Letter from Executive Director

Dear friends,

This was not the year we envisioned for the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation, nor was it the year many of you planned. With a bomb-cyclone followed by storms and flooding that wouldn’t stop, 2018-2019 could be viewed through a lens of destruction, loss, and despair. When I look back on this year, I will certainly remember the enormity of the challenges faced by Nebraskans. I will remember the tears and the calls for help. But, more importantly, I will remember the overwhelming support from people near and far. I will remember the strength of those affected, the determination of volunteers, and the coming together of communities.

Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund did not only raise and distribute $3.1 million. It let people know they were not alone. It spread hope and encouragement. It contributed to #NebraskaStrong in ways we could not have imagined. It was an honor for our team to steward the incredible outpouring of support. Thank you, thank you to all of you who gave in so many ways.

When farm and ranch families face unprecedented obstacles, it is more important than ever that non-farm Nebraskans understand agriculture and its impact in our state. While our fundraising focus turned entirely to disaster relief, our program team stayed the course, doubling the number of classroom lessons taught, recruiting new colleges to participate in workshops for new teachers, and providing standards-aligned educational resources to classrooms across Nebraska. Read on for highlights from the year and a glimpse of how, thanks to your support, we are moving forward together.

With gratitude,

Megahn Schafer
Executive Director
The Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation’s Connecting Chapters Program equips high school FFA members to connect with elementary students and peers to increase agricultural literacy – awareness, knowledge and appreciation – in their communities.

Agricultural literacy is not only important for engaging future consumers about where their food comes from, what it takes to get it to grocery stores, and how the United States’ modern food production system allows them to spend so little of their disposable incomes on food; it also inspires and equips students to explore future careers in agriculture.

Through Connecting Chapters, Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom, local FFA chapters, the Department of Education, and county Farm Bureau leaders build on the pillars of partnership, mentorship, and service to work toward the common goal of developing leaders and protecting the future of agriculture.

All program materials and trainings are provided at no cost to FFA chapters.

FFA chapters that participate in the program complete four milestones to become agricultural literacy champions.

### Milestones

- **71 FFA** chapters actively participated in the 2018-2019 school year.
- **3,100** FFA members became agricultural literacy champions.
- **3,900+ K-5** students benefited from the outreach activities led by the FFA students.
- **100%** of participants said the program is an effective way to promote agricultural literacy in Nebraska.

"Wallace FFA incorporated the Lincoln County Farm Bureau Learning Barn into their elementary classroom visits. Students walked away with a better understanding of where their food comes from and the role they can play in agriculture.”

Lisa Kemp, Wallace FFA Advisor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FFA Chapter(s)</th>
<th>County Farm Bureau Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arcadia, Ord</td>
<td>Bill Lueck (Valley)</td>
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<td>Auburn, Johnson Brock</td>
<td>Jason Armknecht (Nemaha)</td>
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<td>BerMis</td>
<td>Becky Schwarz (Phelps)</td>
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<td>Blair</td>
<td>Greg Hoegermeyer (Washington)</td>
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<td>Bloomfield, Creighton, Crofton &amp; Verdigre</td>
<td>Krista Podany (Knox)</td>
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<td>Bruning-Davenport &amp; Thayer Central</td>
<td>Andy Schmidt (Thayer)</td>
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<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>Mallory Becker Dugan (Greeley)</td>
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<td>Crete</td>
<td>Mike Nohavec (Saline)</td>
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<td>Doniphan-Trumbull</td>
<td>Mark Haskins (Hall)</td>
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<td>Elba</td>
<td>Kelsey Scheer (Howard)</td>
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<td>Quentin Bowen (Richardson)</td>
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<td>Garden County</td>
<td>Shauna Roberson (Garden)</td>
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<td>Hampton</td>
<td>Zach Hunnicutt (Hamilton)</td>
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<td>Heartland</td>
<td>Karah Perdue (York)</td>
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<td>High Plains</td>
<td>Cale Pallas (Polk)</td>
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<td>Lakeview</td>
<td>Julie Wilke (Platte)</td>
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<td>Litchfield</td>
<td>Tom Smedra (Sherman)</td>
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<td>Madison, Newman Grove</td>
<td>Aaron Fehringer (Madison)</td>
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<td>Maywood</td>
<td>Kim Mortensen (Frontier)</td>
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<td>McPherson</td>
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<td>Mead</td>
<td>Larry Heyen (Saunders)</td>
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<td>Norris</td>
<td>Paula Peterson (Lancaster)</td>
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<td>Dana Peterson (Nance)</td>
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<td>Wayne</td>
<td>Chris McGuire (Wayne)</td>
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<td>West Holt</td>
<td>Katie &amp; James Olson (Holt)</td>
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Virtual Field Trips Feature Science, Careers

During the fall of 2018, 1,375 students attended a pig virtual field trip, leading to a deeper knowledge of how pig farmers care for pigs, people, and the planet. The field trips allow farmers and ranchers to open their barn doors through technology to show students what happens on their farms and ranches.

Creating Partnerships
Because of biosecurity practices, it is difficult for many people to go inside a pig barn. Virtual field trips allow pig farmers to invite students in, share real life examples of the care they provide, and connect students to agriculture, while protecting the health of the pigs in the barns.

Lauren Hogue, communications coordinator for DNA Genetics, saw a news video about the virtual field trips and contacted the Foundation to get involved. DNA Genetics is a sister company of Pillen Family Farms near Columbus. DNA Genetics works with pork producers to provide continuous improvement in genetic traits on pig farms across North America.

“We were looking for a way to broaden our exposure in the community we are in,” said Hogue. “By sharing what we do as pig farmers in our community, it opens the door for future careers and a way we can provide education to students about what we do.”

Aligned with state education standards
DNA Genetics and Union Farms near Ulysses volunteered to host six virtual field trips. To make this program appealing to teachers, components of the field trip experience are aligned with Nebraska’s science education standards. Bringing technology into the classroom also appeals to teachers and students. Third grade students participate in a series of lessons related to pig farming. In each lesson, students gain knowledge related to solving the question, “How does a pig grow?”

During each 40-minute virtual field trip, a Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) educator walks the students through the pig barn while interviewing the farmer. Lukas Fricke with Union Farms enjoys being able to share his story with the students while connecting with them through technology.

“The video chat tours are the easiest way to get a lot of students through our barns without having to spend a lot of money for travel or having to worry about biosecurity or safety,” says Fricke. “We brought 150 third graders through our barns in a little under 30 minutes just by connecting on Google Hangouts.”

This partnership shifts education from learning about a topic to figuring out why or how something happens.
Volunteers in Action

The Foundation has an army of volunteers that share the importance of agriculture in all Nebraskan’s lives. The Promotion and Education Committee serves as an active, statewide voice promoting a positive public perception of agriculture to consumers of all ages. The Agriculture Reading Hour Program uses volunteers from across the state to read agriculture themed books to classrooms in their communities. And, the Ag Pen Pal Program connects farmers and ranchers with classrooms throughout Nebraska.

Beyond the Classroom

Kearney Area Children’s Museum Event

In its mission to reach a broad and diverse audience of Nebraskans with accurate information about agriculture, the Nebraska Farm Bureau Promotion and Education (P&E) Committee continually seeks opportunities to engage with kids and families. In February, the committee sponsored a Free Family Fun Night at the Kearney Area Children’s Museum. The evening offered free admission to the museum, and P&E members hosted stations throughout the museum where kids could learn about farming, ranching, and how food gets to their plate. “The opportunity to reach kids and consumers
in a fun and interactive environment made this event a perfect way for us to show how agriculture is in our lives every day,” said Julie Wilke, central region Promotion and Education Committee member. This was the first year the Foundation partnered with the museum, and it was a great fit for all. “Our guests are future consumers, voters, and community members, and it benefits them to be familiarized early with our food and fuel system. It was fun to see the kids learn about how agriculture is part of daily life, provides career opportunities, and contributes to environmental care,” said Traci Winscot, the museum’s executive director.

There was a life-sized interactive exhibit that took kids into a corn field where they could learn the different parts of a corn stalk, how corn is planted and harvested, the products that are made with corn in them, and the stages of corn growth. Farmers National Company provided sponsorship of the new exhibit.

“As a company that serves the nation’s agricultural landowners, Farmers National Company looks for opportunities to support and partner with organizations like the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation, which teaches about the intersection of agriculture and society,” said Matt Gunderson, vice president of farm and ranch management at Farmers National Company. Other highlights of the event included a trivia wheel with prizes, story time with an agriculturally accurate book, coloring and activity books, the chance to make a living necklace, and a view of the earth’s soil with a fun play dough activity.

The Promotion & Education Committee is appointed by the president of Nebraska Farm Bureau and ratified by the board of directors. The committee members are a dedicated group of Farm Bureau members who work to ensure the ideals of Nebraska Farm Bureau are upheld and that farmers and ranchers throughout the state are represented. During their time on the committee, members are given training on leadership and agricultural issues and lead agricultural literacy activities in their communities and statewide.

Lisa Lunz, Promotion and Education Committee Chair shows a museum guest the parts of a corn stalk.

2019 Promotion & Education Committee

Lisa Lunz, Dixon County Farm Bureau (Chair)
Hilary Maricle, Boone County Farm Bureau (At-Large Federation Board Representative)
Sarah Bomark, Lincoln County Farm Bureau (Southwest Region)
Brooke Engelman, Jefferson County Farm Bureau (South Central Region)
Dawn Kucera, Madison County Farm Bureau (Northeast Region)
Paula Peterson, Lancaster County Farm Bureau (Southeast Region)
Natasha Schumacher, Box Butte County Farm Bureau (Northwest Region)
Andra Smith, Blaine County Farm Bureau (North Central Region)
Julie Wilke, Platte County Farm Bureau (Central Region)
Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund Closes
$3.4 Million Distributed to Storm Victims

Spring of 2019 brought one of the most disastrous storms to ravage the state in recent history, causing unprecedented flooding for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. Nebraska Farm Bureau was there to help, creating the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund and collecting $3.4 million to help restore health and safety to individuals and livestock on farms and ranches and in rural communities. One hundred percent of the donations were distributed, with zero administrative fees charged.

“My calves were surrounded by water, standing there bawling for help. I felt helpless. But Farm Bureau got us hay for two and a half months. They lined up hay, feed, fencing supplies, veterinary supplies to help my sick calves. It was unbelievable what they did for us! I can’t say enough thanks to Farm Bureau for that,” said Tom Geisler who farms with his wife Fran outside of Hooper.

In Spencer, ice chunks 10 to 12 feet high, some the size of cars, took out the Spencer Dam and caused catastrophic damage to the Ruzicka farm, where Willard and his son Anthony raise cattle near Verdigre. It also took out the water lines in Boyd County where half to two-thirds of county residents were served by the Boyd County Rural Water District. The Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund helped Ruzicka’s to rebuild, brought water to residents of Spencer and Verdigre, and helped restore the water lines in Boyd County. These are some of the people and places that were able to receive help from the money collected by the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund.

“Our regional managers worked side-by-side with Nebraska farmers and ranchers and rural communities to help aid those affected by the challenging weather season. The generosity of people who wanted to help financially or just volunteer their time for clean-up was overwhelming. More than 6,000 individuals and companies donated to the fund. Volunteers have given countless hours

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2019 Flood and Storms

- 81 counties and five tribal areas had emergency declarations
- 955 farmers and ranchers applied for assistance
- $35 million in unmet needs reported by applicants

Types of Losses

- Displaced: 59
- Personal Property: 235
- Home Damage: 127
- Livestock Death: 125
- Hay/Feed: 122
- Transportation: 121
- Farm Equipment: 108
- Vet Costs: 122
- Fence: 173
- Other: 168
- Debris Removal: 235
- Other: 168

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of time transporting hay, feed, and veterinary supplies for Nebraska farmers and ranchers who had nowhere else to turn. While we hope this fund will not be needed in the future, we are glad to have a mechanism in place at Nebraska Farm Bureau to provide help to farmers and ranchers when it is needed the most. We stand ready and thank those who supported the flood relief efforts. You truly made a difference for so many individuals,” said Steve Nelson, Nebraska Farm Bureau president.

The fund was established at the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation, a nonprofit organization with the ability to manage donations and relief distributions. The number of requests coming into the Disaster Relief Fund were overwhelming.

“We received a total of $35 million in unmet need requests to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund. Private gifts were critical to meeting the needs of those affected by the storms, especially the necessities needed immediately following the storms. We sent out our final disaster checks early this month to close the fund. We’re pleased to have worked with so many generous people and organizations in Nebraska and across the county who donated to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund,” said Megahn Schafer, executive director of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation.

Needs reported from relief applicants included debris removal; repair of personal property, including homes; fencing and feed for livestock; veterinary expenses; farm equipment and increased transportation costs due destruction of roads and bridges.

For Tom and Fran Geisler, Nebraska Farm Bureau helped them get through this difficult time.

“I don’t know if Tom would have made it through without Farm Bureau. They were right there on our doorstep after this disaster. They just came through for us,” Fran Geisler said.

### OVERWHELMING GENEROSITY

- **$3.44 million** in donations
- **6,000+** donors
- Countless volunteer hours and supplies from across the U.S.
- Gifts from all **50 states** plus Washington, D.C., and active military from nine countries

### IMPACT

**INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT**  
Emergency relief supplies, clean-up and rebuilding

- Access to and transportation of hay and feed
- Essential human medical equipment and supplies
- Bottled water to communities that lost their water supply
- Temporary and permanent fencing materials to protect livestock
- Essential veterinary supplies for livestock suffering from post-flooding stress
- Reimbursement for the loss of livestock
- Repair of homes and personal property
- Large equipment rentals for debris clean up

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

- Levee repair and reinforcement
- Water and sanitation system restoration
- City auditorium repair
Scholarships, Awards, and Grants

$109,757 awarded to students and teachers!

Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor of the Year
David Rocker, Franklin High School
Jenny Kocian, David City High School

Charles Marshall Educational Loan
Anna Wiese, Dodge County

Field Trip Grants
Carolyn Dolezal, St. Peter’s Catholic School
Jane Gundvaldson, Aspen Creek Elementary
Lorraine Morfeld, Stanton Elementary
Marilyn Opitz, Jackson Elementary
Michele Ray, Skyview Learning Academy
Delayne Spurgin, Aspen Creek Elementary
Julie Walling, Crestridge Elementary
Lisa Wright, New Hope Christian School
Anna Wuebben, Bloomfield Elementary

Hall County Farm Bureau Scholarship
Nathan Burnett, Wood River Rural High School

Kenneth E. Schwartz Memorial Scholarship
Olivia Bures, Burt County

Nebraska LEAD Scholarship
Becky Schwarz, Phelps County
Cale Pallas, Polk County
Haley Miles, Brown County
Paula Peterson, Lancaster County
Shane Greving, Merrick County
Tiffany Hemenway, Antelope County
Scholarships, Awards, and Grants

Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year
Carolyn Dolezal, St. Peter’s Catholic School
Abbey Spaulding, Fredstrom Elementary

Nebraska Agricultural Education Student Teaching Scholarship
Christy Cooper, Lancaster County
Aaron Hemme, Dodge County
Karlee Johnson, Thurston County
Vanessa Knutson, Otoe County
Katie Nolles, Rock County
William O’Brien, Lancaster County
Kara Phillips, Phelps County
Alex Stocker, Hall County
Sheridan Swotek, Lancaster County
Monica Wasielewski, Kimball County

Nebraska Farm Bureau Scholarship
Jenna Czaplewski, Hall County
Bret Lange, Douglas County
Shelby Little, Valley County
Allison Pachunka, Douglas County
Katerina Roberts, Douglas County

Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation Scholarship in Honor of Max and Eric Brown
Virginia Garrett, Scotts Bluff County
Jenny Keener, Scotts Bluff County
Wendy McKain, Hitchcock County
Caitlin Pittman, Scotts Bluff County
Samantha Rife, Hitchcock County

Ron Hanson Collegiate Leader Scholarship
Emily Frenzen, Nance County
Jacob Rosse, Dawson County

Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet Finalist Awards
Seth Krebs, Antelope County
Cadrien Livingston, Antelope County
Brady Revels, Douglas County
David Schuler, Morrill County
## Annual Gifts Support Our Work

**FY19 October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Range</th>
<th>Donor 1</th>
<th>Donor 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>$100,000+</td>
<td>JPMorgan Chase &amp; Co.</td>
<td>Nebraska Farm Bureau</td>
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<td>$50,000-$99,999</td>
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<td>$25,000-$49,999</td>
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<td>$5,000-$9,999</td>
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<td>National Agriculture In The Classroom Organization</td>
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<td>$100-$499</td>
<td>Roger and Kathy Acklie</td>
<td>Raymond and Judy Althouse</td>
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Annual Gifts Support Our Work

FY19 October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

Thank you for helping us move forward together and supporting the future of agriculture by donating to our programs!
Financials

FY19 October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

Total Net Assets

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
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FY19 Fundraising

- Flood and Storm Disaster Relief: $3,371,008
- Programming: $953,734
- Total Fundraising: $4,324,742

Annual Expenses

- Flood and Storm Disaster Relief: $3,260,192
- Agriculture in the Classroom: $281,767
- Promotion & Education: $111,505
- Scholarships & Awards: $109,757
- Fundraising: $169,575
- Administration: $109,288
**Board of Directors**

Steve Nelson, president, Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
Dr. Allen Blezek, vice president, Emeriti – University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Rob Robertson, secretary/treasurer, Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
David Briggs, Western Cooperative Company  
Bob Campbell, Farm Credit Services of America  
Matt Gunderson, Farmers National Company  
Lisa Lunz, Promotion & Education Committee Chair  
Hillary Maricle, Federation Board of Directors Representative  
John C. Martin, Buffalo County Farm Bureau  
Brent Poleman, Midwest Laboratories, Inc.

**Staff**

Megahn Schafer, Executive Director  
Courtney Schaaradt, Director of Outreach Education  
Lona Thompson, Director of Development  
Brooke Tempel, Education Specialist  
Jenna Sutterfield, Program Associate  
Emily Reitz, Office Assistant/Event Planning Intern

Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to engage youth, educators, and the general public to promote an understanding of the vital importance of agriculture in the lives of all Nebraskans.