



# AFAN IN ACTION

## August 2023 Monthly Update

AFAN kicked off this past month with the Nebraska Pork Expo and closed it with the Governor's Ag and Economic Development Summit. In between, we helped producers with hog and broiler barns and worked with dairy farmers and processing companies.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Nebraska Pork Expo, in York, NE, was a hit! Over 250 people came to learn, network, and make connections within the pork industry. Governor Jim Pillen was the kick-off speaker, and being a pork producer, he was a big draw. There were sessions on animal health, USDA programs, Risk management, and many others. The tradeshow had lots of good products to showcase and there is so much education that happens by talking to the vendors. We will be back in York next year so mark your calendars for July 17, 2024.

Our team has always supported farmers trying to build livestock facilities through the county zoning process. Sometimes this can be contentious as people don't "want it in their backyard" but our support comes for multiple reasons. Livestock is a way to add value to an operation and provides opportunities to be sustainable for the next generations. It also comes from the fact that if the county tells you the rules/requirements and you comply, then you should be allowed to build. It is really about personal property rights at that point.

This past month we worked with a pork producer in Gage County to get approval for a hog-finishing barn. This will be a 6,250-head site and will generate revenue for the farm, tax for the county, and income from employees both at the farm and in companies that will provide goods and services to the farm. The farmer will also get the benefit of the manure which is extremely valuable and beneficial for soil health.

We also got to celebrate the opening of a new set of broiler barns in Johnson County. These chickens will feed into the Smart Chicken plant in Tecumseh. Again, lots of benefits to the farmers and the community in adding more businesses to the county.

We continue to talk to dairy processors about coming to the state and building their operations here. And we have been talking to dairy farmers that would have an opportunity to grow their operations or even move here from other states if there is a place to sell their milk. All great conversations and dairy is a very resource-intensive industry that needs lots of goods and services which creates opportunities for lots of

people in the community.

Finally, we attended and helped moderate several panel discussions at the Governor's Ag and Economic Development Summit. Agriculture is Nebraska's largest industry, and having the ag folks and the economic development folks in the same room talking about how we continue to grow Nebraska is a great thing!

As we look at, hopefully, our last heat wave of the year, you can see signs that fall and harvest are just around the corner. The Nebraska State Fair is coming up and Husker Harvest Days soon after. Stay cool and stay safe!

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## Highlights

- Hosted the 2023 Nebraska Pork Expo
- Attended and moderated two panels at the Governor's Ag & Economic Summit
- Spoke to a UNL Class
- Attended an Agceptional Women's Conference meeting to assist in the planning process
- Attended a discussion on county zoning
- Testified in support of a hog barn in Gage County
- Attended an open house for broiler barns in Johnson County

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## Looking Ahead

*you're invited!*

# AFAN ANNUAL MEETING

CORNHUSKER MARRIOTT HOTEL • LINCOLN

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

8:30AM COFFEE • 9:00AM MEETING • LUNCH TO FOLLOW

RSVP to [mindyr@a-fan.org](mailto:mindyr@a-fan.org) or by calling 402.421.4472 by November 9th



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## Save the Date

### August

25: Nebraska State Fair Starts

### September

7: AFAN County Official Tour

12-14: Husker Harvest Days

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