2017 ANNUAL REPORT

NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

MAPPING OUR SUCCESS
Dear Friends,

As I review the headlines for this year, I see a new president, devastating hurricanes, record crop yields, and a solar eclipse – change, destruction, new life, and a rare astronomical event. Among the joy, heartache, and amazement, agriculture is a constant provider of the food, fuel, and fiber that sustain us.

In the next 35 to 40 years, farm and ranch families will have to produce twice as much food with no additional resources. It will take the best and brightest to meet this challenge. Our Foundation exposes students to exciting areas of study and career opportunities related to agriculture and offers scholarships to those preparing to uphold the success of the state’s number one industry. We provide engaging resources and professional development opportunities for teachers, and we share the relevance and importance of agriculture to urban audiences.

The Foundation made great steps this year, broadening our reach and providing high quality agricultural literacy programming across the state. It does not go unnoticed that this was made possible by the support of our donors, many of you who are tightening your belts and weathering another cycle of high input costs and low commodity prices. Your unwavering generosity is inspiring.

So, don’t put away your eclipse glasses just yet. With agriculture in the driver’s seat and youth picking up the excitement of an industry that provides necessities, quality of life, and exciting career opportunities, the future in Nebraska is bright.

With thanks,

Megahn Schafer
Executive Director

“Agriculture is the engine that powers the state. It is our privilege to share with all Nebraskans the benefits and opportunities fueled by agriculture.”
Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom is a statewide program that helps students and teachers develop an awareness and understanding that agriculture is their source of life necessities.

- 25,769 Students engaged in hands-on learning
- 1,130 Teachers equipped through ag-literacy workshops
- 12 New Literature Guides created to expose students to agriculture through accurate stories and pictures
- 1 Growing Potential Agriculture Festival debuted in partnership with Northeast Nebraska Corn Growers
- 261 Connections made in the Ag Pen Pal Program
Virtual Field Trips

Planting and harvest were in full swing when fourth and fifth graders from across Nebraska got an exciting opportunity to “ride-along” with a farmer.

The Foundation offered virtual field trips to fourth and fifth grade classrooms participating in the Ag Pen Pal Program during the 2016-2017 school year. These live field trips featured corn planting and harvest in Nebraska and brought the front seat of a planter and combine directly into the classroom using mobile technology.

Using an iPad in the field and computers in the classrooms, students were able to learn the many different aspects of farming -- from the parts of the corn stalk to seeing what a combine and planter looks like close up and how they plant and harvest the corn.

"Fewer and fewer students have any connection to a farm, and I want my class to know what it is truly like to raise crops to feed the world."
- Jane Gundvaldson, fourth-grade teacher, Thomas Elementary in Gretna

Teacher Engagement

Taking a trip to a Northeast Nebraska dairy, teachers from around the area were the students for a day, learning about agriculture.

“It’s one of several teacher training sessions offered by the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation, designed to equip teachers with ideas, lesson plans, and supplies to incorporate agriculture into the classroom.

"Growing up in Omaha, I never experienced agriculture, so it was all brand new to me. I didn’t know how much it affects all the classrooms and what the kids can do. So now that I know the information, I can go and teach the Omaha schools."
- student teacher, Peru State College

The Foundation offered professional development to current and future teachers through workshops at Concordia University, Creighton University, Doane University, Educational Service Unit 8 Clearwater, Educational Service Unit 13 Scottsbluff, Nebraska Library Association Conference, Peru State University, University of Nebraska – Kearney, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and York College.

"I really love that the activities were hands on, and met our standards. Teachers don’t have a lot of time to do fluff in the classroom, and all these lessons have been aligned to state standards, so that’s wonderful. They’re also very interactive. Kids are going to love them."
- Molly Aschoff, digital learning coordinator, ESU 8

627 kids experienced harvest and planting from the seat of a combine and tractor through our Virtual Field Trip program

940 teachers from Nebraska participated in Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom workshops
Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year
Jane Gundvaldson, Thomas Elementary School, Gretna
Matthew Koth, Highland Elementary School, Omaha

Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor of the Year
Jesse Bower, Sutton Public School
Amy Tomlinson, Sandy Creek Public School

Charles Marshall Loan Fund
Kaycee Bartels, Johnson County
Renée Horky, Merrick County
Justin Larsen, Lancaster County
Amber Wiese, Dodge County
Anna Wiese, Dodge County

Field Trip Grants
Theresa Brennan, Sts. Peter & Paul
Molly Carlson, St. Joan of Arc
Brenda Cochran, Wasmere Elementary
Rebecca Dingwel, Pinewood Elementary
Carolyn Doylezal, St. Peter’s Catholic School
Katie Guenther, North American Martyrs
Jane Gundvaldson, Thomas Elementary
Sherry Loos, Yutan Elementary
Pam Mitchell, Pawnee City Elementary
Marlina Opitz, Jackson Elementary
Sandi Seckel, West Park Elementary
Rebecca Sonders, Roper Elementary
Julie Walling, Crestridge Elementary
Rita Will, Abraham Lincoln Elementary
Anne Wuebben, Bloomfield Community Schools

LEAD Scholarship
Bree DeNaeyer, Cherry County
Chris McQuillan, Phelps County
MerleAnn Raichart, Dundy County
Hannah Rupprecht, Buffalo County
Alison Warner, Lancaster County

Nebraska Agricultural Education Teacher Retention Program
Victoria Armstrong, Maywood Public Schools
Jesse Bower, Sutton Public Schools
Casey Carriker, Raymond Central Public Schools
Evey Choat, Laurel-Concord-Ceridigion Public School
Kathleen Cullinan, Kearney High School
Nicole D’Angelo, Seward Public Schools
Hannah Horak, Shelton Public Schools
Samantha Jensen, Bertrand & Loomis High Schools
Reed Kraeger, Elwood Public Schools
Justin Nollette, Sandhills Public Schools
Wade Overturf, Wisner-Pilger Jr. Sr. High School

Not only have you given me resources to help me this fall, but also confidence in knowing you believe in me and the future of agriculture.
- Laura Lundeen, Minden, NE

Nebraska Farm Bureau Scholarship
Cora Brott, Paxton
Allison Johnson, Hastings
Tresa Reiner, Burwell
Myranda Russell, Lincoln
Caleb Bensel, Cambridge

Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

Nebraska Agricultural Education Student Teaching Scholarship
Jacob Goldfuss, Holt County
Maranda Kegley, Kearney County
Juliana Krotz, Lancaster County
Laura Lundeen, Kearney/Franklin County
Spencer Noble, Boone County
Chrisinda Scheidler, Greeley County
Morgan Schilling, Red Willow County
Shawna Wheeler, Cherry County
Sarah Wollenburg, Gage County

Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation Scholarship in Honor of Max and Eric Brown
Sasha Taylor, Ainsworth

Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet Finalist Award
Kyle Lechtenberg, Boyd County
Chris Niemann, Butler County
Lindsey Stern, Custer County
Robert Stuart, Dawson County

$58,058 awarded to students and teachers
First Rural Radio Foundation Scholarship Awarded

Sasha Taylor of Ainsworth was the recipient of the Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation Scholarship in Honor of Max & Eric Brown.

The $2,000 scholarship awards non-traditional students, age 25 or older, living in Nebraska’s rural communities. Taylor is pursuing a nursing degree through Mid-Plains Community College at the Valentine Extended Campus.

Taylor’s long-term goal is to remain on the family farm with her husband and children and continue to raise them in the rural lifestyle. After her youngest child starts kindergarten, she wants to make a positive commitment to the quality of life in rural Nebraska by providing access to healthcare close to home.

The Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation dissolved in April of 2017 and entrusted its scholarship to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation at that time.

National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference Trip

Thanks to the generosity of raise-the-paddle donors at the 2016 Grower’s Gala auction, the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation provided eight Nebraska teachers the opportunity to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

The annual conference uses workshops, award ceremonies, and tours of agricultural operations to inspire K-12 general education teachers to effectively incorporate agriculture into formal classroom instruction.

Teachers from across Nebraska attended, including teachers from Omaha, Gretna, Lincoln, Sidney, Minatare, Waverly, and North Bend. Three teachers were recognized on stage at the conference – Matthew Koth and Jane Gundvaldson as Nebraska’s Teacher of the Year Award recipients, and Judi Roach and Jane Gundvaldson as recipients of the CHS Conference Scholarship.

There is a need for nurses in my community, and I have a passion for helping people. This scholarship will help me pursue training to be a nurse in my home community. I am grateful for the support of my education and my community’s continued success.

- Sasha Taylor

The whole conference was so inspiring and reaffirmed my belief of the importance of agriculture in the classroom. I would encourage other teachers to attend the conference because of the wealth of ideas, resources, and connections that you walk away with.

- Brandi Lambert, first-grade teacher, Waverly
The Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation and its Promotion & Education Committee hosted the first annual Agriculture Matters Race in North Platte. 164 racers from across the state came together to celebrate agriculture in Nebraska and its connection to health and fitness. Racers and the public were also invited to join in interactive activities and engaging education stations in the rec center gym. The activities showcased Nebraska agriculture and its importance to the State of Nebraska.

The purpose of the Promotion & Education Committee is to serve as an active, statewide voice promoting a positive public perception of agriculture to consumers of all ages. This fiscal year, committee members volunteered in their communities, served as Ag Pen Pals, and gave Agriculture in the Classroom presentations. The committee participated in continuing education classes and conferences and toured the Monsanto Water Utilization Center in Gothenburg and Orthman Manufacturing in Lexington.

800+ consumers presented with positive agriculture messages

Promotion & Education Committee

Brief highlights of the committee’s contributions include:

- Agriculture Matters 5K | 10K Race, North Platte
- American Farm Bureau P&E May Facebook Takeover
- Dinner & Discussion: Promotion & Education in Your County, Central Region, Albion
- Dinner & Discussion: Promotion & Education in Your County, Northeast Region, Wakefield
- Farmers & Ranchers Deliver Tailgate at Super Saver, Lincoln
- GMO, Yes or No Presentations at the Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island
- Making the Connection: Agriculture, Consumers, & Kids Workshop at the NEFB Annual Meeting, Kearney

2017 Committee Members

Lisa Lunz, Chair
Hilary Maricle, NEFB Federation Board
Andrew Ward, North Central
Dawn Kucera, Northeast
Jan Frenzen, At-Large
Mallory Dugan, Central
Natasha Schumacher, Northeast
Paula Peterson, Southeast
Sarah Bomark, Southwest
Financials

FY17: October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

**Total Net Assets**

- **FY17**: $1,388,763
- **FY16**: $708,218
- **FY15**: $807,233

**Total Raised in FY17**

$1,293,301

**Extraordinary One-Time Gifts**

$300,000

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

$184,201

- Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation

**First Federal Grant Received**

$10,000

One of 11 state Agriculture in the Classroom programs selected to receive a Fire-Up Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture

**Cost To Raise $1**

12.9 cents

Honoring Donors

FY17: October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

- **$100,000+**
  - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska
  - Nebraska Farm Bureau
  - Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation

- **$50,000 - $99,999**
  - FBL Financial Group, Inc.
  - Nebraska Corn Board

- **$10,000 - $24,999**
  - Buffalo County Farm Bureau
  - Douglas County Farm Bureau
  - Hall County Farm Bureau
  - Charles W. Herbster
  - Mike and Stephanie Johanns
  - Lancaster County Farm Bureau
  - USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
  - Nebraska Soybean Board
  - Keith and Doris Olsen
  - Sarpy County Farm Bureau

- **$5,000 - $9,999**
  - Donald Liedman
  - Steve and Elma Nelson
  - Younes Hospitality

- **$1,000 - $4,999**
  - ADM Grain Company
  - Doris Benner
  - Allen and Kay Blezek
  - Boone County Farm Bureau
  - Carroll and Bonnie Burling
  - Cass County Farm Bureau
  - Chase County Farm Bureau

- **$500 - $999**
  - Alan and Sallie Atkins
  - Craig and Tracy J. Behnken
  - Washington County Farm Bureau

- **$100 - $499**
  - Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

- **$100 - $99**
  - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska
  - Nebraska Farm Bureau
  - Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation

**546 donors**

47% of those were first-time donors in FY17

**Annual Expenses**

- Agriculture in the Classroom: 35%
- Fundraising: 16%
- Promotion & Education: 12%
- Administration: 13%
- Scholarships & Awards: 24%

**Total Raised in FY17**

$756,398

**Extraordinary One-Time Gifts**

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

**First Federal Grant Received**

- $10,000

One of 11 state Agriculture in the Classroom programs selected to receive a Fire-Up Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture

**Cost To Raise $1**

12.9 cents
Honoring Donors

FY17
October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

Thank you for supporting the future of agriculture by donating to our programs!

Milton and Anita Rogers
Sandhills State Bank
Tom and Linda Schwarz
Eric and Tanya Storer
Wayne Eetinger
Wells Fargo
$100 - $499
Raymond and Judy Althouse
Bonnieann Anderson
Raymond and Judy Althouse
$50-$99

FY17
October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

The Foundation received gifts in memory of the following individuals between Oct. 1, 2016 and Sept. 30, 2017:

Glen Anderson
Lancaster County
Shirley Cunningham
Nance County
Jeanette Miller
Pawnee County
Helen Schacht
Johnson County
James Volk
Nance County
Herschel and Phyllis Staats
Roger and Barbara Starck
Jerald and Janine Stewart
Tom and Erin Stieren
Stockman’s Small Animal Clinic, PC
Boyd and Elaine Stuhr
Darrell and Lynette Teselle
Jered Tiedeman
John and Barbara Vales
Daniel and Jean Ann Watermeier
Rodney W Wiegand
Kimberly Wiseman

An asterisk (*) denotes a Nebraska Farm Bureau employee.
Special Events

Special events provide an opportunity to make a difference and network with agricultural stakeholders, while enjoying a day on the golf course or a night singing along with the band. They are an important component of the Foundation’s fundraising program and an opportunity to say thank you, in person, to our valued partners.

2017 Annual Golf Classic
The 19th annual tournament saw 144 golfers take aim at awards and bragging rights. Great weather, great food, and an array of prizes offered a fun day for all. Save the date for the 20th Annual Golf Classic to be held July 30, 2018!

Inaugural Grower’s Gala
The inaugural Grower’s Gala was held during the 2016 Nebraska Farm Bureau Annual Convention. The evening was filled with dinner, a live auction, and entertainment by rockabilly duo The Time Burners.

$58,018
raised in support of the Foundation’s programs

Board of Directors
Steve Nelson, President
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Dr. Allen Blezek, Vice-President
Emeriti – University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Rob Robertson, Secretary/Treasurer
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Tracy Behnken
University of Nebraska Extension
Dave Buchholz
David & Associates
Victor Bohuslavsky
Nebraska Soybean Checkoff
Rich Herink
First National Bank
Lisa Lanz
Farm, Dixon County
Hilary Maricle
Farm & Ranch, Boone County
John C. Martin
Farm & Feedlot, Buffalo County
Carol Packard
Nebraska Department of Education

Staff
Megahn Schafer
Executive Director
Jane Heany
Senior Director of Development
Courtney Schaadrt
Director of Outreach Education
Becky Koester
Program Associate
Kara Zimmerman
Office Assistant/Event Planning Intern

The mission of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation is to engage youth, educators, and the general public to promote an understanding of the vital importance of agriculture in the lives of all Nebraskans.
2017 Awards

The Foundation received the following recognitions:

Teach Ag Champion from the National Teach Ag Campaign

Outstanding Business Cooperation Award from the Nebraska Agricultural Educators Association