



# AFAN IN ACTION

## October 2024 Update

Sometimes innovation is “low” tech instead of more bells, whistles, and sensors. Such is the case with Blackshirt Feeders near Benkelman, NE. This brand-new cattle feeding operation has plenty of high-tech, state-of-the-art features but one of the key components will be the roller-compacted concrete under the cattle. An old technology being used in a novel way, at least in Nebraska.

RCC is simply concrete that has less water than traditional concrete. It is dumped out and then a vibrating roller-compactor flattens it into shape. Slopes and grades are done with GPS and are precise! However, because of the limited moisture, the concrete is faster to put down and can be done with less people, which is a huge cost savings.

A layer of straw goes on top of the concrete for padding and the cattle are clean and comfortable while at the same time the RCC drains off moisture into holding ponds and the pens are never muddy. All of which keeps the cattle very comfortable. This innovative feedyard is an incredibly well thought out operation and I am proud to have them making their home in Nebraska.

October is national pork month and AFAN celebrated by giving away \$5.00 off coupons for pork products in partnership with Nebraska Pork Producers Association and Super Saver. Pork is such a versatile meat and is easy to use in a large number of recipes. Nebraska is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest pork producing state with an inventory of over 3.6 million pigs. Besides being a wonderful product for consumers, the economic impact of the pork industry includes supporting over 17,000 jobs directly and an annual economic impact of \$1.66 billion dollars. Truly a powerhouse industry driving our rural economy.

As the year winds down the next big item for AFAN is our annual meeting of the membership. We will gather in late November to talk about accomplishments and what we see coming in the next year. It's a great time to reconnect with friends and I look forward to seeing you there!

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**Save the Date**

November

1: [Livestock Modernization Application Due](#)

25: AFAN Annual Meeting

28: Thanksgiving

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AFAN | 5225 S. 16th Street | Lincoln, NE 68512 US

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