

The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

SPRING 2018

2018 Friend of LEAD Award Recipient – Paul Eveland



Paul Eveland, 2018 Friend of LEAD Award winner with Alumni Vice President Matt Dolch.

The 2018 recipient of the Allen G. Blezek Friend of LEAD Award is Paul Eveland. Paul grew up in Elmwood, Nebraska and spent three and a half years in the U. S. Army, including service in the Philippines and Japan. Paul was discharged with the rank of Captain. After the service, he and his wife, Kay, moved to Elmwood where he farmed and owned a rock quarry. He was President of the Cass County Farm Bureau and the Cass County Republican Party.

Some of his endeavors included a purchase of the old sugar beet factory in Dodge County where he used the lime (by-product of sugar production) to start his lime spreading business. In 1961 the Eveland family moved to the farm where he operated the Eveland Supply Company. This business is still running and is now located in Scribner NE. Paul is active in his church, The United Presbyterian Church, was a charter member of the NBC School Board and served as President of the Nebraska Class VI School Board Assn.

Paul is recognized as a 60 plus year Mason and has held multiple offices in that organization. Paul has served as chair of the Dodge County 4-H Council, President of the Dodge County Extension Board, Chair of the Dean's Advisory Committee for University of Nebraska's College of Agriculture, a member of NE Ag Builders and multiple other organizations.

In addition to all of his many accomplishments and all of his extensive experience, the LEAD program was extremely fortunate to have Paul as one of the "Founding Fathers" of the Nebraska LEAD Program. He was initially on the Program Steering Committee and then served as one of the original Members of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council from 1981-1984. Paul's vast experience and success proved to provide real strength to the "LEAD Dream."

Those connected to the Nebraska LEAD Program today, as well as those familiar with the history of the Program, are indebted to Paul Eveland for his foresight, vision, and leadership in the establishment of the Nebraska LEAD Program and the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council. After all of the years, the program continues to be recognized as one of the finest in the country because of the leadership provided by Paul Eveland.

It is very fitting to honor him as the "2018 Allen G. Blezek Friend of LEAD Award" recipient. Thank you!



2018 Friend of LEAD Award winner Paul Eveland with his family.

Finding Opportunity in Change.....

A Special “Thank You” from LEAD Class XXXIV



Welcome given by York Mayor Orville Stahr.

Change is inevitable. It is coming whether we like it or not. Some changes we make will be planned and carefully thought through. Others, and sometimes the most challenging, will be thrust upon us unexpectedly and turn our world completely upside down. It is those unexpected/unwanted changes that seem to take longer for us to get used to and accept. But what makes the difference in how we handle or accept any change, is our mind set. Even when life doesn't go as we planned, can we still use these unexpected changes as an opportunity to grow and move forward?



Panel discussion on Change - Susan Littlefield, KRVN; Jason Perdue (LEAD XXX), JK&K Farm; Tom Schwartz (LEAD X), Schwartz Family Farm; and John Heaston, Aquamart.



Cassie Spencer along with Adam Bruning and Jacob Robison (Conference Coordinators).

Since graduating from the NE

LEAD Program, most all of us in LEAD XXXIV have had wonderful, planned, life changes. However, some of us fell into the other category of unplanned/unwanted life changes which completely changed what was. When our class would have the rare opportunity to catch up with each other, our conversations most always started with, “what’s new with you.” Changes were occurring with each of us; good and bad. We offered congratulations to each other in some

instances and support and reassurance in others. When the planning committee was thinking of themes for our conference, the dramatic life changes our classmates were experiencing always seemed to dominate our conversations. How does a person adjust to it all and yet continue to remain sane and upbeat. It was then we thought of our theme for our alumni conference, “Finding Opportunity in Change.”



Discussing issues with UNL's Cory Walters. Pictured with Dr. Walters are Nate Bartels (LEAD XIII) and Cindy Zimmerman-Jaynes (LEAD XXIV).



LEAD XXXIV Conference Committee.

If you attended the conference, I hope you were able to pick up on the theme of change to which our chosen speakers talked about. I also hope you were able to reflect individually as to what you may need to do to adapt to some of the upcoming changes discussed. Changes in Agriculture. Changes in Nebraska. Changes in our world. Changes in our own lives. Will you be able to adapt and find ways to keep moving forward? One of most memorable talks of the conference was hearing a personal story of a fellow LEAD XXXIV member and her family's unexpected life change since graduating the NE LEAD program. Her and her family's story of turning their hardship into a suc-

cess story was definitely inspiring. Their story really hit a chord with a lot of individuals in attendance. Most everyone can relate to unplanned and unwanted changes. And it is always wonderful when something unexpected and unwanted can lead you to something even better than you had imagined.

On behalf of LEAD XXXIV, I want to send a special thank you to those of you who were able to attend this year's NE LEAD Alumni conference and to those of you who contributed to our conferences' success. There were many financial donors and businesses who helped make our event possible. We can't thank you all enough. Our class enjoyed meeting our fellow LEAD alums and appreciated you taking the time on a cold January weekend to come spend with us. We hope you consider making the annual LEAD alumni conference a regular part of your year and something in which you can always look forward too. I hope to see you all again in January 2019.

Till then,
Nicole Bohuslavsky
LEAD XXXIV Fellow,
Class Secretary
for the NE LEAD



Keith Berns, Seminar speaker from Green Cover Seed.



Fred Bruning, Anita Keys and Pat Heyen enjoyed the snacks.



Gov. Pete Ricketts, Keynote speaker, pictured with Fred Bruning (LEAD IV), John Miller (LEAD IV) and Dennis and Patty Nun (LEAD IV).

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## Honored at the March Banquet and Graduation in Lincoln



*LEAD Class VI*



*Congratulations to the graduates of LEAD, Class XXXVI.*

# J. D. Alexander (LEAD V) of Pilger is named our 2018 Outstanding Alumni!



*J.D. Alexander, LEAD V.*

J.D. Alexander was named the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Outstanding Alum for 2018. J.D. has been active in multiple farm organizations, his local community and is definitely deserving of this award. Among other ventures, J.D. received the Nebraska Cattlemen 2017 Hall of Fame Award. The award highlights Nebraska Cattlemen members who exemplify an ongoing commitment to the beef cattle industry. Presented only once annually, the Hall of Fame award is the organization's highest honor.

He is a third generation farmer-feeder and owns Alexander Cattle and Farms. The operation consists of 2,000 acres of corn, soybeans and alfalfa and a feedlot enterprise that markets about 15,000 head of cattle annually. In 2001, Alexander served as the Nebraska Cattlemen president and in 2012 he served as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association President. Regulatory burdens were a corner-stone of NCBA's work while he was in office. Three free-trade agreements (FTAs) - with Panama, Columbia and South Korea - were implemented by Congress. Those three FTAs allowed for lowered tariffs on exports of U.S. beef to important markets, leveling the playing field for beef producers.

Congratulations J.D. and thank you for all you have done to support your industry!!



## Class Notes

Congratulations go out to Troy McCain (LEAD 20) who received the Nebraska Pork Producers Outstanding Service Award--Producer Outreach!!

Beef producer Joan Ruskamp (LEAD XXVIII) from Dodge, Nebraska, was elected by fellow Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) members to serve as CBB chairman in 2018 - Congratulations Joan!

Congratulations to Leah Carson (LEAD XXI), Rangeland Management Specialist in Thedford, for winning the NRCS National Range Conservationist of the year award at their national meeting!

Great news from Cindi Allen (LEAD XXIV) for representing the Dry Bean Industry as a newly appointed member of the FFA State Committee.

Jason (LEAD XXX) and Karah Perdue were named a recipient of The Nebraska 2017 Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award. Congrats for a much deserved award Jason and Karah!

Dave Nielsen (LEAD XXI) was re-elected At-Large Director to Nebraska Farm Bureau State Board. Congratulations Dave!

Shari Flaming (LEAD V) from Paxton was honored at the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Meeting as she was inducted into the Cattlemen's Heritage Society!



## President's Message

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*Dennis Nun, LEAD IV.*

Is it time to engage in Your LEAD Alumni Organization?

As a member of LEAD IV, I joined the LEAD Alumni organization soon after my graduation. But, it wasn't until our sixth child graduated from college and headed off to Honduras for a year that Patty and I really began to make the time for LEAD Alumni organization activities in our life.

This summer we joined the LEAD Alumni group on their Study Travel Program to Alaska and we had a blast connecting with other LEAD Alumni from a variety of classes and the experience was amazing. There truly are no better people to travel with. Pat Heyen (14) did an amazing job planning and leading the trip and from the pictures I see on their Facebook posts, the group that just returned from the February LEAD Alumni trip had a unique experience in Peru. We've already signed up for the California Wine-Country Tour in 2019 and I hope you will consider doing the same. The plan is in place for these alumni study-travel seminars to take place annually, rotating

between international and domestic destinations.

I want to especially thank Kerry Glandt (14) for the outstanding job he's done as our LEAD Alumni President for the past two years. And, this organization couldn't do without the organizational skills of Nancy Eberle (12), our Executive Secretary, Newsletter Editor and so much more. Nancy is really the glue that holds this organization together! Thanks to our outgoing secretary Anita Keys (17) and to Stan Mitchell (9) for being willing to serve another term as our treasurer. We welcome Nicole Bohuslavsky (34) as our new secretary and Matt Dolch (33) as our new Vice President. It's exciting to have recent graduates of the LEAD Program serving on our executive committee.

With over 1,000 graduates of what is considered one of the most respected LEAD Programs in the U.S. and over 640 members of our alumni association, I want to thank you for being a part of this organization. As Governor Pete Ricketts shared at our annual meeting in York, Nebraska hosted by LEAD XXXIV, the LEAD Alumni organization is a powerful force throughout the state of Nebraska. When you consider the quality of those selected to participate in LEAD, the education and training gained during their 2-year experience and the associations that they have subsequently developed, there are few organizations in Nebraska to rival the LEAD Alumni Association.

I want to encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities that our organization provides each of you to network and serve. Our organization offers a full year of activities and events from the Ag Adventure tour coming up July 13-14, the LEAD Alumni Reception in August 28th at State Fair Park in Grand Island and many more. I want to encourage each of you to do at least three things as an active alumni:

- 1) Recommend at least one candidate (hopefully more) to apply to the NEBRASKA LEAD Program each year.
- 2) Become an active member of the NE LEAD Alumni Association Facebook Page and encourage others in your class by inviting them to stay connected in this way as well.
- 3) Join us for at least one of the LEAD Alumni activities planned to take advantage of this amazing group that you are a part of.

To your best year ever!

## Nancy's Notes



*Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary*

Do you suppose spring is really here? I, for one, am ready for nice warm weather!

It's been a busy winter season for the alumni. We've had several opportunities to network and catch up with each other. If you missed the annual conference in York at the end of January, you really did miss out! The speakers at the conference were great, there was plenty of time for networking and the venue and food was phenomenal! Great work LEAD XXXIV! Our Outstanding Alum award was given during the conference to J. D. Alexander -- much deserved!

The international travel study to Peru is completed and from all indications, "a good time was had by all". If you get a chance to check out our Facebook page, you can see the multiple pictures posted there. Thanks to Pat and her committee, the travel studies are going well! She's off and running on a national travel study to

the wine country in California. Stay tuned for more details they fall into place.

We are working on this year's Ag Adventure Tour, "Ag and More Along the Corridor". I really hope many of you sign up to join us this summer. We do need alums on the bus to network with our urban counterparts from Leadership Omaha. We have a good tour planned again - and hope to see you there!

I know many of you attended the LEAD XXXVI Graduation and banquet event in Lincoln on March 9. Karen Barrett Ross (LEAD VI) gave the keynote and as always she had a wonderful message which I wish all of you could have heard! Although she has spent much of her adult life in California, she is still a Nebraska girl and we love her! Congratulations to LEAD XXXVI graduates! I am glad I had the chance to get to visit with all of you during your final seminar. Best wishes as you start your new "LEADership" endeavors. I know you will do well. Also, I want to congratulate LEAD VI for the amazing turn out for this year's honored class. I believe there were 22 in attendance - wow!

We have a new Executive Team in place as elections for the Alumni board were held in January. Congrats to Dennis Nun, our new President, Matt Dolch, our Vice President, Nicole Bohuslavsky, our secretary and Stan Mitchell, our treasurer. With great leaders in place, we can accomplish many things!!

I hope your spring goes well. Please continue to visit our Facebook page and website for additional information, pictures and happenings!!

Until next time, LEAD on . . . . .

# Ag Adventure Tour: Ag and More Along the Corridor!

JULY 13-14, 2018

DRAFT ITINERARY

We are excited about the 2018 tour. Our theme this year “Ag and More Along the Corridor” was chosen because we plan to discover new and interesting things to see and do along the Interstate 80 Corridor. Below we have listed some of the tour stops and what we will see and do at each. Our tour stops will showcase places and business development that you would not normally see or hear about! We hope you will join us!!!



Cooperative

<http://www.farmersco-operative.com/>

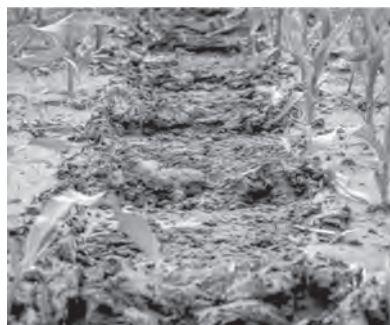
Depart from Country Inn and Suites south parking lot on North 27th Street in Lincoln around 7:30 am July 13 – WE ARE ON OUR WAY!!

First Tour stop will be at the Bottle Rocket Brewing Company, a local brewery in Seward. While there we will learn a bit about the development of this business and the building they have refurbished for their purpose. We will also meet with Stan Mitchell (LEAD 9) from the Dorchester Farmers Cooperative and learn about the role the cooperative has in the Seward area as well as Stan’s outreach to other countries who are trying to develop a cooperative system. Here is a link to their website if you would like more information.

<http://www.farmersco-operative.com/> <https://bottle-rocket-brewing.com/>



Bottle Rocket



Pivot tracks left in field.

Our next stop will be at Polytech AKA Raaft LLC in Seward. Polytech manufactures RAAFT pivot tracks to help eliminate deep ruts left in the

fields from pivot usage, labor costs in filling or clearing the ruts, equipment breakdown and time wasted when pivots get stuck. *From planting to harvest and everything in-between, the ruts that center pivots create are expensive.* <http://www.raaft.com/>



Goehner Exit off of Interstate 80. The goal at the Station is to turn a 10-year, \$1 billion investment into wheat varieties that are not only more productive, more tolerant of extreme weather and disease-resistant, but are also indistinguishable from wheat used now to make food products such as flour. They are also researching new soybean varieties. While there we will hear from the researchers, see the crops being tested and tour their greenhouse facilities. [http://www.omaha.com/money/with-new-m-nebraska-facility-and-unl-s-input-bayer/article\\_dd5185ed-267a-5811-b3f2-db279c10e7e6.html](http://www.omaha.com/money/with-new-m-nebraska-facility-and-unl-s-input-bayer/article_dd5185ed-267a-5811-b3f2-db279c10e7e6.html)

From Seward we plan to travel to the Bayer CropSciences Research Nebraska Station near the



Greenhouse at Bayer CropSciences.



Chex Bubba Cafe

Chez Bubba in Goehner Nebraska will be our stop for lunch. Their tag line “Kinda Classy, but Mostly Bubba” describes the café well. They opened in 2011 in the small town of Goehner, population 155, after refurbishing the former 1930’s automotive shop into the iconic café it is today. Matt and Julie Howe, owners and operators of the café will be on hand to tell us of their journey from Washington D.C. Capitol Hill to Goehner NE. Good food – good conversation – comfortable and inviting atmosphere is what we will experience there. <http://nebraskaruralliving.com/articles/rural-foodies/chez-bubba-cafe/>



Recharge Lake - Project Grow

We will be stopping in York next to visit the Upper Big Blue NRD offices. There we will hear from representatives from the NRD and AmeriCorps about their joint projects. We will drive to the York wellfield to tour the “Project Grow” endeavor taking place, the first one in Nebraska. They are developing a crop production and pollinator program at the wellfield. The long term goal of the project is to improve the soil and water conditions of the wellfield and provide a program which can be replicated throughout other areas of the state and nation. We will also travel to Recharge Lake to learn about the NRD reclamation project taking place there. <https://www.upperbigblue.org>





The Hastings Motorsport Park is our last stop of the day. What started out as a dream on a napkin in a local restaurant with a few friends, became a reality in 2006 when renowned track designer Alan Wilson designed this road course. Construction started in the early spring of 2006 and by fall most of the asphalt were laid. We will hear from the organizers of this park, be hosted for dinner



there by Doug Soderquist (LEAD III) and perhaps even get a ride in one of the race cars. In February 2009, Forbes.com named MPH one of the “Best Places to Speed Legally in the United States.” Motorsport Park Hastings has hosted thousands of visitors through its gates. MPH is a 2.14 mile road course that attracts drivers of all skill levels. <http://www.racemph.com/visit-mph/>

From MPH we will be on our way to Grand Island where we will overnight at the Best Western Motel.

**Day 2 – Ag Adventure Tour**

We will leave the Grand Island area and drive towards the U.S. Weather Station which is located between Hastings and Grand Island. While there we will learn how the weather forecasters use Doppler Radar and other resources to accurately predict our weather forecast each day. The National Weather Service has played a key role in protecting American lives and properties for over a century. NWS offices communities across the United States provide the information needed by Americans to plan, prepare, mitigate, and respond to natural and human-caused events. <https://www.weather.gov/gid>



Weather Map



We will travel from the Weather Station to Henderson to visit the Henderson Heritage and Tourism Park exhibit. Henderson Heritage & Tourism was formed in 1994 with the purpose of sharing and documenting Henderson’s Mennonite heritage. In the spring of 1998 the committee purchased an 8 1/2 acre site that was homesteaded by Jacob & Anna Friesen, one of the original settlers, on the north edge of Henderson. Today this is the site of the park. <https://henderson-heritage.wordpress.com/>

Lunch will be at Kerry’s restaurant in McCool Junction. Lisa and Kerry Johnson are the owner/operators of this unique restaurant. As their T-Shirt signage says, “It ain’t Kerry’s until you get some on ya”, this restaurant offers a great menu and wonderful venue in the refurbished barn that now their home. We know you’ll enjoy your time there. <http://www.kerrysinmccool.com/>



Home of the Mustangs



Before we leave McCool we will take a mini tour to the McCool Junction Public School site and learn about their FFA programming, Ag Barn and vegetable garden efforts. The tour will be conducted by Dana Hall (LEAD 25) who is an agriculture educator at the school and the Superintendent, Curtis Cosgrove. Dana recently received the Nebraska Farm Bureau’s FFA Advisor of the Year award. <http://www.mcjmustangs.org/>



Junto Winery and Vines

Our final stop of the day will be at the Junto Winery near Seward. Their advertising states “Growing grapes in Nebraska puts you at the mercy of Mother Nature, but the risk is worth the reward.” Known for their dry wines (not generally found in Nebraska wineries) and their Ben Franklin memorabilia, Junto winery is a great final destination for our tour. <https://www.juntowine.com/>

As you can see from our two day event – there really IS something to see and do as you travel Interstate 80!!!! We hope you will join us.

See you in July!  
Nancy Eberle, Ag Tour Coordinator



# Ag Adventure Tour: Ag and More Along the Corridor!

## JULY 13-14, 2018

This year, we will be visiting a variety of communities along the Interstate 80 corridor.. If you want to build rural to urban bridges, while enjoying great conversation, great connections and great food, join us July 13-14 on this year's Ag Adventure Tour.

### When: July 13-14, 2018

- Board the motor coach around 7:30 am Friday morning July 13 at the Country Inn and Suites South Parking Lot at 5353 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68521
- Return to Lincoln by 5 p.m. on Saturday the 14th.

**Where:** Destinations our first day include, but are not limited to, Seward to visit Polytech and follow with a discussion about cooperatives at Bottle Rocket Brewing Co., Goehner to visit the Bayer CropScience Research Station and Chez Bubba Café, York to learn about reclamation efforts in the local Natural Resources District and the MotorSports Park in Hastings. Overnight on July 13 will be at the Best Western Motel in Grand Island. Our second day includes stops at the National Weather Service near Grand Island, the Mennonite Heritage Park in Henderson, Kerry's restaurant and a local school district's "story" about FFA in McCool and will end up at the Junto Winery near Seward. We hope you will join us!

**Fill out the registration form below and return to Nancy Eberle, along with a check for \$125 made out to LEAD – Ag Tour. Contact Nancy at [neberle@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:neberle@mainstaycomm.net) or (402) 736-4691 or Liz Kerrigan at [lkerrigan@omahachamber.org](mailto:lkerrigan@omahachamber.org) or at (402) 978-7913 for more information.**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

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AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM BY JUNE 30 TO: NANCY EBERLE, LEAD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 10 520 ROAD 20, BRADSHAW, NE 68319



*Nebraska*  
**LEAD**  
*Program*  
Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council

**Nebraska LEAD Alumni Assn**

**Please come!!  
August 28, 2018, 5-7 pm**



**Nebraska State Fair  
NE LEAD Alumni Reception**

If you are planning to come to the Nebraska State Fair this summer, consider coming on August 28. We are planning a get together in the VIP room - above the Five Points Show arena from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Please join us! Snacks and Cash Bar will be provided.

Hosts: NE LEAD Alumni Board of Directors  
Terry Hejny, Director, Nebraska LEAD Program

If you do plan to be at the Fair, please let Nancy know via e-mail at [neberle@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:neberle@mainstaycomm.net) -- we want to make sure we have enough "snacks"



*Ag Adventure Tour Group 2017.*



*Governor Pete Ricketts,  
2018 Conference Keynote.*



*Peru International Travel Study.*



*Alaska National Travel Study Seminar  
group.*



*Ken Madden, 2017 Friend  
of LEAD recipient.*



*Spain/Portugal International Travel Study.*



*Anita Keys - Bryan Ag Academy in  
Omaha.*



*Tom Schwarz, 2017 Outstanding  
Alum.*



*NE State Fair Reception.*



*Board of Directors touring Stuhr Museum.*



*Leadership Summit in session.*



*Karen Barrett-Ross  
(LEAD VI) LEAD  
Graduation keynote  
speaker.*



*California National Travel Study  
group.*



*Travel Seminar to China, Terra Cotta Warriors.*

# LEAD ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

# The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
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neberle@mainstaycomm.net

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## Meet your 2018 NE LEAD Alumni Officers!



*Pictured from left are President Dennis Nun (LEAD IV), Vice President Matt Dolch (LEAD XXXIII), and Secretary Nicole Bohuslavsky. Not pictured is Stan Mitchell (LEAD IX), our Treasurer.*

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

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

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
Nancy Eberle  
520 Road 20  
Bradshaw, NE 68319  
neberle@mainstaycomm.net

### 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!