

The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

SPRING 2022

2022 Outstanding LEAD Alum Ken Anderson (LEAD I)



Leslie Boswell handing the award for 2022 Outstanding LEAD Alumni to Ken Anderson.

We are pleased to honor Ken Anderson as our 2022 Outstanding LEAD Alumni.

Ken started his career in 1977 as a farm broadcaster at KRVN Radio here in Lexington. In 1989, Ken joined NC+ Hybrids in Lincoln, where he worked in advertising and marketing for 15 years. That was followed by stints with two Nebraska-based marketing communication firms.

In the fall of 2008, Brownfield had an opening for a farm broadcaster based in Nebraska. Ken was hired and worked there until his retirement in December of 2020.

Ken has received several awards over the years, including the NAMA Excellence in Marketing Communications Award in 2002 and the NAFB Farm Broadcaster of the Year Award in 2014. His work has also been recognized by national and

state farm and commodity organizations.

Ken is a past president of the NAFB Foundation board of directors and the Nebraska Agribusiness Club. He was a member of Nebraska LEAD Class 1 and served on the Ag Leadership Council's board of directors.

Ken and Ardella live in Lincoln and have four children and ten grandchildren. In his retirement, Ken plans to enjoy a slightly slower pace, spending more time with Ardella, their kids and grandkids and doing some traveling.

Please help me congratulate our 2022 Outstanding LEAD Alumni, Ken Anderson.



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!

Allen G. Blezek Friend of LEAD Award Winners



Friend of LEAD Award Winner NPPD - accepting the award is John McClure Vice President for Government Affairs and General Counsel.

The 2020 award goes to John McClure and Nebraska Public Power District. NPPD has been on board since our very beginnings as LEAD I learned about nuclear energy at Peru State College and subsequently visited the Cooper Nuclear Station. However, in the late 1980s – early 1990s, efforts led by LEAD III alum, Tom Baker of Trenton resulted in the establishment of the Natural Resources, Water, and Energy seminar that took place in southwest Nebraska. This seminar also provided LEAD the opportunity to be in a part of another geographic part of our state - which is different from any other - in terms of rainfall, cropping systems, oil production, irrigation, etc. In the beginning, LEAD teamed up with the McCook Community College and then eventually began working with the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture campus in Curtis in hosting the group on Sunday afternoon and evening. At this same time, John McClure and NPPD increased their level of involvement to expand our coverage of public power, which as you know is unique to Nebraska. Now we were able to add coal fired generation as well as water powered generation - thus covering all fronts in addition to the long-standing sessions on nuclear energy at Peru State College and Cooper Nuclear Station. John McClure was

instrumental in NPPD’s increased involvement. As a presenter, he is a uniquely qualified individual because of his knowledge, legal training, common sense approach, and professionalism. The Nebraska LEAD Program is grateful to the loyalty that John has displayed over so many years. John McClure was always there from the beginning, always there when NPPD might be considering a cut back in their support, and always there to present a first class case for public power in Nebraska. John joined NPPD in 1980 with undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Nebraska. John and his wife, Julie, who is also a UNL graduate, have four children, three of which are UNL graduates.

The 2022 award goes to Roger Hanke of Palmer. Mr. Hanke, in the 1970’s was a strong supporter of Cooperative Extension in Nebraska and served as Chairman of the State Extension Board. He was very active in the Nebraska Young Farmers and Ranchers Educational Association, serving in several state officer positions. Roger was already a proven leader in Nebraska’s agricultural industry and he saw the need for a creation of a program to develop the future leaders. Early on, Roger was asked to serve on a steering committee to develop what eventually would become LEAD. He was part of developing the broad philosophy of what LEAD should do for the future of Nebraska agriculture. Roger along with Paul Eveland, Bob Gingery, and Hollis Miller were members of the Ag Builders Leadership Committee that met on January 26, 1981 to discuss the proposed Agricultural Education Foundation. Also, in attendance were Dr. Jim Horner, Professor of Agricultural Education and Don Swoboda, Associate Dean of Cooperative Extension. This committee decided that the Board should consist of not less than 15 persons or more than 20 and that each board member should be vitally interested in assisting to develop rural leadership in Nebraska. It was also decided during this meeting that Eveland, Gingery, Hanke, Miller and Horner would be the initial directors of this corporation and it was decided to change the name of the corporation from the Agricultural Education Foundation to the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council. Roger and his fellow directors developed and adopted the Articles of Incorporation and developed a list of potential committee members and future board members. As Roger shared, “We learned from the set-up of Ag Builders on how we should set-up the NALC.” In the early years, Roger served the NALC Board as Chairman Pro Tem and Vice President. Because of his statewide reputation as a leader, Roger’s support of the need for an adult agricultural leadership development program was instrumental in getting the Nebraska LEAD Program off the ground. Roger has also served on the advisory councils for the South Central Research Center and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and continues to be an active member of the Ag Builders of Nebraska. Roger and his



NE LEAD Alumni President Matt Dolch presented the 2022 Friend of LEAD plaque to Roger Hanke.

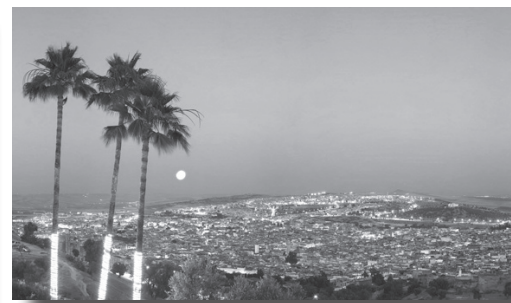
2022 National Travel Study Seminar – Idaho

Spring is in the air and I am getting a pretty big case of “gardening fever”. March/April becomes a busy time. We have wonderful news in the LEAD Alumni Organization. New structure, new travel destinations and hopefully a lot of continued interest and participation in the Alumni.

We have 35 persons registered to travel to Idaho on August 12th – 21st, 2022. We will be traveling from Twin Falls to Boise, up to the Lewiston/Moscow area, then on to Coeur d’ Alene and Wallace Idaho. We have some very interesting visits planned. Fish hatchery, Hydro Electric Power Plant, Hops Production, Seed Production, Dinner Cruise, Silver Mine Tour, etc.

The itinerary and registration are posted on the LEAD Alumni Website, or you can contact me for more information. We would love to have you join us.

2023 International Travel Study Seminar Announced



BIG NEWS: At the meeting in January, the Alumni Board selected our next international travel study seminar destination. **IT IS – MOROCCO** with a 3-day add on for Madrid, Spain

Travel dates – March 10-20, 2023, 9 days (8 nights), and add on March 19-23, 2023.

Madrid Highlights:

- Visits to Farms – high tech and traditional agriculture
- Visit Morocco’s 4 imperial cities of Marrakech, Fes, Rabat and Meknes
- Night in luxury Eco-lodge in Agafay desert and ride a camel
- Visit naturally healing botanical gardens where we learn about herbs and spices
- Visit traditional cattle, sheep and goat market
- Visit a high tech citrus and olive farm. Learn about the water and irrigation challenges
- Visit to the progressive greenhouses of CTT. The Technology Transfer Center was created in 2005 by the Association of Producers and Exporters of Fruits and vegetables in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Ministry of Agriculture.

This is just a small list of the wonderful things we will see in Morocco.

Cost is \$4,549 per person. \$700 single supplement (Airfare included)

Madrid add on \$1,000 per person. \$400 single supplement (Airfare included)

The full itinerary will be placed on the website, once it is finalized. Maximum number of travelers is 32. We have a lot of interest and a lot of people signed up already after the announcement was made in January. The announcement was also placed on the Alumni Facebook page.



Pat Heyen, National and International Travel Study Coordinator

LEAD Alumni 2022 Annual Conference Held In Lexington - February 5



Nebraska LEAD Class XXXVII hosted the Alumni Association for their annual meeting and a day full of amazing tour stops!

Beginning the day bright and early, the first stop was at Masterhand Milling where General Manager Drew Price gave a tour of the facility and answered questions about the pelleting process. Then to Chief Ethanol where the group visited with CEO Ted Free

and Distillers Coordinator Bobbi Lorenz. Discussions were abundant about the facility in Lexington; the future of ethanol; and opportunities on the horizon for the industry and facility.

At Orthman Manufacturing President John McCoy, Ag Engineer Manager Brad Jorgenson and Sales Manager Justin Troutt led the group through their production process. Orthman Manufacturing also hosted the group for lunch at the Lexington Opportunity Center. He shared the history and legacy of Orthman Manufacturing; talked candidly about the challenges and triumphs the company has encountered over the years; shared international trends and changes to supply change because of policy and COVID-19; and addressed the topic of workforce development and availability.



In the afternoon the group visited Nebraska Plastics in Cozad. This might have been one of the more unusual tours of the day. As one participant said, “I didn’t even know we had a plastics plant in Nebraska.” Primary products are vinyl fences and agricultural and industrial pipes. Vice President of Manufacturing Millard Schryer, HR Manager Micah Neill, and Retail Sales Manager Tom Dunphy provided a tour of the facility and it’s 76-year history in Cozad. Judy Trent of Pleasanton, LEAD XXXVIII, shared, “I enjoyed going to Nebraska Plastics. It was interesting to see how the plastic is molded into fence products.”

We visited Darr Feedlot where Manager John Schroder gave the group a tour of the feedlots and outbuildings. He demonstrated the community collaboration that takes place at Darr’s water station. They can fill water trucks quickly in the summertime for refilling cattle tanks, but also as a beneficial feature for local fire and rescue crews. LEAD XXVIII graduate, Leslie Boswell of Shickley stated “The knowledge and detail were amazing. The science in areas you wouldn’t associate with feeding cattle is staggering and shows how dedicated they are to properly and sustainable raising beef.”



*Kristi Block and Scott Sorensen,
Conference Coordinators.*

The final tour stop for the day was at Mac’s Creek Winery & Brewery where Max and Seth McFarland provided a tour and tasting; explained the history behind the winery and brewery; and shared the niche side of agriculture.

To sum up the day, one individual stated, “All the tours were great. Amazing what activity goes on in our Nebraska communities!”

The group ended the day at District 22 Event Center for supper and the Annual Business Meeting. Thanks Kristi Block, Scott Sorensen and Jason Keiser for coordinating the day for us!!!

Congratulations to LEAD Class XXXIX Graduates



“Honored Classes”

Each year the NE LEAD program recognizes and honors a former class of graduates from the program. This year’s honorees were LEAD Classes VIII, IX and X!



LEAD Class VIII



LEAD Class IX



LEAD Class X

Nancy's Notes



Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary

Happy Spring everyone!!! It feels like we've been having spring days several times in March, now if we can only get some rain to go with the nice weather!!!

As you can tell, from the information in this newsletter, we have been undergoing several changes over the last few months. The Strategic Planning Committee came up with a workable plan to allow for the Board of Directors to have regional representatives for all of us and still allow for a Class Representative from each class to stay involved and connected. We are actively seeking a representative from each class to help keep their class informed about the happenings of the association. If you are interested in representing your class, let me know and I will send you some information on how you can become involved.

We are also happy to be able to continue our regional meetings as we go forward so if you are interested in hosting one, get in touch with us anytime!

LEAD ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2022

SE District

I	Gerald Clausen
XXVIII	Leslie Boswell
XXXVI	Nate Blum

NE District

VI	Mark Holoubek
XXIII	Larry Heyen
XXX	Deb Neidig

SW District

XIV	Dave Nelson
XII	Dori Wanitschke
XIX	David Grimes

NW District

VII	Russ Lechtenberg
XXXVIII	Judy Trent

At Large

III	Larry Hudkins
IX	Stan Mitchell

Class 39 Representative

Jesse Mohnike

Past President

Matt Dolch

President: Gerald Clausen

Exec. Treasurer: Tim Graff

1st Vice President: Stan Mitchell

Exec. Secretary: Nancy Eberle

2nd Vice President: Leslie Boswell

Conference Coordinator – Tim Graff and Nancy Eberle

Secretary/treasurer: Dori Wanitschke

Travel Study Coordinator: Pat Heyen

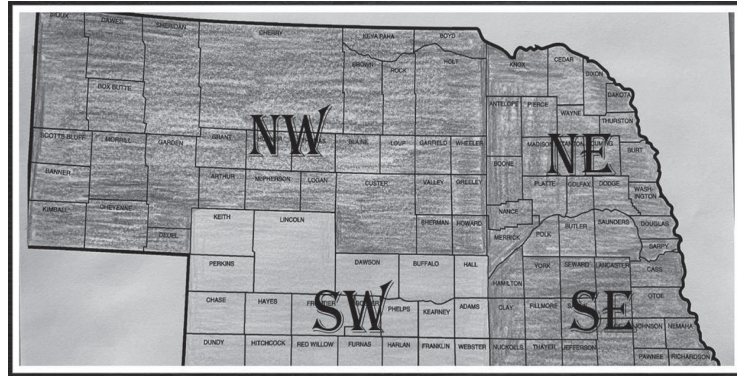
Class 39 Representative – Jesse Mohnike

Past President: Matt Dolch

Ag Adventure and Newsletter Editor – Nancy Eberle

Social Media Coordinator: – Mark Suhr

Below is a copy of the regional map we are working with. We are referring to the regions as



Northwest, Southwest, Northeast and Southeast. The district representatives on the board (noted in this newsletter) are located in your respective region and will be your contact going forward. The initial regional representatives were elected from current board members, but in the future will be elected by alumni members living in the district. For any additional information about the restructuring process feel free to contact our President, Gerald Clausen, or anyone from the Executive Board Committee.

Best wishes for a great spring until next time LEAD on

The Update

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Meet Your 2022 Executive Board Committee



Gerald Clausen, President



Stan Mitchell, 1st VP



Leslie Boswell, 2nd VP



Dori Wanitschke, Sec./Treas.



Matt Dolch, Past President



Jesse Mohnike, LEAD XXXIX Rep.

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=a164Dsg07Q>

*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!