

The Update

"LEAD by Example"

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

WINTER 2023

NEBRASKA LEAD ALUMNI ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Join LEAD Alumni in Columbus!

As Nebraskans, agriculture is ALL around us. That said, not everyone understands the industry's importance to our way of life or realizes how agricultural fits into their lives.

Through "A Lifetime of Agriculture," the theme for the 2024 Nebraska LEAD Alumni Annual Conference, we're exploring how people of all ages are involved with agriculture on a daily basis. From young to old, agriculture is our way of life.

Speaker highlights include: Sarah Pillen, Brock Pillen, Gov. Jim Pillen (invited), Dr. Rodney Bennett (invited), Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss, Megahn Schafer, Hilary Maricle and Katy McNeil. Interactive site visits to Behlen Manufacturing Company and the new Columbus Community Children's Museum.

Register now by visiting <https://go.unl.edu/leadalumni2024> or scan the QR code.

Register by Jan. 19, 2024 for a special early bird rate!

Questions?

Contact: David Moss, LEAD Class 40 - (402) 450-4561



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 - BEGINS AT 9:00 A.M.

RAMADA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

265 33rd Avenue - Columbus, NE 68601





*Tim Gaff, Executive Treasurer
Nebraska LEAD Alumni*

Greetings, fellow Alumni!

Since this newsletter is mailed to all alumni of the LEAD Program, this gives me a chance to ask everyone, what would you like to see as a LEAD Alumni member?

I have certainly enjoyed the opportunity for continued leadership and participation with LEAD and Alumni events. I have only missed two annual conferences and I can say that I always found the conferences beneficial, worthwhile and a great way to interact with fellow Alumni. Of the several Ag Adventure Tours that I attended, I have also continued my “LEAD Experience” with education and comradery with non-LEAD participants traveling across Nebraska. Serving as your Executive Treasurer has also been a fulfilling experience as we continue in our mission to provide for the needs of the LEAD Program and our Alumni members.

So, I ask again, what would you like to see as a member of the LEAD Alumni?

There is a survey included with this newsletter, and it will also be available online at the Alumni website. PLEASE take a few minutes to complete the survey and send it back. Our Strategic Planning Committee will compile and use the results to better provide for your needs.

In the meantime, please continue your membership with the Alumni. I also encourage everyone to attend the next Annual Conference – LEAD Class 40 is preparing an amazing conference that you will not want to miss!



Thanks for the Memories



Nancy Eberle, past Executive Secretary

As I sit down to write my farewell piece for this newsletter the song “Thanks for the Memories” comes to mind. I really do want to thank all of you for your support and friendship over the many years I served as your Executive Secretary. I really DO have wonderful memories of all the projects we completed and worked together on. I can honestly say, working with the boards over the years and all the alumni members has been a wonderful experience and one I will always treasure. I’m really happy we have Tami Clausen in place now as our new Executive Secretary. She hit the ground running (as they always say) and is doing a great job for our association. As I always left my notes in the past

Until Next Time - LEAD On!

The most important step any Nebraska LEAD Fellow graduate can take is to stay connected to this amazing network of agricultural leaders from across Nebraska. Continue the personal and professional growth that you began by staying in touch with your classmates and those of the other classes to enhance your "LEAD Experience" by becoming a life member or renewing your Nebraska LEAD Alumni Membership today.

If you have not already done so, it's time to think about your membership to the NE LEAD Alumni Association Below is a form for you to use and return. Join the 650+ members now!

Join the LEAD Network with your Membership
\$45 Annual Membership - Due January 1 each year
\$450 Lifetime Membership

Some Benefits of Membership:

- ❖ Membership Directory – Printed every 3 years
- ❖ Quarterly Newsletter. Website, Facebook Page
- ❖ Regional events, annual conference
- ❖ Provides Financial Support to LEAD program
- ❖ Educational Travel Seminars - National, International and Ag tour
- ❖ A link with “Leaders” all across the U.S.
- ❖ And much more!

Yes, I'll join the LEAD Alumni

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

Name: _____ **Spouse:** _____

Address _____

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

E-mail _____

If you'd like to send your dues electronically, go to: <http://www.neleadalumni.com/> and complete the form
or
mail to: Tami Clausen, 201 S. Pine Street, Hooper NE 68031

If you have questions email contact@neleadalumni.com

President's Message



Stan Mitchell, LEAD 9, President.

Greetings to all!

The Lead Alumni Association is busy finishing up 2023 activities and planning for 2024. So many times we get to this time of year and we wonder where time has gone and what we have accomplished this past year. I can definitely relate, as a retired person you would think I would have all kinds of time but I seem busier now than ever and can't believe the 2023 year is soon coming to an end and I haven't accomplished near what I had set out to do.

I would like to thank all of the hard working members of our committees as well as Board members and staff for the accomplishments that we have had this past year. We should all be very proud of our organization.

Our LEAD Alumni Association will be conducting a survey this year. It has been some time since we have sent one out, 2017, so we need to catch up with everyone and get your input. Please give a few minutes of your time to complete the survey and let us know how we can improve as

an organization and serve your needs. More information about the survey and how you can participate will be included in this newsletter.

I would like to thank everyone for the privilege of serving as your President this last year. It has been a different year from the stand point that we are ironing out the kinks to a new Board structure and developing the regional concept of representing our membership. There is still work to be done and our success will depend on how well we can engage our members and encourage participation. Also a big welcome to Tami Clausen as our new Executive Secretary. I have enjoyed working with Tami and look forward to what we can accomplish in the future.

In closing I would just once again thank Nancy Eberle for all her contributions to the Lead Alumni Association. I know Nancy will still be involved and active in our Association and we welcome her participation and guidance.

Hope to see all of you at our Annual Conference February 17, 2024

LEAD by Example.

Happy
NEW YEAR

International Travel Study –

Hello Alum!

If you need a New Year’s resolution, how about “TRAVEL MORE”!

“Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer”, and then add to that by “Travel with the LEAD Alumni”.

With the holidays winding down, maybe you would consider traveling with the LEAD Alumni on one of our Travel Study Seminars.

March 22-28, 2024 brings our next National Travel Study Seminar. We will be traveling to Savannah GA and Charleston SC. It is going to be a wonderful adventure, as we admire and learn about coastal agriculture and aquaculture. I am really looking forward to visiting the southeast coast of the US.

“The biggest mistake people make is putting off traveling until they retire “. In my thirty plus years in the travel business, I can’t tell you how many times I have heard people tell me that they delayed traveling until they



Pat Heyen, National and International Travel Study Coordinator - (402) 314-3430

were retired, but when retirement came around their health had failed to the point they could not travel. How sad. That is why I always tell people to travel right now as you never know when your health issues (or those of your spouse) will keep you from traveling. No one’s work is so important that you can’t take one to two weeks a year to dream big dreams and visit new parts of this great big world.” – Steve Glenn, President, Executive Travel –

We would love to have you travel the world with the LEAD Alumni. Come and join us for one of our National or International Travel Study Seminars. You won’t be disappointed. Join the Alumni Association by paying annual or life-time dues so you can travel with the LEAD Alumni.



Attention: NE LEAD Alumni Annual Meeting

Place: Ramada Inn and Conference Center, Columbus, NE

Date: February 17, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM

We encourage anyone attending to consider joining us for the Annual LEAD Alumni Association Annual Meeting



Tami Clausen, LEAD Executive Secretary.

The past couple of months, taking on the task of Executive Secretary, have been quite a whirl wind. Nancy Eberle and Leslie Boswell have been very helpful in the transition. Nancy and I met recently and exchanged SEVERAL boxes of historic information concerning the Alumni. I am at awe looking at the path this association has taken and the work everyone has done. This organization plays a vital role in the continuation of the LEAD Program. Every LEAD Alum is an example of the positive influence the LEAD Program has on today's world.

These accomplishments would not have happened without communication. In today's world we have so many ways to communicate with each other. I try to imagine when my grandfather came to this country from Germany, he was only 4 years old. His parents knowing that the only form of communication with their family in Germany was going to be by letter and it would take months for messages to go across the ocean. Today, we just take out our cell phones and dial or jump on our computers and have a "face to face" conversation. It is so easy for us to get information out and communicate our message to others. This newsletter is a wonderful way for the LEAD Alumni community to stay in touch and encourage each other.

One of the biggest pieces of communication is having a response to the message that is sent out. Some of you will remember Dr. Herman Glaess, from Concordia University, presenting information during your LEAD experience on the importance of communication, and that FEEDBACK is a very important part of communication. With that concept in mind, take a moment to respond to the mailings, emails, and phone calls you receive from fellow LEAD Alumni members. Your response is an action telling the sender that they are important and that what they are sharing is of value. Keep each other up to date on the happens of your lives. Share what you have experienced because of your involvement in the LEAD Program with potential LEAD Fellows. Attend the upcoming Annual Meeting and Conference where communication takes place and learning is inevitable. Be sure to sign up for the February 17th Conference today!

IMPORTANT UPDATE

**The LEAD Alumni has a new, designated email address.
contact@neleadalumni.com**

Add the address to your safe senders and watch for emails about upcoming events.

**If you would like to communicate by postal service please use
Nebraska LEAD Alumni
201 S Pine Street
Hooper, NE 68031**

Stay in touch

The LEAD Alumni Board of Directors have made great strides to enhance the Alumni organization. The Goal is to keep alumni connected and supportive of the Nebraska LEAD Program. The following is a list of the current Board Members. Reach out to them and thank them for their efforts, ask them what is involved in being on the Board of Directors and if you can be of assistance in any way. For more contact information for officers and representatives email contact@neleadalumni.com and Tami will be happy to assist you. For those Board members who are retiring we thank them for their service. We encourage you to say “Yes” if the nominating committee would contact you about filling the upcoming vacancies. Show your leadership power and give back to the LEAD Alumni.

2023 NE LEAD Alumni Officers

President – Stan Mitchell 1st Vice President – Leslie Boswell
2nd Vice President – Jesse Mohnike Past President – Gerald Clausen
Secretary/Treasure – Dori Wanitschke

District Representatives (year term will end)

Southeast District

Stan Mithchell (2023), Leslie Boswell (2025), Jesse Mohnike (2027)

Northeast District

Mark Holoubek (2023), Deb Neidig (2025), Larry Heyen (2027)

Southwest District

Dori Wanitschke (2024), David Grimes (2026), Dave Nelson (2028)

Northwest District

Katie Kaliff-Jangels (2024), Judy Trent (2026), Jake Tollman (2028)

At Large

Larry Hudkins (2025), Kerry Glandt (2028)

Class 40 Rep.

Austin Benes

NE LEAD Alumni Staff

Executive Secretary – Tami Clause

Executive Treasurer – Tim Graff

Study Travel Coordinator – Pat Heyen

Social Media Coordinator –Mark Suhr

Conference Coordinators – Nancy Eberle & Tim Graff

The Update

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

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bradshaw, NE
Permit No. 6

Join Us on Facebook: Share Your Class Memories!



Mark Suhr, Social Media Coordinator.

Dear LEAD Alumni,

Reconnect with old friends and relive your LEAD days by joining our official Alumni Facebook Group! Go to Facebook search Nebraska LEAD Alumni and Click to Join and start sharing your favorite memories, class pictures with brief descriptions, etc. Let's create a vibrant community together!

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!

NEBRASKA LEAD ALUMNI SURVEY - 2024

The Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association is seeking input from its members in order to create a 5 year strategic plan. This survey should take less than 10 minutes of your time. Your input would be a tremendous help to the Board of Directors as they plan for the future. You can return this as snail mail, or go to the website: http://www.neleadalumni.com/?page_id=821 and complete it there. Thank you.

1. Listed below are some activities the NE LEAD Alumni Association has supported. Please place a check beside those you have participated in.

NE LEAD Graduation and Honors Night LEAD Alumni Annual Conference
 Ag Adventure Tour LEAD Alumni Annual Meeting
 National or International Travel Study Participated in a LEAD Seminar Function

Do you have any suggestions for other activities that we could offer as an association??

2. Please rate from 1-7 (with 1 being the highest and 7 being the lowest) the below items in their rank of usefulness or interest to you as a LEAD Alumni member.

LEAD Alumni annual conference
 LEAD Alumni Update Newsletter
 Ag Adventure Tour
 Lead Alumni Website
 LEAD Alumni Facebook Account
 Travel Study Seminars
 LEAD Seminar Function

Please tell us why you chose you # 1 item as the most useful

3. National & International Travel Seminars

Would you consider participating in a LEAD Alumni travel seminar?

- Yes Maybe Yes – Hoping to
 Probably Not Never

Would you prefer National or International travel seminars?

- National International Both

Would you like to see more than one (1) travel seminar per year offered?

- Yes No

4. What, if any, suggestions to you have for the Update Newsletter?

5. We have made an effort to keep our website updated. In addition we have a Facebook account and offer a quarterly newsletter. Please rank from 1-3 (with 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest rank) these three items as far as usefulness to you.

- Newsletter
 Facebook Account
 Website

What else would you like to see on the website or included in our Facebook postings?

6. We are considering offering educational webinars to our members. Would you be interested in these? Check those that apply.

- Webinars on Estate Planning Conflict Management Skills
 Webinars on Succession Planning How to Influence Public Policy

_____ Investment Planning

_____ How to Run for Public Office

_____ Listening Skills

_____ Influencing Others

7. We are always looking for ways to involve more of our members in our various planning committees and activities. Would you be interested in assisting with any of the following? Please check all that apply.

_____ Ag Adventure Tour

_____ LEAD Alumni Investment Committee

_____ District Board Representative

_____ Class Correspondent

_____ Travel Study Seminar Committee

_____ LEAD Newsletter – The Update

- 8; Do you have any other comments or suggestions that might be beneficial to our Association?

9. If you are not currently active in LEAD Alumni activities at the present, why are you not? Please check all that apply.

_____ Active in Other Associations

_____ Too busy with family right now

_____ Not active in farming/rural issues

_____ Too many other leadership commitments

_____ Too busy in farming/ranching operation at present time

Other?

10. What groups are you currently active in? Check all that apply

_____ Nebraska Corn Growers Association

_____ Nebraska Wheat Growers Association

_____ Nebraska Soybean Association

_____ Nebraska Sorghum Association

_____ Nebraska Cattlemen's Association

_____ Nebraska Pork Producers Association

_____ Nebraska Poultry Association

- Nebraska Ag Builders
- Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
- Nebraska Farm Bureau
- Nebraska Farmers Union
- Center for Rural Affairs
- Elected Official
 - Local
 - County
 - State
 - National

Other? _____

If you checked that you had an interest in serving on one of our Committees, Boards, activities etc., would you please enter you name and contact information below? Thanks so much!

