



Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council

## 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 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.

For more information, visit us online at [lead.unl.edu](http://lead.unl.edu) or on social media.



## Participant 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, 2025, for Nebraska LEAD Class 44 is rapidly approaching.

Questions? Need application materials?

Contact: Kurtis Harms, Director  
Nebraska LEAD Program  
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P.O. Box 830940  
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Email: [leadprogram@unl.edu](mailto:leadprogram@unl.edu)

Visit our web page at [lead.unl.edu](http://lead.unl.edu).

Application for Nebraska LEAD Program Request.

I am a/an:  Producer  Agribusiness person (You may check both.)

Please email or send application materials immediately.

Please move my earlier application forward for consideration this year.

I am not interested at this time, but keep my name on your mailing list.

Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Please update my mailing address as noted below.

Please print clearly all following information. Please check:  Ms.  Mr.  Mx.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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City

State

Zip

Phone

Home

Mobile

Email

Personal

Work



**WANTED:**  
Thirty highly motivated Nebraskans involved in agriculture who want to develop their leadership skills.

You are invited to apply for  
**LEAD Class 44**  
Beginning Fall of 2025  
Application deadline: June 15, 2025



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln



**Dear Friend,**

Since 1981, over 1,100 individuals who were passionate about developing their leadership skills have gone on to complete the Nebraska LEAD Program. Since the program's inception, LEAD graduates have excelled in a variety of leadership roles at the local, state, national and international levels. These LEAD graduates accepted the call and rose to the challenge to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

There are also those individuals who may have had similar passions to be a part of this elite group but never made this dream a reality. The excuses are abundant: "I don't have the time. Maybe next year. I'll do it someday. The business can't go on without me."

If this sounds like you, just know, I was once in your shoes. I kept kicking the can down the road until I was all out of excuses. I knew it was time to make an investment in myself and in my future. As a native Nebraskan, I also felt a strong calling to serve our state's agricultural industry. I graduated from LEAD Class 40 in March 2023 and experienced the program's mission firsthand, which is "to prepare and motivate men and women in agriculture for more effective leadership."

Our lives will always be busy. If you're truly interested in shaping Nebraska agriculture, don't delay. Apply to the Nebraska LEAD Program today! If you have any questions about the program or its mission, contact me at (402) 472 - 6810 or send an email to [leadprogram@unl.edu](mailto:leadprogram@unl.edu). You can also learn more about the Nebraska LEAD Program on our website: [lead.unl.edu](http://lead.unl.edu).



Kurtis Harms  
Director  
LEAD 40 Alumnus

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NEBRASKA LEAD PROGRAM  
Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council

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