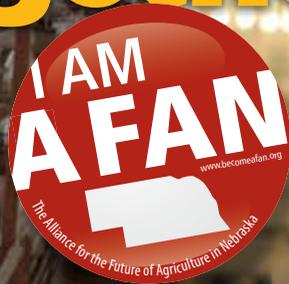


“Growing Nebraska Together”





DIRECTOR HOLOUBEK'S THOUGHTS

MISSION OF AFAN

**WE BELIEVE IN
STRENGTHENING
NEBRASKA
BY SECURING
YOUR ESSENTIALS.
TOGETHER WE FEED
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY,
CREATE JOBS,
AND GENERATE
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
WHILE RESPONSIBLY
CARING FOR
THE LAND AND
LIVESTOCK.**

Dear Partners and Friends,

It is a well-worn cliché but where has the year gone? While preparing for the 2016 Annual Meeting it seems just yesterday we were preparing for the last meeting. When I walk through my calendar though, I realize the time went quickly because AFAN has been busy!

The AFAN staff is committed to managing a nimble organization. We strive to bring Nebraska Animal Agriculture the resources needed in current situations, thus many new programs were designed and implemented during 2016. I hope you will browse through this report for a quick snapshot of our activities.



The old adage, "Old ways won't open new doors" seems to relate to Nebraska agriculture as the entire industry is navigating challenging economics today. We are not only experiencing new technology and innovation, but are also creating new relationships within the industry.

With market volatility and large monetary requirements to grow animal protein, risk mitigation is becoming ever more important. Diversification and finding ways to bring the next generation back to the operation are part of many growers' long-term strategies. Food chain alliances are becoming important to help solidify incomes, create commodity markets and manage risks. Innovation and unique "new ways" are being implemented to strengthen our farm and ranch families.

"Growing Nebraska Together" is the most important way to open new doors! AFAN recognizes your support and collaboration. Without YOU, none of what has been accomplished this past year would have been possible. Together we are a stronger team to move forward in growing animal agriculture in Nebraska!

With Gratitude,

402-710-1110 willowh@a-fan.org

AFAN BOARD MEMBERS

Nebraska Beef Council

Ann Marie Bosshamer

Nebraska Cattlemen

Pete McClymont

Nebraska Corn Board

Kelly Brunkhorst

Midwest Dairy Association

Rod Johnson

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Mat Habrock

NE Dept of Ag: Poultry & Egg Division

Kathi Schildt

Nebraska Farm Bureau

Rob Robertson

Nebraska Pork Producers

Al Juhnke

Nebraska Soybean Association

Lori Luebbe

Nebraska Soybean Board

Victor Bohuslavsky

MEET THE A-TEAM



Emily Skillet is the Livestock Development Coordinator

Contact Emily by phone at 402-421-4416, or by email at emilys@a-fan.org.



Lori Anderson is the Office Manager.

Contact Lori at 402-421-4772 or by email at loria@a-fan.org.



Melissa Jackson is responsible for A-FAN's website content and maintenance.



Talia Goes is the manager of A-FAN's growing social media outreach.

Karen Brokaw handles A-FAN's public relations and communications.



HUSKER FOOD CONNECTION CONTINUES TO MAKE AN IMPACT

This May 2016 marked Husker Food Connection's 5th Anniversary and the event was as successful as ever! Over 40 volunteers donated their time to help encourage discussion about modern food production in many ways. We served over 2,600 lunches consisting of BBQ beef, pork or chicken sandwiches, deviled eggs, sweet potato chips and lemonade, which was catered by Skeeter Barns and sponsored



by agricultural commodities and private partners. The Nebraska Wheat Board mobile baking lab provided dessert for the lunch, which was warm cookies. Volunteers handed out almost 2,000 goodie bags with t-shirts, sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board, and various inserts about

Nebraska agriculture. Students were able to see, touch and ask questions about many animals including the Husker Mobile Beef lab's fistulated steer, Prairieland Dairy's Holstein cow and calf, Union Farm's feeder pig and Brett Kreifels pair of chickens. The UNL Agronomy Club and the Nebraska Corn Board, along with the Corn & Soy Mentors were on site to answer questions surrounding GMO's and modern farming practices. We also had the Dairy Ambassadors, Pork Mentors, Collegiate Cattlemen, Collegiate Farm Bureau, UNL Rodeo Club and many other students help to make this event a success. Overall, Husker Food Connection impacted between 4,000 to 5,000 students through personal conversations and social media.

AFAN SEGMENTS AIR WEEKLY ON "PURE NEBRASKA"



"Pure Nebraska," KOLN-TV's daily program that highlights the state's agriculture industry, features a guest from AFAN every Monday. The 3-to-4-minute segments provide AFAN Partners the opportunity to reach 10,000 Nebraska consumers each week.

"Pure Nebraska" is a unique program that reaches both urban consumers and those from rural communities who often have ties to the agricultural industry. AFAN partners have used the interview segments to promote open houses, seminars, discuss issues of importance to consumers and even demonstrate recipes.

Each AFAN segment begins with an introduction that explains that the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska has connected the station with the guest and identifies them as a member of AFAN. In addition to reaching 10,000 Nebraskans on television, each interview is recorded and utilized on social media and on AFAN's website. The AFAN segment, which has been a regular feature of "Pure Nebraska" since March of 2015, is hosted by the station's popular anchors, Jon and Taryn Vanderford.



THE NEBRASKA COW-CALF SYMPOSIUM

The Nebraska Cow-Calf Symposium was held in Columbus on March 22-23rd and had a wonderful turnout with over 120 attendees and a dozen vendors. During the symposium, consultants, academics and other stakeholders gathered to discuss an option that has been gaining popularity recently in Nebraska and the Midwest – raising cow-calf pairs under roof. “AFAN has always talked about opportunities to bring home the next generation and with the innovation of these different types of beef barns, we now have a way to include the beef industry in those conversations.” said Willow Holoubek

The Nebraska Cow-Calf Symposium included presentations from Morgan Hayes with the University of Illinois Extension, Kelly Jones and

Roberto Eizmendi with Cactus Feeders, Willow Holoubek with AFAN and Jason Warner with Great Plains Livestock Consulting Inc. A beef building tour wrapped up the second day, visiting a variety of different barns including background feeding and cow-calf.

Beef barns have become a creative and viable option for eastern Nebraska producers due to the fact that gaining access to pasture has become a challenge. With a roof overhead, proper ventilation and adequate bedding keeping cows and calves out of the elements, the energy requirements decrease and the producer also has the option to maintain a herd with different calving times.

AFAN hosted the event with Central Confinement Systems and Accu-Steel, Inc.



BOLD, BRIGHT A CAMPAIGN IN

Farmers and Ranchers Deliver is a full scale and combined commodity effort to promote animal agriculture to community leaders and influencers. This program is a multi-year, on-going awareness campaign to support livestock expansion in Nebraska. These key decision makers are being provided information that will allow them to examine livestock Conditional Use Permits with proper facts and to encourage

them to support livestock growth in their counties. The growth of the animal agriculture industry is a great opportunity for grain producers to add value to their commodity right here in the state. Beginning in October of 2015, dozens of University of Nebraska studies, United Soybean Board state and animal agriculture economics and statistics, NDEQ requirements and NPPD economic impact



AND IMPACTFUL FULL SWING



studies were analyzed and these sited sources made all pieces Nebraska specific, including Lunchbox “Toolkits” and the website, farmersandranchersdeliver.com. Currently, over 215 Lunchboxes have now been presented to many commodity organizations staff and board members, agribusinesses, UNL extension, economic

development organizations and AFAN partners. We also held a staff spokesman training for the commodity organizations so that we could explain the messaging in the lunchboxes and how to utilize the information, with 12 staff members in attendance. We look forward to sharing the continued growth of this campaign and its messaging with you over the next few years.





OPEN HOUSE EVENTS CELEBRATE THE NEXT GENERATION

For years, AFAN has talked about the benefits of livestock being able to help parents bring the next generation back to the farm and recently, we were able to celebrate one of our own doing just that. Lukas Fricke was AFAN's intern through the 2014 and 2015 school years. Lukas coordinated the annual Husker Food Connection, as well as handled research, graphic design work and videography. Lukas also has a passion for pork and his family has been raising pigs for over 100 years. "Union Farms Inc. is a five generation diversified family farm raising hogs, cattle, and row crops. We have raised pigs since the earlier 1800's when Henry Fricke left Bethel, Germany in hopes to farm with his new wife in a new land", Lukas said proudly.

Both Lukas and his brother, Brenden, are hoping to continue the tradition. "My family has given my brother and I a bountiful amount of opportunities throughout our lives to study and explore," said Lukas. "Personally, when I came to the end of my senior year of college there were tons of opportunities to work somewhere outside of the farm, but I knew right where I wanted to be. Home. Working alongside my grandpa, dad, and brother."

The family looked to expanding their livestock sector of the operation to help them accomplish that goal and added a 1,200 head nursery to their current barn on Brennan's farmstead. "The decision to expand at home was a situation where we were

having another person custom nursery our pigs. He did an amazing job but the hauling and feed were becoming a bit much." Lukas said, "With my return to the farm, the decision to nursery pigs at home was much easier as it gave us more labor to make it work.

The nursery is state of the art. "With this new addition animal care and comfort are maximized by providing increased heating and cooling by industry standards, ample feeding and drinking areas, and custom designed hallways and pens for low stress animal handling. We are partnering with UNL to conduct feed and water additives studies to help increase pig immunity during the beginning phases of feeding." All in a day's work for the Fricke family.

Along with the Union Farms open house, AFAN has attended and supported 4 other pork barn open houses with a 5th coming in December. The addition of finishing spaces in Nebraska is one we can all celebrate. Also, in order to share the opportunity of contract feeding with others, AFAN, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Pork Producers and the Maschhoffs worked together collaboratively to host Ag Lender Lunch and Learns. These meetings were designed to help explain the benefits of contract feeding and how adding livestock can diversify a portfolio and build equity in tumultuous times.

ANTELOPE COUNTY OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATES DAIRY EXPANSION AND “LIVESTOCK FRIENDLY” DESIGNATION

The Grow Nebraska Dairy team has been busy again this year. The collaborative team consisting of representatives from the Nebraska State Dairy Association, UNL Extension, Nebraska Department of Agriculture and AFAN has turned its recruiting efforts from cows to dairy processing operations. The team, with the help of the Department of Economic Development and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), has been working hard to spread the word at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI, and the World Ag Expo in Tulare, CA, about the benefits of relocating their operations to the state. They have also been working with Nebraska communities that have expressed interest in having a dairy processor relocate to their area.

Additionally, AFAN enjoyed celebrating recently with a dairy family from Plainview, NE about the expansion of their operation. The Thiele Dairy hosted an open house to show their high-tech milking parlor to the community. Several hundred visitors walked through the new milking parlor to watch the milking process. A trolley ride took guests on a tour of the farm to view their large new loafing barns to see where the cows spend their resting time. We also are pleased that the Thiele family has been able to involve their next generation in its operation because of this expansion. This beautiful dairy will serve as an example for years to come of how dairy operations can thrive in Nebraska. The event also celebrated the news that Antelope County had just been named an official Livestock Friendly County by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

POULTRY, PROMOTION & PROGRESS IN GROWING FARMER NETWORK

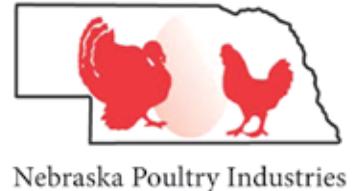


In July of 2015, AFAN joined a team of Nebraska entities, including the Greater Fremont Development Council, the Greater Omaha Chamber, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the Department of Agriculture in recruiting a poultry project. Within the last year, Costco/Lincoln Premium Poultry has chosen Fremont Nebraska as the chosen location for their broiler growing and processing project.

AFAN was involved with promoting to farmers and financial institutions the opportunity of becoming part of the dedicated grower network. Through outreach meetings in communities and agricultural events, a large amount of interest was raised. Costco recognizes the dedicated farmers of Nebraska and the abundance of feed commodities available.

Moving forward AFAN will be involved with those individuals who sign agreements with Costco/LPP to raise the poultry needed. AFAN will hold farmer workshops during 2017 to explain the permitting processes and help these growers through the local permitting hearings. AFAN will also be a resource with the Farmers and Ranchers Deliver Program to help growers explain to their communities the benefits it will receive through the economic activity of poultry production.

NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS



**NEXT ANNUAL MEETING:
NOVEMBER 20, 2017**



INVEST TODAY FOR YOUR TOMORROW.

Become an AFAN partner and support animal agriculture.

I want to be a partner of AFAN and make an investment in the future of Nebraska Agriculture and Nebraska's rural communities. Please sign me up for a one-year partnership at the level I've identified. Please make checks payable to AFAN.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 - \$99	Bronze Partner	Amount \$ _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 +	Platinum Partner	Amount \$ _____

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Organization _____

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County _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I authorize AFAN to include me/our organization on its list of AFAN Supporters

Contributions to AFAN are NOT deductible as a charitable contribution on the donor's federal income tax return. They may be deductible as trade or business expenses if ordinary or necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer's business. Please contact your tax preparer with questions.

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