

The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

SPRING 2015

LEAD Alumni Annual Conference, January 17



Karen gives keynote address at the conference.



Dr. Kathleen Brooks, Univ. of NE, Agricultural Economics.



Dr. Allen Featherstone, K State Univ., Agricultural Economics.

Karen Ross, LEAD 6, was the keynote speaker for the Annual Conference banquet on January 17 in Kearney. She currently serves at the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. She's been active politically most of her life, serving as Chief of Staff to U.S. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack, and working with the California Assn. of Grape Growers as well as working on the Bob Kerry Campaign for Governor and other political races while she lived in Nebraska.

Karen stated that California has 80,000 farms, 95% of these are family owned. She also stated that 2/3 of fruits and vegetables consumed in the United States come from California. Some of the issues that the agriculture producers are facing in California are in regards to water. Approximately 2/3 of the precipitation annually comes into northern CA north of Sacramento and is taken to other areas by a canal system. Most of population is south of Sacramento. Unfortunately this canal system is deteriorating. For the first time ever they have farming areas where no water was allocated. Part of the problem is that producers went from row crops to permanent crops which need more water. CA has a Mediterranean weather system. Ground waters have saved them this far, but is not a sustainable model. Last year CA officials worked on a water action plan. Emergency legislation was passed so more dollars went for assistance in water training and infrastructure. A water bond passed for conservation projects, storage etc. as no infrastructure has been updated for many years and upgrades are needed. Water quality and availability is a global problem.

Another issue they face is that schools and other entities are being built in farming communities sometimes in the middle of a field causing problems for farmers in those areas. They are starting an education campaign so that urban people can understand the rural



Sean Minahan, Lamson, Dugan and Murray at the podium and Chris Muehlberger from EPA, defining waters of the US.



Chris Barron, President and Director of Operations at Carson and Barron Farms, Inc., Profitability and the Future of Agriculture.

Moe Russell, Russell Consulting Group, Contributor to Farm Journal on how to navigate the turbulent times ahead.



Dr. Todd Peterson, Winfield Technology, Cutting Edge on Farm Technology.

areas they now live and work in.

Although the same issues, water, land, urban vs rural are problems everywhere, Karen still has her “dream”. She would like to have consumers look at farmers as “rock stars.” She has started a project which allows chefs and farmers to work together. Having the consumer identify with the farmer who produces is a huge public benefit for all concerned.

Karen wanted to say “hi” to her Nebraska friends and LEAD fellows. She loves coming “home” and catching up with friends and relatives. From all indications, observing the table of the LEAD 6 classmates that came to hear her, it looked like a good time was had by all!

If you want to check out any of the presentations given at the conference, be sure to visit our new website at <http://www.neleadalumni.com> and view their power points!

LEAD VI Classmates



Front row from left: Karen Barrett-Ross, Pam Andersen. Back row: Jan Jorgensen, Mark Holoubek, Mike Williams and Ed McClure.

CLASS NOTES

Dave Nielsen, LEAD XXI, was elected to the Nebraska Farm Bureau State Board of Directors, and Tony Hindman, Lead XVII, was elected to a six year term on the board of directors for Northwest Rural Public Power District in Hay Springs, NE.

Congrats Tony and Dave!!!

LEAD Alumni Annual Conference Coordinator



Phil Ramsel, LEAD
Class XXX

Congratulations to Phil Ramsel who was recently appointed as our “first” LEAD Alumni Annual Conference Coordinator. As part of this new position, Phil will be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the activities of the LEAD Alumni class in charge of the annual conference. Phil and his LEAD XXX committee

worked together to present the 2014 annual conference so he has experience in all of the aspects of this position. Thank you Phil for taking on this new task!

Thank you LEAD XXXI for a Job Well Done!



LEAD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2015 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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RORIC PAULMAN(7) - PIONEER HI-BRED - SARGENT IRRIGATION, INC.
STANDARD NUTRITION CO. - UNION BANK - WINFIELD SOLUTIONS

Nancy's Notes



Nancy Eberle

By the time you read this newsletter, 36 of our LEAD Alums will be completing our International Travel Study Seminar to China and Hong Kong. We will have lots of information – and pictures – to share with you in the June newsletter!

Although it seems like a long way off, included in this newsletter is information about the Ag Adventure Tour “Agway on the Byways”. We have great tour stops and activities planned for this year. If you are willing to come along and share your “story” with our friends from Omaha, we’d love to have you. Mark your calendar now for July 9-11, or better yet, send in the registration form now. You will be glad you did!

In the last newsletter we mentioned we were working on the Leadership Summit along with 4 other organizations, all of which have “alumni”. This opportunity to network with each other and to catch up with our own group is a must do. All of you should have received a copy of the brochure for the day in your mail recently. In case you misplaced it, the registration form is included with this

newsletter as well. Please join us on April 16 in Lincoln.

Finally, at our annual meeting in January, we came up with ways we can spread the work of the organization by initializing new positions. More info is in the newsletter, but for the time being, I have agreed to stay on as Executive Secretary for 2015 and hope someone will feel willing to pick up the position sometime soon. I do enjoy working with your Board of Directors and all of you!

That’s it for now. Until next time LEAD on!

Outstanding Alumni Winner for 2015 - Dennis Kahl



Doug Saathoff, Treasurer of the LEAD Alumni Board presenting the Outstanding Alum for 2015 award to Dennis Kahl (LEAD IX) of Seward.

The Outstanding LEAD Alumni for 2015 is Dennis Kahl (LEAD 9) of Seward NE. He received the award at the annual LEAD Alumni Conference on January 16, 2015. Presenting the award to Dennis was Doug Saathoff, Treasurer of the NE LEAD Alumni Board. Doug read the following quotes from nomination letters received on Dennis' behalf:

"One of Dennis best attitudes is he is always willing to help others. He will put his work aside and help someone else. He may have to do his work at midnight, but he feels his calling is to help others advance in the area of agriculture, community development and technology. He is a leader in so many ways."

"Dennis was a charter member of pops partner's 4-H club. He has always promoted ag. And 4-H and the last years he has worked a lot with leadership development and community development."

"I would like to nominate Dennis Kahl from LEAD IX for the "Outstanding LEAD Alumni Award." I know that Dennis has been very instrumental in developing leadership for small rural towns through his work as an Extension Educator for Seward County."

I'd like to nominate Dennis Kahl, Extension Educator from Seward County. I have known Dennis for many, many years, primarily in his role as Extension Educator, but also as a friend and co-worker."

Dennis serves on the Broadband Commission for the State of NE. He began down this path way before "broad-band conversation" was cool however. He and another extension educator coordinated the effort to fund and travel with the "BitMobile" which was a vehicle equipped with the latest electronic equipment and which Dennis and other traveled throughout the state bringing technology to those who perhaps had not had the opportunity to view the latest and greatest technology available. Currently with his work on the broadband initiative, he is out in the public talking about the need for broadband and coaching communities and local governmental officials on how to implement a broadband initiative in their own area.

Unite16 is a new venture that Dennis and the local economic developer, Jon Janks started. Dennis has worked with youth for many, many years, supporting and mentoring them in their various entrepreneurship endeavors and this program, Unite 16, which is in Seward County, will bring business and entrepreneurship education into the school system.

All in all, I think Dennis has shown his leadership skills not only in his position as an extension educator, but as a mentor, instructor, coach and friend to multiple entities all across the state. I support him in my nomination for Outstanding LEAD Alum for 2014."

Dennis serves on the Seward Chamber of Commerce, is a part of the Southeast Nebraska Resource Network (SERN), helps to coordinate the annual Seward County Business Fair, helped to develop the "Leading Locally" program which is a leadership based 9 month program being used throughout the State of NE., and much, much more. Dennis and his wife Nancy live in Seward. He is a Lifetime member of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni and was a graduate of LEAD Class IX.



Outgoing President's Message



Mark Holoubek, LEAD VI

The State of Your Association!

The State of your LEAD Alumni Association is strong with 555 lifetime members and 37 annual members. Our financial position is stronger than it has ever been. Over the period of 1994 through 2014, your association has donated more than \$80,000.00 cash to the NE LEAD Program.

Let me take this opportunity to thank every LEAD Alumni Board member that has ever served this great association. I want to reiterate my appreciation to all of the members of the current board for your service to the LEAD Alumni this past year and for your support as we have made the necessary changes to staff for 2015. For those of you unable to attend the annual meeting, it was determined that we could in fact apportion a small part of our investment portfolio to correct the deficiencies discovered in our compensation for staff in the past going forward. Please note that we voted to accept the newly defined job descriptions for our Executive Secretary and our Executive Treasurer and added three (3) specialized positions for 2015. We are looking to fill the media consultant position as soon as possible. The International/National Travel study seminar coordinator will be filled for 2016. Thank you again to Nancy and Tim for the great job this past year! Karen Barrett Ross, the Secretary of Agriculture of the State of California was very effective with her keynote address which developed a standing ovation for her service to Agriculture and proud representation of the NE LEAD Program as a LEAD VI graduate.

Congratulations to the LEAD XXXI class for their hard work to complete a successful annual conference. Lastly, my wife and I are excited to join 36 LEAD Alumni and spouses as we travel to China March 4 – 16 for the Alumni International Study Seminar!

Kim Peterson, John Nelson, Ruth Redding and Susan Nelson will be joining the Alumni board in 2015.

Please accept my appreciation for the privilege of being able to serve as your president this past year!

Meet Your 2015 Executive Board



From left to right: Doug Saathoff (LEAD XXV), Treasurer, Anita Keys (LEAD XVII), Secretary, Marv Reichert (LEAD XXX), President, Kerry Glandt (LEAD XIV), Vice President.

Nebraska Leadership Summit

April 16, 2015

Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center
Lincoln, NE

The best way to predict your future is to create it.
~ Abraham Lincoln



co-sponsored by



Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association



Please join us at the Leadership Summit on April 16. Not only will you be able to network with alums from the other organizations, hear nationally acclaimed speakers, and enjoy a tour of the new Innovation Park, we will also have time for a LEAD Alumni update from 10 – 11 am that morning. We will be able to hear about the “State of the Alumni Association” as well as updates on the new positions offered by the Board of Directors, the China Travel Seminar and other “news”. Register now as space will be limited.

REGISTRATION FORM

2015 Nebraska Leadership Summit

STEP ONE: Your Information (please print)

Name _____

Company/Organization Name _____

Address, City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Check One: (You must be an alumni of one of the programs below to attend)

- ☐ State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska
- ☐ Nebraska LEAD/LEAD Alumni Assoc.
- ☐ Nebraska Farm Bureau
- ☐ Nebraska Hospital Association
- ☐ Nebraska Bankers Association

STEP TWO: Payment Information

☐ Registration fee **\$75**

☐ Pay by Check (Please make check payable to Nebraska Bankers Association)

☐ Pay by Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

STEP THREE: Register

ONLINE: <http://bit.ly/Leadership-Summit>

FAX: Registration Form to (402) 474-2148

EMAIL: nbaeducation@nebankers.org

MAIL: Nebraska Bankers Association
ATTN: Nebraska Leadership Summit Registration
P.O. Box 80008
Lincoln, NE 68501-0008

PHONE: Call the Nebraska Bankers Association
Education Center (402) 474-1555

Registration deadline is April 9, 2015.

Questions? Contact your alumni program representative:

State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska
Roberta Pinkerton, Executive Director
(402) 474-4422 rpinkerton@nechamber.org

Nebraska Hospital Association
Jon Borton, Vice President, Educational Services
(402) 742-8147 jborton@nebraskahospitals.org

Nebraska LEAD/LEAD Alumni Association
Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary NE LEAD Alumni Assoc.
(402) 736-4691 neberle@mainstaycomm.net

Nebraska Farm Bureau
Adam Peterson, Regional Director
(402) 853-3467 adamp@nefb.org

Nebraska Bankers Association
Ron Arrigo, Senior Vice President
(402) 474-1555 ron.arrigo@nebankers.org



President's Message



Marv Reichert, LEAD XXX

As your new Board President and member of LEAD XXX, I would like to say Hello, and introduce myself and my family. My wife Janet, an X-ray Tech, and I live near Elm Creek and will celebrate our 40th anniversary in May. We have three children, Hubble a Dentist in Gretna, Hilary an Occupational Therapist in Kearney, and Haylee, an OEM rep. for Baldwin Filters. I have farmed since my freshman year at Kearney State College, where I earned a B.S. in Business Administration. Our operation includes a variety of row crops, several small Ag related businesses and 25 acres of hand-picked sweet corn, our own mini LEAD.

First of all I'd like to thank past President Mark Holoubek, continuing Secretary Anita Keys and Treasurer Doug Saathoff, as well as Executive Secretary Nancy Eberle and Executive Treasurer Tim Graff for all their Association work this past year. I would also like to welcome Kerry Glandt as your new Vice President, and THANK the Alumni Board for allowing me serve as your next President. Please accept this brief recap of 2014 and preview of 2015 as my Presidential Message.

At the annual January LEAD Alumni meeting, Mark commended the Board, stating that the Association has donated over \$80,000 to the LEAD program. Tim presented a strong financial report, showing various investments of over \$146,000, an amount that's getting close to allowing your organization to fund some really relevant projects. We also adopted a budget, now with five paid positions, of \$29,490.00. If you recall from last year's message, Nancy Eberle had intended to step down from her position at the January 2015 meeting. While trying to find a replacement, we redefined her role and responsibilities, split some duties to the Executive Treasurer and developed job descriptions for not only the Executive Secretary and Treasurer but also three new "special" positions. These include coordinators for the Annual Conference, Outreach/Social Media, and International/National Travel Seminars. By separating and defining job duties of each, we hope to make them less overwhelming and more appealing for those wanting to serve. In the interim, Nancy has agreed to serve for the next year with the offer to mentor the new replacement(s). THANK YOU Nancy, for over 20 years you have literally been the engine that makes this whole organization work. your commitment is exemplary.

In other news, there will be 36 traveling to China on the International Travel Study Seminar, March 4-16, quite an Alumnus perk. Congratulations to Dennis Kahl LEAD IX from Seward, who received the Outstanding Alum for 2015. Also, congratulations to the graduates of LEAD XXXIII as well as the Allen G. Blezek, Friend of LEAD award winner, Betty J. Majors. As one of the first board members of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Council, she served in many leadership roles statewide, and nationally.

While I was probably one of the oldest to participate, I was not new to LEAD. I applied for one of the earlier classes, but was not accepted. In retrospect I realize that was a blessing. I was always going to reapply, but living gets in the way and I never did. It took a LEAD Alum (thank you Mick Reynolds- LEAD XXIII) to give me the "nudge" and encouragement to apply for LEAD XXX. What a blessing, we had a close class and I learned so much from my classmates, both socially and intellectually. They really did teach an old dog a few new tricks and I consider them friends for life. The same can be said with my involvement in both LEAD and the Alumni Association; what an experience.

Regardless of your LEAD class number, everyone joined to become more effective leaders to be able to make a difference in whatever cause they chose. And as many of you know, it's much easier to effect change from inside an organization. So "LEAD," join an organization, champion a cause, assume a leadership role, start a Legacy, get involved and committed - those positions are there for the taking if you "just do it." Thinking never accomplished anything; it's only in the doing that progress is made.

Finally, "TIME" is the most important thing you can give or receive. Please be cognizant and respectful of what the program and the time of those involved have contributed to you. Give the same commitment to the Alumni organization as LEAD gave to you. As a PREMIERE leadership program with over 1000 alumni, there are less than 600 current members - we can do better. So, let this be my "NUDGE" to encourage those who are already a member of the Association to get involved. For those nonmembers, commit, don't wait till tomorrow or 25 years like I did. Please consider an Alumni membership today. LEAD and life, has taught me the importance and satisfaction of "paying it forward." Please do.



Betty J. Majors Receives the Allen G. Blezek Friend of LEAD Award

Betty J. Majors, Osceola, Nebraska was presented the Allen G. Blezek Friend of LEAD Award at the annual banquet Friday, March 13, 2015 in Lincoln, NE.

Betty J. Majors received her Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education from Oklahoma State University. Meeting in college, Betty married Jim Majors, a Vocational Agriculture major, in 1948. Betty's degree was put to work with her teaching in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Gresham and Shelby with their move to Nebraska. It was in 1956 that Betty and Jim began their farming operation, which continues to this day.

Betty retired from teaching to become the Polk County Superintendent of Schools for 12 years. It was shortly after retirement from County School Superintendent that Dr. Jim Hoerner, organizer for the first LEAD program, asked Betty to join. Betty was one of the first board members and was, according to Betty, elected chairwoman of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council at her first meeting. She is, and has always been, a strong supporter of the program.

It was after the beginning of the LEAD program that Betty served 2 terms for the National WIFE organization—Women Involved in Farm Economics. Betty helped form many new chapters of WIFE during this time and spoke to many of the organizations nation-wide as well as Congress offering testimony regarding current farm policies and the hardships facing many farm families. And at that time also earned a guest appearance on the Phil Donahue show, a talk show program in the late 70's. She was found to be an effective communicator in whatever endeavor she chose—from offering testimony on school law as County Superintendent to testimony before Congress on our nation's agricultural policy.

Betty was accompanied in Lincoln by her daughter, Ruth Olsen of Kearney, and grandson Ryan Olsen of Lincoln. Congratulations to Betty, our 2015 Allen G. Blezek Friend of LEAD recipient!

WANTED

The Board of Directors has two additional compensated positions they are hoping to fill in 2015. If either of these positions are of interest to you, or if you need more information, please let either Marv Reichert or Nancy Eberle know.

LEAD ALUMNI OUTREACH SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Duties: Overall management and coordination of the LEAD Alumni Outreach Social Media such as:

- Develop a plan to raise awareness of LEAD Alumni activities and accomplishments
- Develop communication on items like – promotions, career highlights and changes, weddings, births, deaths, LEAD class reunions and “in the news”
- Develop a blog site and maintain blog writers
- Develop a plan to expand Facebook entries
- Develop an active twitter account for the Alumni
- Develop an Instagram portal and maintain content

And

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL STUDY TOUR COORDINATOR

Duties: Overall development and coordination of the alternating national / international LEAD Alumni Travel Study Seminars every other year

- Develop tour destination with LEAD Alumni Board and Executive Secretary
- Coordinate approval of travel consultant with Board and executive committee
- Contact travel consultant and manage itinerary of Study Travel Seminar.
- Assist travel agent with contacting all International or National Travel Study speakers and hosts prior to the tour
- Coordinate fund raising and sponsorships
- Coordinate all activities while on tour
- Attend study seminar as a part of coordinator duties
- Assign daily reporters and photographers and compile that information upon return
- Serve as travel guide in addition to travel consultant for tour



Join Us for the “Agway on the Byways”

2015 Ag Adventure Tour, July 9-11, 2015

Draft Itinerary:

July 9, 2015:

7:30 am Depart from Lincoln

Travel to Nebraska State Fairgrounds in Grand Island NE for a tour of the new Raising Nebraska Exhibit and a walking tour of the State Fairgrounds.

Lunch at Flashback Café in Ravenna NE – discuss local issues with local economic development official.

Halsey NE for a tour of the State 4-H camp there, visit with the camp counselor, two local extension educators and with youth from a lego robotic 4-H club. If all is in place, experience their new zip line!

Brewster for evening meal at Uncle Bucks Lodge where we will meet our hosts for a “home stay” event. Participants go home with their hosts for the evening and the next morning.

July 10, 2015:

At Noon, back at Thedford at the Lonely Grille for lunch and discussion. Then on to Pearson Livestock Equipment for a tour and overview of this amazing facility.

Ogallala – experience the underground workings of Lake McConaughy, meet with officials at the lake and view the interactive displays in their visitor center.

Ag Adventure Tour: Agway on the Byways JULY 9-11, 2015



Lake McConaugh Water Plume

This year, we will be visiting a variety of agricultural-based entities in west central Nebraska. If you want to build rural to urban bridges, while enjoying great conversation, great connections and great food, join us July 9-11 on this year's Ag Adventure Tour.

When: July 9-11, 2015

- Board the motor coach around 7:30 am Friday morning July 9 at the Farm Credit Offices in Lincoln
- Return to Lincoln by 5 p.m. on Saturday the 11th.

Where: Grand Island, Ravenna, Halsey, Thedford, Ogallala, North Platte, Lexington, York. Overnight at home stays July 9, Stagecoach Inn in Ogallala July 10.



Front Street - Ogallala

How:

Fill out the registration form below and return to Nancy Eberle, along with a check for \$150 made out to LEAD – Ag Tour. Contact Nancy at neberle@mainstaycomm.net or (402) 736-4691 or Lynda Shafer at lshafer@omahachamber.org or at (402) 978-7928 for more information.

NAME _____

TITLE _____ COMPANY _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

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RETURN CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM BY JUNE 20 TO: NANCY EBERLE, LEAD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 1 520 ROAD 20, BRADSHAW, NE 68319

The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association
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Bradshaw, NE 68319
neberle@mainstaycomm.net

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NETWORK!

Keep the spirit of the
Nebraska LEAD
Program ALIVE!

Update

Update is the official newsletter of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association. The purpose of the publication is to keep you, a vital part of the LEAD network, linked with fellow alumni!