

The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

FALL 2017

Board Showcases Clint Shipman LEAD XXXV



Clint Shipman, LEAD XXXV

The seasons of growth during a lifetime can come at the most unexpected times. I have never been a planner. I know what I need to get done and usually wait until the last minute to do it. Until it comes to the important seasons of farming, then I'm careful to place importance in timing and planning. Though, even with the best of planning there are things that come up in life that we can't control. What I can't control are the things that I try to hedge my risk on. The things a person can't control such as the weather, the decision a cow or sow will make, or the unexpected, challenging seasons of life are what keep our lives and professions in agriculture interesting.

I work on a small cattle and crop operation with my dad and sister. We care for pasture and no-till ground in our operation near Red Cloud, Nebraska and Smith Center, Kansas. It always amazes me that when I cross that southern border I'm bound to run into someone with a southern accent that contrasts mine as much as the sandy soils of the Republican River basin contrast the rolling hills of northern Kansas.

I sell Fontanelle Hybrid corn, soybeans and sorghum. It is a way for me to be diversified in my operation, one way to leverage against low commodity prices during seasons of economic challenges like we are facing right now. The relationships I have formed while working with farmers in my area have been life changing. Each day is a new adventure of problem solving. This brings me to the impact the Nebraska LEAD program had on my life.

I have always loved experiencing and learning about different people. The twenty-nine individuals in my class, along with spouses, were the very first people that I was able to grow close with through many seminars and tours. The importance of the knowledge gained in my LEAD experience pales in comparison to the relationship and connections made with class members, people across the great state of Nebraska, the country and into Southern Asia (China, Laos, and Thailand.)

The FFA Creed comes to mind many times during challenges I experience in agriculture or when I'm talking with anyone who is facing challenges in life:

"I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny."
—E.M. Tiffany 'The FFA Creed'

The words of E.M. Tiffany solidify the greatest pieces of agriculture along with the trials that are faced. They also pinpoint the different seasons that occur in someone's growth in agriculture. In August of 2014, I had no idea the Nebraska LEAD program existed. Not knowing this, I had no reason to even apply. Until, one of my best friends was accepted into LEAD Class 34. Witnessing his experiences from the outside, I was interested to learn more about this "thing" that he devoted so much time towards. Through his encouragement and the research I did of the program, I had no choice but to apply. In July of 2015, at an interview in Grand Island, I was greeted with the first high placed, firm hand shake and double thumbs up by Dr. Terry Hejny. Two months later, my new journey began and in the words of Dr. Hejny, "the rest is history".

The personal understanding, public speaking, confidence, and networking opportunities that allowed me to grow as a leader and person are immeasurable. I never thought I would visit Washington D.C. again after a trip during my sophomore year of high school through the 4-H's Washington Leadership Focus. To my surprise, I visited two more times in a six month period, first with LEAD and then again with Corn Leaders representing the Nebraska Corn Growers, at Corn Congress in July of 2016. It was at this point I recognized things were coming full circle in understanding the different seasons of growth in my life.

I grew up on our small farm south of Red Cloud. I started my 4-H career at age 8, and then grew in my agricultural leadership career by participating in FFA, in junior high and high school. Then, in what I would call a whole other type of planting season occurred within myself when I became a part of LEAD program. It prepared me to take on the next adventure, not knowing what it may be I continue to challenge myself to grow. What I do control is my ability to always be open minded to the next opportunity and having a vision to seek out the people to help take on whatever is next. The network of friends and agricultural leaders from across the state, which I met through the LEAD program, has given me a foundation of support in all my future endeavors. Individually, all LEAD alumni have been given tools to succeed. Collectively, we have a network to take on the next season, whenever it may come.

2017 Alaska National Travel Study Seminar - August 19-29th, 2017

Day 1 – Sat. Aug. 19th – Arrive Juneau Alaska



We arrived in Juneau at 9:38 pm Alaska Time (3 hours earlier than CST). We were picked up by our bus and taken to the Westmark Baranof Hotel where we would stay for our time in Juneau.

Pat & Larry Heyen

Day 2 – Sun. Aug. 20th – Juneau

We started the day with a walk down to the cable car tramway that would carry us up Mt. Roberts for spectacular views of the seaport, the city of Juneau and the ocean passage way into Juneau.

Just after lunch we boarded the motor-coach that carried us

to where we boarded the boat that took us on a whale-watching cruise. One of the highlights of Day 2 and the entire trip was the whale watching cruise in Gastineau Channel off of Juneau. We were treated to 8-10 humpback whales bubble net feeding around our boat. The lead whale goes deep and exhales a large bubble blow which disorients the herring and as they swim to the surface the other whales synchronize and form a circle, as the fish come to the surface the whales all come out of the water at the same time to consume the herring. It is a rare site and we were very lucky to witness this type of feeding.



The motor-coach then carried us to the Mendenhall Glacier where we viewed the opulent blue colors of the glacier which is the result of many years of accumulated and compressed snow that is fed by 17 million acres of ice field above the glacier that flow towards the ocean and “calve” off into the sea.

We ended the day with a “Salmon Bake”.

Fred & Kay Meyer

Nathan & JoLene Bartels

Day 3 – Mon. Aug. 21st – Juneau to Anchorage

Today was a free morning for everyone to take in the sights of Juneau. We met early afternoon in front of the Hotel and boarded our bus for our afternoon tours. Our first stop was Macaulay Salmon Hatchery. In the wild, only 5-10% of salmon eggs survive from fertilization to outmigration into the ocean. At the hatchery, they have an 80-90% success rate from egg to juvenile stage. Once the salmon leave the facility, they face the dangerous life at sea as wild Alaskan salmon. The Hatchery operates two facilities that rear and release salmon into the wild to enhance the opportunities for commercial, sport, personal use and subsistence fishing.



Second stop was the Glacier Gardens, unique Alaskan Botanical Gardens. Glacier

Gardens began as a stream restoration project and soon became a unique botanical garden set within the protective grasps of the Tongass National Forest. We took a guided tour in covered rainforest adventure vehicles. We saw



Flower Tower planters standing all around us and spectacular panoramic views of Juneau 580' atop Thunder Mountain.

We headed to the Airport, boarded our 1.5 hour flight to Anchorage. We spent the night at the Inlet Tower Hotel.

Pat Heyen

Day 4 – Tues. Aug. 22nd – Anchorage to Seward



Our group bused to the train station to board the Alaska Railroad Coastal Classic Gold Star trip to Seward, AK, which departs at 6:45 am. Conductor Harry Ross, who has been featured on the TV special Alaskan Railway took us on a scenic route where we gazed and marveled at the mountains, lakes, and wildlife. We learned about the 40' tide shift, bore tides, mud flats, Beluga Whales, Bald Eagles, Dahl Sheep, glaciers and mountains. We follow the Seward Highway for much of the time.

After arriving in Seward, we boarded our cruise with Major Marine Tours for a 6 hour Kenai Fjords National Park Cruise on the "Spirit of Adventure" a 2 deck cruise boat with an open low-

bow viewing area. Large windows & table seating allow for comfortable viewing & ride.

We cruised Bear Glacier and down the coast to see the awesome beauty and grandeur of our trip. Some of our group became ill making the trip not such a fun time for them.



In Aialik Bay we watched glaciers and the ice flow as well as spotted feeding humpback whales. We became silent as we let nature talk to us through the moans and cracking sounds of the glacier.



At the completion of the cruise, the group met the train to return to Anchorage. Even caught a glimpse of Denali upon our arrival in Anchorage.

Herb & Judy Dixon

Paul & Linda Meyer

Patrick & Jean Schlickbernd

Day 5 – Wed. Aug. 23rd – Anchorage to Matanuska-Susitna Valley

We left Anchorage and headed to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley for a day of farm tours.. We began with a tour of The Reindeer Farm in Palmer. This is one of the original Colony Farms, nestled at the foot of Boden-burg Butte with views of the Chugach Mountains. We walked among the reindeer and hand fed them.



Next stop was the Musk Ox Farm. For over 60 years the nonprofit Musk Ox Farm has been striving to bring geographically appropriate agriculture to remote communities in the far north. The approach is built upon the strong backs and the soft fiber these majestic animals produce. Qiviut, musk ox under wool, is eight-times warmer than sheep's wool and one of nature's softest fibers.

Our last tour of the day was to Havemeister Dairy, the only remaining dairy farm in Alaska.

A visit to this farm is like revisiting the 1970's as far as equipment and technology goes. There are 150 cows in the rotating herd. 80 cows are milked twice a day with a rolling herd average of 23,000 lbs. per year.



Pat Heyen

Day 6 – Thurs. Aug. 24th – Matanuska-Susitna Valley



Another all ag day. Our first stop was in the shadow of Pioneer Peak at “Pyrah’s Pioneer Peak Farm”. It was a vegetable farm with a 90 day growing season. They are a u-pick format, with a wide variety of lettuce, cabbage, potatoes, rhubarb, etc. They plant multiple times to have produce available through the season.

Another stop was at The Matanuska Research Experiment Farm connected with the University of Alaska, founded 100 years ago. They have 30 red Angus cows and raise hay for other research areas. The Extension uses some of the buildings and they have trails for the community to walk.

Our third farm visit was Vanderweele Farms. It is a 450 acre family farm including 100 acres potatoes, many carrots, some barley and lettuce. They have climate controlled buildings for the storage of potatoes and carrots. They have Logan harvest equipment and get mostly JD Tractors and parts from Oregon. Cleared land is selling for over \$20,000/acre because of housing pressure.

Eugene Goering and Sheila Huebert



Day 7 – Fri. Aug. 25th - Alaska State Fair



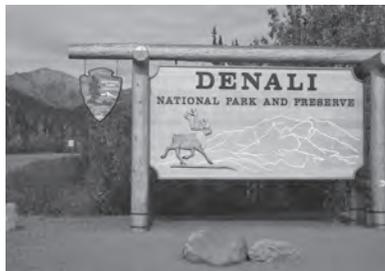
We started off the day at the Lumberjack Show. The 3 lumberjacks participated in numerous events while the audience was divided into three groups to root for their lumberjack. It was fun to see the different events. Then we went to look at the 4-H events. On the way we found the Denali Cream Puffs! They were delicious. The next stop was the Halibut with the corn fritters. Another good choice. Then off to see Hobo Jim, the Alaska State Balladeer. He sang songs about Alaska including logging and fishing.

His song about the Iditarod is required learning in the Alaska School Curriculum. We wanted to stay the whole two hours but wanted to check out more of the fair. It was a great day.

Dave and Rita Hogsett



Day 8, Sat. Aug 26th – Matanuska – Susitna Valley to Denali National Park



Our day to monitor our travels was riding through Denali Park for the 90 mile trip to our lodging. We had a great ride. We saw many different animals which our bus driver, Kristy, pointed out for us. She also gave us the history of the park and those different events that took place in the yesteryear. I was impressed how they strive to keep mans “footprint” as small as possible so as not to change the past environment.

Jerry & Karen Safranek



Day 9, Sun. Aug. 27th – Kantishna Roadhouse (Denali)

Today was spent enjoying Kantishna Roadhouse and Denali National Park. Kantishna Roadhouse is owned and operated by Doyon Native Corp. whose shareholders are of Athabascan Indian decent and have ties to the land. It is located 90 miles into the pristine natural wonder of Denali National Park in a remote area where few are lucky enough to travel. LEAD



Alumni were able to take part in a lot of activities offered by Kantishna, such as hiking, biking, fly-fishing, nature walks, lectures, gold panning and just doing nothing but enjoying the beautiful setting.

Pat & Larry Heyen

Day 10, Mon. Aug. 28th – Kantishna Roadhouse to Anchorage

On Monday, August 28th The LEAD Alumni packed up and left Kantishna Roadhouse to return to Anchorage



age for our flight home. We had a great morning to see animals, we saw the Big 5, Bear, Caribou, Moose, Dahl Sheep and Wolf. The sun came out and we could see Denali “the mountain”. That put us in the 10% Club, seeing the Big 5 & Mt. Denali in the same day. We stopped at the small town of Talkeetna for a late lunch. Talkeetna, pop about 876, was an old mining station for supplies for miners in the 1900’s. We drove through the “Ghost Forest”. These are the remains of trees whose roots were swamped with salt water and killed and preserved by the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake which registered 9.2 (the largest in America) on the Richter Scale. The earthquake caused the land to drop 5-10 feet and the ocean rushed in. We arrived in Anchorage where we had a wonderful last evening meal together at the Lakefront Hotel where we could watch floatplanes landing and taking off.

Lisa & Jim Lunz

Lois Thom

Day 11, Tues. Aug. 29th – Going Home.

We arrived at the Anchorage airport at 3:00 am waiting for our flight home. Time to head back to Nebraska, although hating to leave such a beautiful place with wonderful memories and new found friendships. Many of us are looking forward to meeting up again during a future LEAD Alumni Travel Study Seminar. Safe travels until we meet again!

Pat Heyen, LEAD Alumni Travel Coordinator.

2017 Ag Adventure Tour - What was old is new again!



Liz Kerrigan, Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

The theme, What was Old is New Again, for the 2017 Ag Adventure Tour was very fitting for the tour and also very fitting to me personally. Agriculture and LEAD are both things of my past that are now new and relevant to me again. My grandparents were farmers and my father worked in agriculture throughout his career and is a LEAD Alum. (Class III – Doug Soderquist) I joined the Greater Omaha Chamber in January 2017 and was excited to learn about the LEAD Alumni Association / Leadership Omaha partnership.

There is incredible innovation happening throughout our state and I am happy to be part of a tradition that brings urban and rural leaders together to learn about Nebraska. The annual Ag Tour is educational, eye opening, and fun! We are already making plans for 2018 adventures and hope you can join us.

Nancy Eberle and her committee, Bob Chop, Kerry Glandt, Reid Hagstrom, Terri Licking, and Deb VanMatre, planned and executed a tour full of old, but now new things in northeast Nebraska.

Some highlights from the tour:

- The Garwood family at Cardinal Farms in Dakota City explores aquaculture as a supplement to corn and soybeans. They also apply great care to grow delicious tomatoes in their greenhouse.
- Bill Demerath made history with Nebraska's first hands-free dairy. He and his robots are able to milk 240 cows, three times per day. This is a fascinating operation to watch.
- If fossils and archeology interest you, you will enjoy Ashfall Fossil Beds. We learned how volcanic ash from Idaho impacted the grasslands near what is now, Royal, NE. We observed and talked with college interns who spent their summer meticulously digging and brushing in hopes of discovering fossils.
- West Point veterinarian, Dr. Gnad and local Pilger farmer, Josh Alexander shared emotional stories about destruction and reconstruction in Pilger due to twin tornadoes in 2014. We were touched by the strength and determination of the community to rebuild after near total destruction.
- Pender's strategic plan and economic growth is very impressive. This village is committed to innovation, helping one another, and staying relevant.
- Hops, Kolaches, and Czech music in Prague - what a great way to end our tour!

Thank you to the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association for a warm welcome to this tradition. I look forward to many more adventures and the Greater Omaha Chamber appreciates the continued commitment to connect and develop urban and rural leaders.

Liz Kerrigan
Omaha Chamber of Commerce

July 14-15, 2017

July 14, First Stop - Cardinal Farms Aquaculture & Greenhouse



Cody Garwood with tour group in Greenhouse.



Braden Garwood outside of the Cardinal Farms Aquaculture barn.

Second Stop - D & M Dairy



Tour group in dairy barn



Our tour group at Demerath Dairy.



Bill Demerath operates Nebraska's first "hands free" dairy.

Third Stop - J. E. Meuret Grain Company



J. E. Meuret Grain Company located in Brunswick.



Jim Meuret, LEAD Class X describes the Grain Company.

Fourth Stop - Ash Falls Fossil Beds near Royal



Student archeologists work in the barn uncovering fossils.



Jim Meuret and Company hosted our tour group for lunch.



We were amazed at the fossils exhibited where found in the fossil beds.



Our tour guide giving us a historic overview of the beds.

Fifth Stop - Dinner at the Black Cow Fat Pig Pub and Restaurant in Norfolk



Dinner and discussion with Senator Jim Scheer.



Senator Jim Scheer discusses legislative issues with the group.

July 15 - First Stop - Pilger



New Cooper Community Center in Pilger.

Second Stop - Pender



Several LEAD alums were on hand to greet and meet us in Pender.



Dr. David Gnad served as the head veterinarian responsible for dead and injured animals after the 2014 storm.



Josh Alexander, local farmer shared first hand experience of the destruction of property and animals after the 2014 tornado.



Derwin Roberts with Charterwest Bank leading the group on a tour of downtown Pender.



We were able to visit the historic Palace Hotel which is being renovated into apartments.

Third Stop - Rhynalds Hops Production at Prague



Clint Rhynalds talks to group about hops production.



Shad Rhynalds with group in hops

Fourth Stop - Kolac Korner, Prague



Carl Sousek (LEAD XX) talks about Prague events and celebrations.



Mark Nemec, owner of Kolac Korner entertains the group with a sing along.

Comments by those attending when asked how they would use the information they learned on the tour:

“Any time you can expand your knowledge of our state, I think it makes you a better resident”

“I will try to support small farming communities by buying food specifically grown in Nebraska”

“I want to share with others and recruit participants for the next ag tour”

“We will tell everyone we meet about the interesting and vibrant economy we saw in rural Nebraska”

When asked what was the most valuable item they received from the ag tour:

“Hearing about some of the state’s more unique ag products such as hops and fish farming”

“I truthfully enjoyed every stop along the way and cannot pinpoint one specific part that was most valuable. I took something from each stop”

“Seeing how small towns operate. The different strengths and weaknesses each community has”

“The Pender and Pilger excitement and persistence in development and revitalization of their towns”

“Conversations I had with others”



President's Message



Kerry Glandt, LEAD XIV

A warm welcome to all of the fellow LEAD Alumni! I do have to ask where the summer went? It only seems like a few weeks ago that I was looking over the fields watching things emerge and starting to green up. Next thing I was seeing some of the first tassels at the end of June, and now as I drive through the countryside, I already see the leaves of the bean fields turning yellow. Seed corn is already being harvested well ahead of Labor Day along the I-80 corridor and I have seen ears starting to droop on the yellow and white corn in the area.

Our Ag Adventure Tour this year in Mid July was a great success once again! A total of 36 individuals set forth this year with stops including several locations in Northeast part of the state. I do feel the visit with Bill Demerath at D& M Dairy at Plainview, NE to view the new 240 cow robotic dairy was the highlight of the trip. I had envisioned what it would be like, but until you stand there and watch the cows line up on their own, step into the milking booth, stand still with a small treat of pellets while they get their udder washed, sanitized, and milked, and then the head gate opens and lets them go on their way once they have completed is very interesting. I feel we all could have stood and watched another hour or two in amazement. This sure didn't have any comparison to the laps around the holding pen chasing cows with

nicknames of "Jail Bate" and "Roadrunner" that I had the privilege of being part of during my grade school days when we milked 25 cows or so in a grade B barn. Also, many thanks to our LEAD Alumni from Pender on our second day that did an awesome job in showing their community to the point that many of us on the tour were a bit envious of everything they had going in the community such as a new clinic getting added on a very new hospital, to a new community center and the renovation of old Palace Hotel into apartments. Big shout of thanks to Bruce, Dan, & Connie Wichman as well as Scott Darling for their generous hospitality in Pender! Please check out more in this newsletter on our entire tour of many more fascinating places we toured and visited as well as more photos on the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Facebook page!

I also cannot go on without mentioning something on Alaska Study Tour! Wow, totally one of the most amazing events I've ever been on! If you haven't traveled with the LEAD Alumni National or International Study Tours, it is something you must consider! Again check out our Facebook page or talk to one of the 38 individuals that were on the travel study, as I'm sure each and every one has nothing but positive experiences! Our next LEAD Alumni Study Tour will be this spring of 2018 when we set out for Peru! If you are interested, check out the registration form on the NE LEAD Alumni website. I understand there are just a few spots left!

We also have wrapped up our sixth annual social gathering at the Nebraska State Fair and were very pleased with the numbers again this year. Yes, I'd like to continue to see more people show up, but at the same time I do realize that a Tuesday is not always the best day for everyone. Attending other days of the fair, I did get to see many additional LEAD Alumni that may have been involved in another day at the State Fair and just couldn't make it for both days. Hopefully if we keep it consistent though, maybe we can continue to have more and more people join us each year. I do have to say that every year I see additional people that I did not get to see the year before!

Our next event coming will that of the Annual Convention on January 26th/27th which will be held at the Holthus Convention Center in York, NE. This convention is being hosted by LEAD Alumni Class 34 and from what I've seen so far, they are off to a great start in putting a fabulous convention together. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending, as it is a great way to reconnect with old friends as well as meet some new ones!

I wish you all once again a great fall harvest, may it be bountiful from your fields to your gardens. I look forward to seeing you all at various meetings, but especially at the Annual LEAD Alumni Convention in January in York! Until then Go Big Red!



2018 LEAD ALUMNI CONFERENCE

FINDING OPPORTUNITY IN CHANGE

HOLTHUS CONFERENCE CENTER, YORK NEBR.

JANUARY 26TH AND 27TH, 2018

Presenting:

Emily Skillet, AFAN

Cory Wolters, UNL

Misty and Kenny Stauffer, LEAD Class 34

Pay Heyen, LEAD Alumni Assoc. Travel update

Jesse Harding, KRVN, Panel Discussion

Dr. Michael Chips, President Northeast Community College

Keith Berns, Green Cover Seed

Amber Pankonin, Stirlist.com

Dr. Eric Snodgrass, University of Illinois Urbana Champagne

For Tickets or to donate visit: <https://2018neleadalumnicf.eventbrite.com>

Contact: Jacob Robison, LEAD 34 @ jacobrobison10@gmail.com

Conference Hosted by LEAD Class 34

LEAD Class XXXIV is proud to host the 2018 LEAD Alumni conference, to be held at the Holthus Convention Center in York Nebraska, January 26th and 27th 2018. The Conference theme of "Finding Opportunity in Change" is highlighted by speakers in economics, education, livestock, health sciences, business and panel discussions. Dr. Eric Snodgrass, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will be the keynote speaker on Saturday evening. More information will be posted on the LEAD Alumni website page so check in regularly and plan to attend the Conference in January.

Executive Treasurer's Notes



Tim Graff, Executive Treasurer

Are you a member of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni? Since you are receiving this newsletter, my guess is, "Yes." If you are an annual dues paid member, this is the time of year we request that you renew your dues or to consider becoming a Lifetime member of the Alumni.

Each year, we plan on a certain number of graduates of the LEAD Program to join the Alumni. We had an excellent response last year – I suspect that was in due in part to information requests for the 2017 Membership Directory. However, we are behind schedule for membership collections for this year.

Your dues – Annual or Lifetime – assist the Alumni Association to continue its functions. As members, you receive a Membership Directory (which is updated every third year), a Quarterly Newsletter, and opportunities for Special Leadership Programs and Educational Travel Seminars and Conferences.

Alumni surveys have overwhelmingly shown these benefits are important to members. Members have certainly responded to our Study Travels: as you will read in this newsletter, a full group returned recently from our Alaska experience, and an International Study Travel to Peru is filling up fast!

Of course, membership benefits don't stop there. The Alumni continue to be a major contributor to the Nebraska LEAD Program. Cash contributions of \$7,400 will go directly to the Program this year. We also provide special pins to the graduates of the program that are specific to their class.

The Ag Adventure Tour continues its success of inviting urban leaders to experience rural Nebraska. Our participation continues with the Ag Academy at Bryan High School in Omaha to bring experienced rural voices to fresh young minds interested in careers in agriculture. Likewise, we co-sponsored the Nebraska Leadership Summit this past March in Kearney.

I could go on, but suffice it to say that your membership has value – to the Alumni, to the LEAD Program, and to all of Nebraska! Please find the membership form in this newsletter and send it to Nancy as soon as possible. Please also consider becoming a Lifetime member of the Alumni. There's no better time to do it than now. Just say, "Yes."

The Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association will hold its annual meeting during the 2018 Annual Conference

When: January 26, 2018 - 1:30 pm

Where: The Holthus Center - York, Nebraska

Please get this on your calendar and join us in York!

It's time to think about your 2018 membership to the NE LEAD Alumni Association. Below is a form for you to use and return. Join the 650+ members in the organization now! Thanks.

THE NEBRASKA LEAD ALUMNI 2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join the LEAD Network with your Membership

___ *\$45 Annual Membership*

___ *\$450 Lifetime Membership*

Benefits of Membership:

- Membership Directory
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Special Leadership Programs
- Educational Travel Seminars– Peru 2018!! Ag Adventure Tour
- A link with “Leaders” all across the U.S.

And much more!

Yes, I'll join the LEAD network -- Enclosed are my dues for 2018

___ **Annual Dues \$45** ___ **Lifetime Dues \$450** LEAD Class # _____

Name: _____ **Spouse** _____

Address: _____

Home Phone No. _____ **Work or Business No.** _____

E-mail _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Mail by December 1, 2017 to: Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary, 520 Road 20,
Bradshaw, NE 68319

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

OUTSTANDING LEAD ALUMNI AWARD

Each of you are aware of someone deserving of this award. We hope you will take a few minutes to write a paragraph or two about the reason the nominee is a great candidate to consider. Previous award winners are listed below.

Award Purpose:

To provide public recognition of a Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association member who has achieved notable success in using the skills learned through the Nebraska LEAD Program and through other means to become a leader in their chosen field of agriculture.

Award Nomination Criteria:

1. Nominee MUST BE a current paid member of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association.
2. Nominee has demonstrated leadership qualities deserving of the Outstanding LEAD Alumni Award.

Deadline for nomination documents: **January 10, 2018**

Nomination documents must be mailed or e-mailed to:

**Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association
c/o Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary
520 Road 20
Bradshaw, NE 68319
neberle@mainstaycomm.net**

3. Nominations (not including past winners) from the previous two years will be included in the current year's selection process.
4. Notification of selection committee results to the nominator will be made two weeks after nomination deadline.

Award Recipient Information:

1. The Outstanding LEAD Alumni Award will be presented during the Annual LEAD Alumni Conference
2. The Outstanding LEAD Alumni Award recipient will receive public recognition and a plaque sponsored by the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association.

Award Winners:

1991 – Don Hutchens	2000 – Tom Baker	2009 – Jerry Stahr	2018 – Your Nominee???
1992 – Larry Hudkins	2001 – Gerald Schmidt	2010 – Stee Kruger	
1993 – Dennis Baack	2002 – Craig Buescher	2011 – Todd Schroeder	
1994 – Larry Sitzman	2003 – Doug Boisen	2012 – Deb Fischer	
1995 – Gary Bergman	2004 – John Miller	2013 – Dan Duncan	
1996 – Ceclia Grevson	2005 – Fred Meyer	2014 – Lisa Lunz	
1997 – Mike Bauerle	2006 – Nancy Eberle	2015 – Dennis Kahl	
1998 – Kate Sullivan	2007 – Robert Rikli	2016 – Willow Holoubek	
1999 – Mary Pat-Finn Hoag	2008 – Mark Jagels	2017 – Tom Schwarz	

A message from our Outstanding Alumni Committee Chairman Ken Boswell . . .

It is that time of year when we are asking for nominations for the outstanding LEAD alumni award. This award will be presented at the LEAD alumni conference in January. It is given to a LEAD program graduate that has shown outstanding leadership. Tom Schwarz (LEAD X) was given the award in 2017. Please send in your nominations soon!

Nancy's Notes



Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary

Happy fall! It seems like this year summer ended too soon or fall came early – not sure which one. I like hot weather (yes I'm strange I know) so hope we get some more hot weather before winter sets in. I assume many of you are harvesting or getting ready to do so. It's such a busy time – stay safe!

We had a great time again at the NE State Fair reception. Good food, great conversation – always a good mix. If you have never attended, make plans to attend the State Fair the same day as our reception – we have been having it the second Tuesday of the Fair. Two for Tuesdays (\$2.00 admission) is a pretty good deal that day! Thanks to the University of Nebraska Foundation for providing some funding for the evening – and to Terry Hejny with the LEAD program and the NE LEAD Alumni for providing the food.

The Ag Adventure tour came and went again. As you can see from the newsletter, items posted on the Facebook page and our website, we had a great tour again. There is always so much to see and learn as we travel our state and this year was no different. Our theme “What was Old is New Again” fit well as we visited with ag producers doing things in a “new way”. If you get a chance next summer, do join us, we need your presence and “stories” on the bus!

LEAD 34 is gearing up for the 2018 conference which will be held in York this year (my back yard). They have been working hard and have put together an action packed program for us. We will be having our annual meeting during the conference so please plan to attend that as well. Hope to see you in York!

Just another quick note, we are looking for someone to represent LEAD Class 7 and LEAD Class 21. If you are a graduate of that class and a member of the alumni association, we'd love to have you join the board. Just give me a call – or drop a quick e-mail if you are interested!

That's it for September until next time LEAD on

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## CLASS NOTES

LEAD I: Wade Nutzman recently retired from The Nehawka Bank. He had spent over 15 years (part time) with the family-owned bank, serving in a variety of roles, including Vice-President. He will remain a member of the bank's board of directors. Wade and Sue Schlichtemeier-Nutzman received one of two Heritage Farm Awards at the Otoe County Fair. This award from Ak-Sar-Ben recognizes farm families who have consecutively held ownership of land within the same family for 150 years. Wade's great-great grandfather established the northern Otoe County farm in 1866 (near what became the Village of Nehawka) with his wife and five sons. Enjoy your retirement Wade and congrats on your Heritage Farm Awards!!

LEAD XIII: Darlene Fletcher is the Treasurer for the Nebraska Realtors Association and will be Vice President in 2018 and President in 2019. She is also on the Board of Directors for LIBA and will become Chairman in 2018, for the Lincoln Independent Business Association and serves as the Federal Political Coordinator for Congressman Jeff Fortenberry for the Nebraska Realtors Association. Way to go Darlene!!!

LEAD XXIX: Ryan Betka - Received his MBA from Stanford University. Congratulations Ryan - well done!

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
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## NEBRASKA STATE FAIR - LEAD Alumni Reception

A good time was had by all at our annual reception during the NE State Fair. It's a great time to get together, rest from the activities of a day at the fair - and just catch up with each other.



*Craig Buescher from the NU Foundation was on hand to give us a quick update.*



*Good food, adult beverages and great conversation.*



Check out our website at <http://www.neleadalumni.com>

*Please remember to submit important Nebraska LEAD Alumni news to:*

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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!