

The Update

“LEAD by Example”

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

FALL 2022

As Easy as One, Two, Three



*Tim Gaff, Executive Treasurer
Nebraska LEAD Alumni*

As the Executive Treasurer for the Nebraska LEAD Alumni, I have an obligation to keep our Association on a responsible path – financially speaking. The last couple years have been trying due to the pandemic, but the board is making efforts to take the Alumni to the next level in improving our value to the membership. To be successful, I would personally like to ask for your help.

Our investment accounts have been very beneficial to keep us solvent, but what can we all do to help? It’s as easy as one, two, three.

ONE: Please continue to be a dues paid member of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association. This simple thing will help us fund member benefits like the quarterly newsletter and our presence on the web, and so much more.

TWO: I encourage everyone to attend the special Recognition Banquet for LEAD Class 38. If you recall, on the very day of Class 38’s banquet, out of an abundance of COVID caution, it was cancelled. Your Alumni board, in cooperation with the LEAD Program, will correct this on February 3, 2023. We can show Class 38 our support by attending and congratulating them on their achievement. (Banquet information can be found in this newsletter.)

THREE: I encourage everyone to attend the Annual Conference. Class 38 and Class 39 are teaming-up to host the conference on February 4, 2023. Our attendance will show our newest Alumni members that we value their efforts. Besides, a well-attended conference will translate into greater funds raised for the Alumni. In my opinion, this is a great way to show our continued support for our organization and will allow us to continue our annual donation to the LEAD Program. I have only missed one or two conferences in the past two decades and I’ve always found them informative and worthwhile.

It has often been said that “many hands make light work.” Our continued membership, showing support for recent graduates of the LEAD Program, and attending the Annual Conference will help us continue to be true leaders of agriculture for Nebraska. As the Association transitions to remain relevant to the next generation of membership, your voices are key to the conversation. Your in-person attendance will be greatly appreciated.

EVERY LEAD FELLOW HAS A STORY

If you haven’t seen any of the videos that were filmed by our Social Media Coordinator Mark Suhr, be sure to check them out. Every LEAD fellow does have a story to share. Dr. Hejny has indicated he would like to use these videos to help recruit and tell the LEAD story as well. If you know of an alumni member that has a good story to tell, nominate them using the “Nominate a LEAD Fellow” tab on our website to access the submission form.

We would love to hear from you!! Thanks so much!

President's Message



*Gerald Clausen, President
LEAD 1*

LEAD Class 41 has been selected, seated and begun their experience. I was in the first class, LEAD 1, and there has been considerable change in the pertinent rural issues during the past four decades. Not everything has changed; livestock and grain prices continue to fluctuate, input costs and operating costs continue to move higher and capital costs are at an almost impossible level. I listened to Dr. Ron Hanson speak to the LEAD 41 Fellows and spouses about succession plans intended to retain the farming opportunities for one or more family members. I felt assured that the LEAD program is just as important today and into the future as it was four decades ago.

Another thing I have noted is the way we discuss our issues, sometimes referred to as “civil discourse” (my definition is bad discourse). A differing perspective does not call for a “fight”. It does call for what our mothers told us as children “treat others with respect”.

Our LEAD Alumni Association can serve in an important supportive role by recruiting candidates. You don't have to be a “professional” to share your experience. Just share what you experienced and encourage others to apply. Everyone has a different experience, but each adds to the strength of rural Nebraska. We are approaching twelve hundred graduates and their mark is known throughout Nebraska.

I want to encourage you to consider attending the Annual Conference to be held in Broken Bow in early February, 2023. There will be other information available soon. Our Annual Meeting was held in February this year and the weather was mild and the learning experience was very mind expanding with tours and presentations, very much like your LEAD experience.

See you in Broken Bow February 2023.

Thriving in Chaos!

Join us for the 2023 Annual Conference and Annual Meeting!
Mark your calendars now! Registration and more information will be coming soon!

Date: February 4th 2023

Time: 9 am Opening, Noon Lunch and LEAD Alumni Annual Meeting, Dinner and Awards 6:30 pm

Place: Broken Bow, Nebraska

One Box Convention Center, 2750 south 27th Street

One day event with speakers and tours

Motel and rooming information will be provided soon.

More information will be sent out as we approach the date. In the meantime, mark your calendars and make plans to attend!!!!

LEAD Class 38 and 39 – Conference Coordinators

A message to all LEAD Alumni -

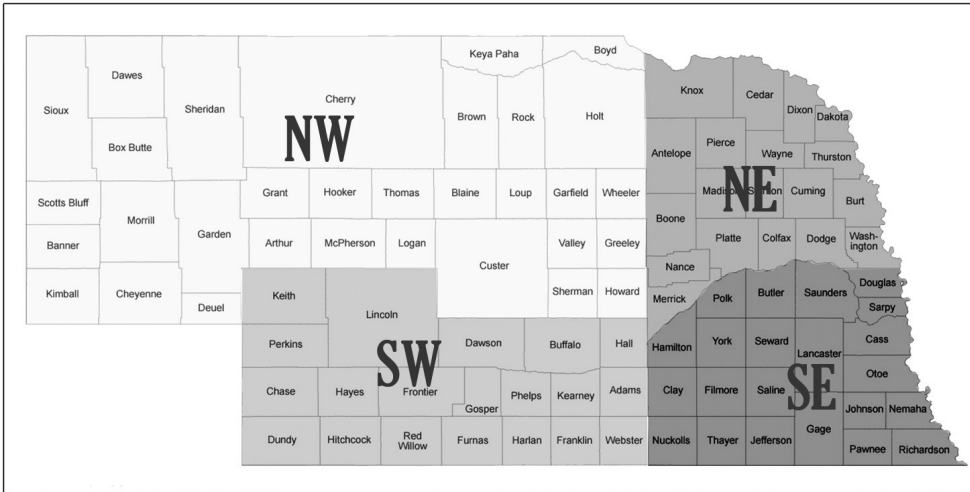
As you are all aware, we are in the process of dividing our alumni database into four different districts, each of which has its own representatives on the LEAD Alumni Board of Directors. Below is a map showing those four areas. You can identify which county you live in and that will be your “district”. To connect with your representatives I have included information for that purpose. You will more than likely be contacted by one of these representatives in the future to let you know their plan for keeping information flowing to you as members. If you have any change in address, e-mail, telephone number etc. notify them of that change now.

Northwest District Representatives:

Russ Lechtenberg (LEAD Class 7) dribhs@yahoo.com
 Judy Trent (LEAD Class 38) jutrent@hotmail.com
 Third position on the board is still open if anyone is interested!

Northeast District Representatives:

Mark Holoubek (LEAD Class 6) mark.holoubek@gmail.com
 Larry Heyen (LEAD Class 23) lheyen08@windstream.net
 Deb Neidig (LEAD Class 30) dneidig@telebeep.com



Southwest District Representatives:

David Grimes (LEAD Class 39) dbgrimes@gtmc.net
 Dave Nelson (LEAD Class 14) davebertrand@hotmail.com
 Doreen Wanitschke (LEAD Class 12) wanitdm@gmail.com

Southeast District Representatives:

Gerald Clausen (LEAD Class 1) gclausen58@gmail.com
 Leslie Boswell (LEAD Class 28) lssaffron@gmail.com
 Third position on the board is also still open if you are interested!

In addition to these representatives you can contact me or our President Gerald Clausen at any time.

Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary



Mark your Calendars! Join us for this special event!

Mark your calendars now to attend the graduation/celebration banquet planned for LEAD Class 38. We are making plans currently, but so have the following information to share with you today:

WHAT: LEAD 38 Graduation/Celebration Banquet

WHEN: February 3, 2023 6 pm Social – 7 pm Banquet

WHERE: One Box Convention Center – Broken Bow NE

WHY: Help us celebrate the graduation (cancelled because of Covid the day the original event was to happen in Lincoln) with LEAD 38 graduates!

HOW: Registration will be available once details are in place – stay tuned for more information later

Sponsored by: The Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association and the Nebraska LEAD Program

Travel Study Update:

The 2022 National Travel Study Seminar to Idaho was a huge success. We enjoyed spending 10 days touring in and around Twin Falls, Boise, Caldwell, Lewiston, Wallace and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The agricultural visits were superb and included a wide variety of experiences. Many thanks sent to Matt Doperalski, LEAD 14, who helped arrange many of the tours and visits. Matt currently lives in Garden City, ID and works in the agricultural industry. His contacts were great and we thoroughly enjoyed visiting with them. I posted daily photos and logs on the LEAD Alumni Facebook page of our adventures. Visit Facebook and enjoy our travels. A shout out to Logan Otto, LEAD 19, who tandem base jumped from the Perrine Memorial Bridge in Twin Falls. What a way to participate, Logan! We had so much fun watching his jump. You can see it at <https://youtu.be/DSyesIM-BSg>

I want to thank everyone who traveled to Idaho for the National Travel Seminar. After two years of COVID restrictions cancelling our Travel Study Seminars, this was a perfect bounce back seminar.

Morocco & Madrid:



Pat Heyen, National and International Travel Study Coordinator

We currently have 30 registered for the 2023 International Travel Study Seminar to Morocco & Madrid. The maximum number of travelers is 32. That leaves two spots open, then I will be taking "Wait List" names.

Travel dates are March 10 – 20th, 2023 to Morocco and 20th – 23rd for Madrid.

This destination is proving to be popular, and is sure to be a fantastic destination.

I hope, in the near future, you will be able to join us on one of the Alumni Travel Study Seminars, be it National or International. What a great group of people to travel with.



Leslie Boswell, Outstanding Alumni Committee Chair, LEAD XXVIII.

A Message from the Outstanding Alumni Committee Chair

Being a part of the LEAD program can propel you in some directions you may never have expected. Sometimes it will give you the confidence to become a better leader in your own community, sometimes it will lead you to a bigger stage. We are looking for nominations for Outstanding LEAD Alumni to be honored at our annual meeting in February. This individual should be someone who has taken great steps to promote ag and is a paid member of LEAD Alumni. Nominate the individual you think has done an outstanding job for ag in Nebraska.

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 1, 2023**

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
Or E-mailed to:
Issaffron@gmail.com

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
1992 – Larry Hudkins
1993 – Dennis Baack
1994 – Larry Sitzman
1995 – Gary Bergman
1996 – Ceellia Grevson
1997 – Mike Bauerle
1998 – Kate Sullivan
1999 – Mary Pat-Finn Hoag
2018 – J.D. Alexander
2021 – Ken Herz

2000 – Tom Baker
2001 – Gerald Schmidt
2002 – Craig Buescher
2003 – Doug Boisen
2004 – John Miller
2005 – Fred Meyer
2006 – Nancy Eberle
2007 – Robert Rikli
2008 – Mark Jagels
2019 – Fred Bruning
2022 – Ken Anderson

2009 – Jerry Stahr
2010 – Steve Kruger
2011 – Todd Schroeder
2012 – Deb Fischer
2013 – Dan Duncan
2014 – Lisa Lunz
2015 – Dennis Kahl
2016 – Willow Holoubek
2017 – Tom Schwarz
2020 – Gerald Clausen

Nancy's Notes



Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary

Harvest time is upon us once again. We have a mixed bag around here. So many of the area farmers had to replant after the terrible hailstorm we had this spring. We are hoping and praying for a late frost and good weather to help mature those plantings! For those close by who barely missed the hailstorm, harvest is going hot and heavy. It's always a very, very busy time, sometimes frustrating with delays and breakdowns and always exciting when things go well for those concerned.

As you can see for the newsletter, we have many items to share with you this time. Be sure and mark your calendars for the LEAD 38 banquet and the LEAD Alumni annual meeting and conference to be February 3 and 4 in Broken Bow. LEAD Class 38 and 39 are pooling their efforts to put together an amazing day.

Putting the new structure in place will take some time, but in the long run will serve us well. When you are invited to one of the district meetings, be sure to attend. I think our new Motto and Mis-

sion Statement fit very well into this structure. It's up to all of us to "LEAD by Example" and we are doing that very well!

We are still looking for a Class Correspondent from each LEAD Class. We have had a few volunteers and appreciate receiving those. If your class has not discussed this, or has not yet sent forward a name of a correspondent to represent you, the time to do that is now. You can send those names to me at neberle@mainstaycomm.net.

Last, but not least, we will be putting out a new LEAD Directory this next spring. We are needing any updates such as, emails, addresses, telephone numbers etc. that may have changed since the printing of the 2020 directory. Using the email listing above, send any new information now so we can update our database. These directories, once printed, will be sent out to all dues paying members of the association. We try to update everything as we go along, but many times do not receive new data until after printing has been done so the time to send those updates in is ASAP :)

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**~ Class Notes ~**

Jim Bendfeldt, LEAD 13, was inducted in the NRD Hall of Fame. He is a director on the Central Platte NRD board. Congratulations!

Deb VanMatre, LEAD 24, was elected President of the Nebraska League of Municipalities. She is Mayor of Gibbon. Congratulations!

# The Update

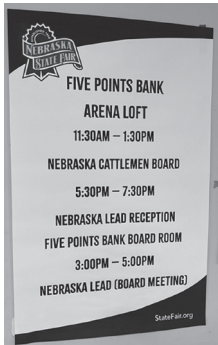
Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
Nancy Eberle  
520 Road 20  
Bradshaw, NE 68319  
neberle@mainstaycomm.net

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## State Fair Reception - 2022

We had a great time at the State Fair reception held August 30, 2022 in the Five Points Bank Arena Loft. Over 50 alums attended. We spent our time networking, eating and just getting reacquainted with each other! Also while we were at the Arena, your board met briefly to discuss the possibility of adding a Motto and a Mission Statement to enhance our restructuring process. After much discussion we want to announce our new motto: "LEAD by Example" which you will see up front and center on our correspondence going forward. In the same process, we chose a new Mission Statement "Our Mission is to encourage our members to continue as agricultural leaders by using their skills, insight, knowledge and network to LEAD by their example."



Signage outside the Arena entrance.



The Board of Directors at work for you!



Gerald presenting a LEAD Alumni donation for the LEAD program to Dr. Hejny. Thanks to LEAD Class 37's fundraising efforts for the 2022 Annual Conference!

## Mission Statement

Our Mission is to encourage our members to continue as agricultural leaders by using their skills, insight, knowledge and network to LEAD by their example.

Connect with us through our website at <http://www.neleadalumni.com> our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Leadalumni> or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a164lDsg07Q>

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 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!