 44). This marks the first participant fee increase since 2009.

Leading

Irene Malzer
Office Assoc.



In listening to those around me explain what they think leadership is, I get a myriad of responses. One dear friend of mine thinks that a good leader is someone who leads quietly by example. "You shouldn't have to tell people you are in charge," she says. Another acquaintance of mine, who manages an office of 30 people, says his style of leadership differs with each person. It might not be the way others do it, but he says it is effective for his group. As you think about it, what type of leader are you? How do you motivate and inspire your "office of 30"? How do you inspire change, build trust and encourage innovation? The Nebraska LEAD Program asks and answers those questions and so much more. LEAD shapes and encourages growth in the individual to become a transformative, servant leader - a leader with lasting impact. If you or someone you know would be interested in learning more about the Nebraska LEAD Program, please give our office a call (402) 472-6810 or visit our website at lead.unl.edu. Our director, Kurtis Harms, who is an exceptional leader himself, would love to meet with you and answer your questions.

Congratulations, LEAD 42!

March 21, 2025, the following Nebraska LEAD 42 Fellows received their program completion certificates:

Michelle Bose, Arcadia
Wes Cammack, DeWitt
April Delsing, Hemingford
Annalyssa Fountain, Bellevue
Levi French, Broken Bow
John Garlock, III, Omaha
Nicholas Grams, Lincoln
Ryan Hanousek, Cairo
Blake Hokamp, Randolph
Sloane Holtmeier, Central City

Rachel Ibach, Lincoln
Dalton Kenning, Wood River
Cathryn Klein, Omaha
Michael Manning, Lincoln
Traci Menke, Seward
Adam Oldemeyer, Ayr
Matthew Oswald, Aurora
Jessica Palm, Mitchell
Brad Parliament, Mason City
Logan Reed, Holdrege

Sidney Robinson, Loomis
Carter Smith, Shelby
Brett Storer, Wahoo
Emmet Storer, North Platte
Kelby Sudbeck, Ord
Nicholas Swenson, Greenwood
Zachary Tveitnes, Seward
Nathan Watermeier, Lincoln
Jake Werner, Lincoln



Thank You, Banquet Sponsors!

We extend our thanks to **AKRS Equipment, Farmers National Company, LEAD III, Nebraska Corn Board, Nebraska Dry Pea & Lentil Commission, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Pioneer/Corteva** and **Reinke Manufacturing Co.** for their support of the Nebraska LEAD Program by underwriting a portion of the cost of the Annual Recognition Banquet.

Thank You, Banquet Table Sponsors!

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Carter Smith (LEAD 42)
Brett Storer (LEAD 42)
Emmet Storer (LEAD 42)
Kelby Sudbeck (LEAD 42)
Sustainable Seed Solutions
Two Bar Ranches - Palm Family

Thank You to Departing NALC Board Members

The Nebraska LEAD Program would like to thank **Nicole Bohuslavsky** (LEAD 34), **Scott Meradith**, **Raymond Morse** (LEAD 35) and **Jay Rempe** for their dedication to our mission: To Prepare and Motivate Men and Women in Agriculture for More Effective Leadership, and for their years of service on the NALC Board. Without the volunteer service of individuals such as these, our Nebraska LEAD Program cannot position itself as the elite leadership development program for our industry, state and nation. Should you have the desire to serve on the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council (NALC) board, please contact our office for future consideration.

Nebraska LEAD Class 42 Explores Agriculture and Leadership Abroad

The Nebraska LEAD Program provides an unparalleled opportunity for agricultural leaders to expand their perspectives on global agriculture, trade and leadership. As part of their two-year journey, Nebraska LEAD Class 42 Fellows embarked on an International Study/Travel Seminar (ISTS) from January 3-17, 2025, visiting Romania, Hungary and Poland. This immersive experience provided firsthand insights into agricultural systems, policy structures and cultural traditions shaping global food production.



Romania: Bridging Tradition and Modernization

The journey began in Romania, where the LEAD 42 Fellows were welcomed with warm hospitality and a crash course in the country's complex agricultural landscape. Romania's farming sector is made up of many small, family-owned farms but there are also a few larger commercial operations. In Romania, larger commercial agricultural operations are foreign owned due to the country's relatively low land prices, fertile soils and access to the European Union market. One highlight of the visit was the stop at Cocosu Rosu Farm, a family-run operation committed to sustainable, traditional agriculture. The farm-to-table philosophy demonstrated how Romanian farmers work collaboratively across the community and maintain their deeply rooted agricultural traditions.

In Bucharest, Fellows explored the legacy of Communism through a visit to the Parliament Palace, one of the largest buildings in the world. This historical perspective provided context for Romania's economic and agricultural policies. Additionally, meetings with the Forum of Professional Farmers and Processors from Romania and a representative from the U.S. Embassy (who is a native of Lincoln) allowed Fellows to discuss trade relationships and challenges facing Romania's agribusiness sector.

A visit to Transylvania offered not only breathtaking landscapes but also insight into the importance of rural development. In the village of Saschiz, Fellows engaged with the ADEPT Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving traditional high-nature-value farming. By integrating biodiversity conservation with rural livelihoods, ADEPT exemplifies how agriculture and environmental sustainability can coexist. A stop in Bran introduced Fellows to the

tourism-driven aspects of Romania's rural economy, particularly through the lens of the legendary Dracula's Castle. This experience highlighted the intersection of history, culture and economic development in rural regions.

One of the most insightful visits in Romania was to Swiss-owned Karpaten Meat Group, the country's largest producer of Angus beef. Fellows learned about the company's vertically integrated approach, from breeding and raising cattle to processing and distribution. This visit emphasized Romania's potential for high-quality meat production and the growing demand for premium beef in European markets. Despite EU subsidies supporting Romanian agriculture, the country still faces challenges in fully utilizing these funds due to bureaucratic hurdles and infrastructure limitations in rural areas.

Hungary: A Glimpse into European Agricultural Innovation

As Fellows crossed the border from Romania into Hungary, stark differences in infrastructure, agricultural policies and economic development became immediately apparent. Hungary's agricultural sector benefits from European Union subsidies, but unlike Romania, it has a more developed infrastructure and a greater focus on agricultural research and technological advancements. The country's well-established food processing industry and export markets, particularly for wine, paprika and livestock genetics, set it apart. One of the seminar's most engaging stops was Semex Hungary, where Fellows learned about dairy bull genetics and precision breeding technology. For its genetic testing, Semex often works with Neogen Genomics, which is headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska. The visit to the Hungarian State Farm was equally fascinating. Formerly a Communist institution, this state-owned farm now

serves as a model for large-scale livestock operations. Fellows toured its horse breeding and dairy facilities, witnessing how Hungary preserves historical breeds while integrating modern technology. Despite the advancements, some questions remained about government



transparency and support for independent farmers. Beyond agriculture, Hungary's rich history and culture left a lasting impression. In Budapest, Fellows explored the historic Castle District, the iconic Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church. One particularly sobering experience was the visit to the House of Terror Museum, which chronicles Hungary's struggle under



fascist and Communist rule. This stark reminder of history emphasized the importance of leadership, resilience and democratic values.

Reflecting on Hungary, Michelle Bose, a LEAD 42 Fellow, noted, "One thing that struck me about our time in Eastern Europe is how the people there don't shy away from and try to bury their violent past. Instead, they seem to use it as a teaching tool in an attempt to never go down that road again."

Hungary's culinary traditions also stood out. Meals were rich in paprika, a staple spice in Hungarian cuisine, and included hearty dishes such as goulash and chicken paprikash. Fellows visited a local market to observe traditional food production and distribution, drawing comparisons to Nebraska's local food movement.



education in shaping future leaders.

At Butor Farm in Lany Wielkie, Fellows observed Poland's "Farmer of the Year" in action. The operation included a biofuels plant, a modern distillery and a diversified approach to production, highlighting the importance of adaptability in an evolving agricultural landscape. "Polish farmers place a strong emphasis on crop diversity and soil health, demonstrating a commitment to long-term sustainability—an approach that could be beneficial to Nebraska's

agricultural industry," reflected Traci Menke, a LEAD 42 Fellow. Beyond agriculture, the historical significance of Poland was deeply moving. A visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was an emotional yet necessary experience, underscoring the importance of remembering history and advocating for human rights. Additionally, Fellows explored Schindler's Factory Museum and the Kazimierz Jewish District, further deepening their understanding of Poland's complex past.

Poland: Balancing Tradition and Progress



The final leg of the journey took Fellows to Poland, a country known for its agricultural diversity and resilience. From the moment they arrived in Krakow, the Nebraska LEAD 42 group was immersed in Poland's unique blend of history and modernization. One of the most striking takeaways was Poland's commitment to sustainable farming. Many of its agricultural enterprises successfully integrate regenerative practices and cooperative farming models, offering potential lessons for Nebraska's producers.

Poland is one of the largest recipients of EU agricultural subsidies, which has fueled modernization efforts across its farming sector. While Poland maintains many small, family-run farms, it also boasts an advanced cooperative farming model, helping producers remain competitive in the global market. The country's focus on sustainable practices and soil health aligns with many of the trends emerging in Nebraska's agricultural industry.

A visit to the Agricultural School of Czernichow, Poland's oldest agricultural institution, provided insight into the country's education system and workforce development efforts. The school's emphasis on hands-on learning and innovation reinforced the value of agricultural



Lessons in Global Leadership

Throughout the International Study/Travel Seminar, Nebraska LEAD 42 Fellows gained a wealth of knowledge about agricultural practices, trade policies and leadership strategies. One common theme across all three countries was the importance of resilience. Whether in Romania's rural villages, Hungary's state farms, or Poland's cooperative agricultural models, the ability to adapt and innovate in the face of change was a key lesson.

"These international experiences are invaluable for our LEAD

Fellows," said Nebraska LEAD Program Director Kurtis Harms. "Seeing agriculture from a global perspective broadens their understanding of challenges and opportunities. It's one thing to read about international markets and policies but witnessing them

firsthand gives our Fellows the tools to be stronger advocates and leaders for Nebraska agriculture."

As the Nebraska LEAD Program continues its mission to develop informed, engaged leaders, the experiences gained from this international seminar will undoubtedly shape the Fellows' future contributions to agriculture and rural leadership. The program's commitment to fostering global awareness ensures that Nebraska's agricultural industry remains competitive and forward-thinking in an increasingly interconnected world. The lessons learned in Romania, Hungary and Poland will continue to influence Fellows' leadership journeys, helping them navigate the evolving landscape of modern agriculture with confidence and vision.

Nebraska LEAD Class 43 Explores U.S. Agriculture and Policy on National Study/Travel Seminar

Nebraska LEAD Class 43 embarked on an eye-opening National Study/Travel Seminar from February 5-14, 2025, journeying across key agricultural and policy hubs in Kansas City, Washington, D.C., Chicago and Moline, Illinois. This 10-day experience provided Fellows with firsthand exposure to national agricultural businesses, policy discussions and industry leaders shaping the future of American agriculture.

Kansas City: A Hub for Agricultural Business and Innovation

The seminar kicked off in Kansas City, a historic center of agricultural trade and business. Fellows visited MyCo Planet Mushrooms, where they saw how a woman-owned business is making strides in organic mushroom production. They learned about small-scale sustainable farming from Juniper Hill Farms, where diversification strategies like commercial kitchens and garden centers help stabilize farm income.

The Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City provided insights into the city's deep-rooted agricultural connections, with a focus on maintaining an ag-friendly economic environment. Fellows also engaged with Agricultural Future of America, which works to foster leadership among young professionals in agriculture. Visits to the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Kansas City Food Hub highlighted the intersection of agriculture with local business and logistics. At the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, economist Francisco Scott provided an economic outlook on agriculture, reinforcing that despite market fluctuations, the industry remains resilient. Fellows concluded their time in Kansas City with a discussion at the EPA's Region 7 offices, where they addressed pressing environmental regulations impacting agriculture, including herbicide restrictions and water quality concerns.



At the Embassy of Canada, Fellows explored cross-border trade relations and the shared agricultural challenges between the two nations. Fellows were able to hear firsthand how dependent the U.S. and Canada are on each other and reinforced how vital strong trade relationships are for Nebraska agriculture. A highlight of the D.C. experience was the visit to Capitol Hill, where Fellows met with Nebraska Senators Pete Ricketts and Deb Fischer. Senator Fischer challenged the group to consider where spending cuts could be made in government programs they personally utilize, sparking a discussion on fiscal responsibility in agriculture.

Weather disruptions led to schedule changes, but the class still experienced the legislative process in action by watching the Senate's confirmation hearing of Tulsi Gabbard, the new U.S. Director of National Intelligence. The seminar concluded with a visit to the Embassy of Spain, where Fellows compared Nebraska's agriculture sector to Spain's, learning about trade relationships and market trends.



Chicago & Moline: Urban Agriculture, Food Systems, and Machinery Innovations

Chicago's diverse agricultural landscape was a surprise to many Fellows. The Greater Chicago Food Depository, which distributes 20 million pounds of food to the

city's food-insecure populations, demonstrated the essential role agriculture plays in urban food systems.

A visit to the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS) showcased an innovative education model that blends classroom learning with hands-on agricultural training. The Fellows were impressed agricultural education opportunities exist for students in urban areas like Chicago.

Fellows then toured Nufarm, an agricultural chemical company, and visited with CHS, a leader in ag technology and equipment. These meetings underscored the importance of research and development in keeping American agriculture competitive on a global scale.

The final leg of the seminar took place in Moline, Illinois, where Fellows toured John Deere's manufacturing facilities. They witnessed cutting-edge advancements in machinery, including automation and precision agriculture tools designed to increase efficiency and sustainability on farms.

A Transformative Experience for Nebraska's Future Leaders

Reflecting on the seminar, Nebraska LEAD Program Director Kurtis Harms emphasized the significance of these national experiences: "By stepping outside of Nebraska, our Fellows gain valuable perspectives on how agricultural businesses, companies and associations operate on a national scale. Exposure to key policy discussions and industry leaders prepares them to be informed advocates and decision-makers for our state's agricultural future." For many Fellows, this experience marked their first in-depth engagement with national policy and global trade discussions. The lessons learned and connections made during this seminar will undoubtedly influence their roles as leaders in agriculture and rural communities. This immersive experience reinforced the importance of staying engaged in policy, advocating for agriculture and embracing innovation to ensure a strong future for the industry.



Washington, D.C.: Policy and Advocacy at the Nation's Capital

In Washington, D.C., Fellows stepped into the heart of agricultural policy. They met with representatives from CropLife America, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the National Pork Producers Council and the American Farm Bureau Federation, each offering different perspectives on pressing issues such as the Farm Bill, Proposition 12 and agricultural labor policies.

LEADing the Way

April Delsing (LEAD 42) accepted a new position as Solutions Architect at Microsoft. **Joan Ruskamp** (LEAD 28) was appointed by Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, to the Cattlemen's Beef Board and was elected to serve on the Operating Committee. **Kathy Boellstorff** (LEAD 5) was reelected to the Southeast Community College Board of Governors for another four-year term. **Jake Werner** (LEAD 42) accepted a new position as Senior Merchandiser with Norfolk Crush, LLC. **Brennan Costello** (LEAD 43) will start with Invest Nebraska in May leading The Combine.

Congratulations and Condolences

The Nebraska LEAD Program mourns the passing of and extends our sympathies to the families of **Kathy Votaw Dubs** (LEAD 1) for the passing of her husband in August, **Jim Gocke** (LEAD 1) for the passing of his father in December, **David Nelson** (LEAD 14) for the passing of his wife in February and the family of **Kent Fichtner** (LEAD 21) on his passing in March.

Congratulations to: **Kelby & Cortney Sudbeck** (LEAD 42) who were married on December 7, 2024; **Jared & Courtney Stauffer** (LEAD 43) on February 8, 2025; **Boone** (LEAD 39) & Sarah **McAfee** on March 14, 2025. **Matt** (LEAD 42) and Hailey **Oswald** on the birth of their daughter, Prestyn Mary on November 26, 2024; **Sidney** (LEAD 42) and Heath **Robinson** on the birth of their son, Briggsdon Jarad on December 4, 2024; **Lily** (LEAD 43) and Theisen **Ziehmer** on the birth of their daughter Jessie Jane on December 13, 2024; **Nic** (LEAD 42) and Casey **Grams** on the birth of their daughter, Andi Colette on March 3, 2025; **David** (LEAD 40) and Tarryn **Moss** on the birth of their son Merrick on March 5, 2025.

Our Bold Beginnings

"I would describe the Nebraska LEAD Program as captivating. Every seminar you attend seems to pull you deeper into the program. When you're there it's fantastic, when you're not you miss it. You quickly find that LEAD will be a journey filled with opportunities for personal and professional growth, and a very intentional path building you into a better leader for the future of agriculture. As I reflect on my time in the program thus far, I'm blessed with the knowledge I've gained, the connections I've made and the insights I've developed. As I continue with the LEAD program, I am eager to delve deeper into the many aspects of agriculture presented in the program and look for how I might give back to the program and my agricultural community as a leader in the future."

— **Troy Kane, Carleton**



"The Nebraska LEAD Program has exposed me to aspects of agriculture that I would not have otherwise understood or recognized as being a big part of what I consider everyday Nebraska life. I have gained a respect and understanding of what makes peoples' views differ from my own and hope to use this experience as a stepping stone to help Nebraska agriculture and more specifically my small rural community I call home."

— **Trevor Spath, Kearney**



"People often say the Nebraska LEAD Program is transformational, but until you experience it firsthand, it's hard to grasp just how impactful it truly is. In just my first year, I have gained invaluable knowledge, expanded my leadership potential and developed a deeper understanding of



agriculture's role in Nebraska and beyond. The opportunity to learn from my LEAD 43 peers and a diverse network of industry professionals has been incredibly rewarding. Through thought-provoking discussions, hands-on experiences and exposure to different perspectives, I've been challenged to rethink what I know about agriculture and leadership. The program pushes fellows to analyze issues on local, national and global levels, preparing us to be forward-thinking leaders in the industry and in our communities. I am grateful for this experience and excited for what's still to come!"

— **Sophia Svanda, Nehawka**

"The Nebraska LEAD Program has provided an invaluable opportunity to gain insights into the heart of Nebraska's economy. Through LEAD I have connected with a diverse group of peers, mentors and industry professionals. The alumni, representing various sectors, have generously shared their knowledge, offering invaluable guidance and insights. The people the LEAD experience has surrounded me with have challenged me in the best way possible. The leadership development experiences in LEAD have been transformative, expanding my perspectives, enhancing my problem-solving abilities and deepening my commitment to positively impacting Nebraska's agricultural landscape. Nebraska's agricultural success is built upon the contributions of numerous visionaries dedicated to advancing agriculture for future generations. As each generation is presented with the opportunity to steward well their portion of Nebraska's agricultural timeline, LEAD continues to develop well-informed, knowledgeable, agricultural leadership advocating for and advancing Nebraska agriculture. It has been an honor to be part of this remarkable program, and I eagerly await the learning experiences in year two."

— **Amy Warner, Edison**



104 Ag Com Bldg
PO Box 830940
Lincoln, NE 68583-0940

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Use the QR Code at Right
to Nominate a Future
LEAD Class 44 Fellow
Or contact the LEAD office via email at
leadprogram@unl.edu or call 402-472-6810.
The application deadline is June 15, 2025.
Seminars begin fall 2025.



Support LEAD.
Support agriculture.
Join the NALC.

With a donation of \$100 or more, you can become a member of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council (NALC). Your donation provides instant benefit to our annual operating budget and enables us to continue to prepare and motivate leaders for Nebraska's agricultural industry every day.

Mail Checks Payable to: Nebraska LEAD Program
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(LEAD's fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30.)



The Allen G. Blezek
2025 Friend of LEAD Award

The 2025 recipient of the Allen G. Blezek Friend of LEAD Award is Dr. Terry Hejny. Dr. Hejny (LEAD 20) retired in July 2024 after 17 years of providing outstanding leadership to our program. Among his many accomplishments as director of our Nebraska LEAD Program, Terry successfully navigated a pandemic and increased our endowed fellowships from two to 11.