



# AFAN IN ACTION

## August 2024 Update

Over 50 people attended our Confined Cattle lunch and learn event in Columbus last week. The focus of the event was in comparing the value of manure from a deep pit facility to a traditional feedlot. On a capital cost basis, it is much less expensive to build a traditional open lot facility but over time, the value of the manure plus the savings in labor may make a deep pit facility more profitable. It is something everyone has to weigh out for themselves, but it is good to know that there are options for people wanting to get into the beef industry.

The second focus of the lunch and learn was to hear about the Legacy Beef Coop. This new Coop will be the sole source provider of beef to a new packing plant, called Cattlemen's Heritage Beef, which will be in Council Bluffs, IA. The coop is currently accepting members on a shackle space buy-in arrangement. For more information on the Coop, please contact us.

Salmon in Nebraska! Good Life Agriculture in Nebraska City over the past couple of years has built an R&D/proof of concept facility to show that they can raise high-quality, local, fresh, Atlantic Salmon right here in Nebraska. The next phase will be breaking ground this winter on a state-of-the-art facility north of Nebraska City. There are a lot of really great things about this project but ultimately it does what we want all "livestock" to do and that is consume local feedstocks and improve the rural economy. These fish will consume a feed made in Omaha that includes distiller's grains and soybean meal. Surf and turf really is possible in Nebraska!

Smart Chicken in southeast Nebraska continues to grow and has a need for more broiler barns. Broiler litter is a high-quality fertilizer with very positive impacts on soil health as well as having high resale value. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, give us a call.

The Livestock Modernization Act is a state program that reimburses livestock producers 10%, up to \$500,000 on the capital cost of new equipment or facilities specific to livestock production. This program has been around for a while but a couple of years ago there was more money added to the pot as well as some other changes that made it easier to apply for. Applications must be made by November 1, so if you built something new, installed, or purchased new single-use equipment (like a manure spreader or feed wagon, but not a tractor) then you are probably eligible. Information and the application are available on the Nebraska Department of Revenue website, or by searching "livestock modernization act" or call us and we can

help.

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## Highlights

- 265 people attended the Nebraska Pork Expo
- 51 people attended the Confined Cattle Lunch and Learn
- Attended the Governor's Ag and Economic Development Conference
- Toured a new Atlantic Salmon Farm near Nebraska City
- Traveled to California to host a "Nebraska Dinner" for dairy farmers
- Hosted dairy producer on-site visits
- Attended the American Dairy Products Institute Conference as a vendor

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## Save the Date

November

1: [Livestock Modernization Application Due](#)

# New Feedlot **OPEN HOUSE**

AUG. 24th @ 5:30 p.m.  
86173 560 Ave. Randolph, NE

Trolley Tour Ride: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Supper: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The Villwoks warmly invite  
the community to visit their  
new Five Star Feeders facility.

Experience firsthand the  
benefits of feeding cattle on  
roller-compacted concrete,  
with custom feeding available,  
and meet the Villwoks  
and their dedicated team,  
who are deeply passionate  
about the cattle industry.



Hosted by:

**Greg & Malinda Villwok**

Questions: 402-360-4198 Greg Villwok

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