

Nebraska LEAD Program
Leadership Education/Action Development
2024- 2026 LEAD 43 Fellows



Luke Baldrige
Valent USA LLC
Lincoln, Nebraska



Brennan Costello
Engler Agribusiness Program
Gretna, Nebraska



Ben Edwards
Edwards, Inc. - Producer
Ord, Nebraska



Anthony Finke
Mosaic Biosciences
Kearney, Nebraska



Neleigh Gehl
G & S Livestock
Ericson, Nebraska



McKinley Harm
Central Nebraska Public Power
and Irrigation District
Gothenburg, Nebraska



Cale Harrington
Producer
Loup City, Nebraska



Jake Judge
Mitchell Equipment
Norfolk, Nebraska



Troy Kane
L&M Schardt Farms/Kane
Farms LLC
Carleton, Nebraska



Lucy Kimball
Mac's Creek Winery & Brewery
Callaway, Nebraska



Austin Kniss
Kniss AG LLC
Minatare, Nebraska



Chandler Maly
Kaup Seed & Fertilizer, Inc.
Fremont, Nebraska

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Anthony Mestl
Wieseman Farms
Osceola, Nebraska



Tyler Morton
Kaup Seed & Fertilizer, Inc.
Howells, Nebraska



Courtney Nelson
Northeast Community College
Norfolk, Nebraska



Kyle Phillips
D Lazy L Ranch
Mullen, Nebraska



Bobby Reifenrath
Hurley and Associates
Wayne, Nebraska



Dustin Rohde
Corteva/Pioneer
Kearney, Nebraska



Payton Schaneman
Nebraska Corn Board
Denton, Nebraska



Spencer Shifflet
Central Valley Ag Coop
Long Pine, Nebraska



Trevor Spath
Corteva Agriscience
Kearney, Nebraska



Jared Stauffer
Stauffer Brothers
Lincoln, Nebraska



John Sullivan
Shamrock Farms LLC
Superior, Nebraska



Sophia Svanda
Nebraska Soybean Board
Nehawka, Nebraska



Jacobi Swanson
L J Swanson Farms
Wahoo, Nebraska



Amy Warner
Marigold Business Solutions
Edison, Nebraska



Sally Welsh
Merck Animal Health
Lincoln, Nebraska



Eric Wemhoff
Bank of the Valley
Humphrey, Nebraska



Austin Weyers
Producer
Hay Springs, Nebraska



Lily Ziehmer
FMC Corporation
Hastings, Nebraska



Kurtis Harms
Director
Nebraska LEAD Program

**2024-2025
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Nebraska LEAD Program

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OUR MISSION....

TO PREPARE AND MOTIVATE MEN AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP
THE NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

2024– 2025 Seminar Schedule

Nebraska LEAD 43: Year 1 Schedule

Seminar 1: September 2024 (Sun-Tue) **

Theme: Leadership Assessment and Potential
Location: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, East Campus

Seminar 2: October 2024 (Sun-Tue)

Theme: Natural Resources, Water and Energy
Location: Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis

Seminar 3: November 2024 (Sun-Tue)

Theme: Leadership Through Communication
Location: University of Nebraska-Kearney, Kearney

Seminar 4: January 2025 (Sun-Tue)

Theme: Our Political Process
Location: Union College, Lincoln

February 2025 (Wed)

Theme: Nuclear Energy
Location: Peru State College, Peru

Date: February 2025

Theme: Various Topics
Location: National Study Travel Seminar
Kansas City, Washington, D.C., Chicago

Seminar 5: March 2025 (Thu-Sat) **

Theme: Social Issues (No Alumni Dinner)
Location: Creighton University, Omaha

Seminar 6: Mar/Apr 2025 (Sun-Tue)

Theme: Panhandle Agriculture – The Land & The People
Location: University Nebraska Research Extension and
Education Center, Scottsbluff

Nebraska LEAD 42: Year 2 Schedule

Seminar 7: September 2024 (Sun-Tue) **

Theme: Understanding and Developing Our Leadership Skills
Location: Chadron State College, Chadron

Seminar 8: November 2024 (Wed-Fri)

Theme: Agricultural Policy, Finance and Marketing
(No Alumni Dinner)
Location: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, East Campus

Seminar 9: November 2024 (Wed-Fri)

Theme: Global Perspectives
Location: Wayne State College, Wayne

Seminar 10: December 2024 (Sun-Tue)

Theme: Comparative Cultural, Educational, Political &
Religious Systems
Location: Doane University, Crete
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, City Campus

January 2025

Theme: International Study Travel Seminar
Location: Romania, Hungary, Poland

Seminar 11: Feb/Mar 2025 (Thu-Sat)

Theme: Agribusiness and Advances in Health Care
Location: University of Nebraska-Omaha, UNMC

Seminar 12: March 2025 (Thu-Fri) **

Theme: Looking Ahead – Final Seminar (No Alumni Dinner)
Location: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, East Campus

March 21, 2025

Annual Recognition Banquet
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, East Campus

**seminar with spouses

Leadership Education/Action Development

The LEAD Program

Up to thirty individuals are selected annually to participate in the Nebraska Leadership Education/Action Development (LEAD) Program. During the two year program, LEAD Participants attend 12 three-day seminars and two study/travel seminars, one national and the other international. Content of the seminars are essential to leadership and focus on economics, government, human relations, communications, international trade, sociology, education, the arts and social-cultural understanding.

During the first year, participants study local, state and national issues. The second year curriculum emphasizes continued leadership, skill development and international study.

The LEAD Participants

All participants are Nebraska residents involved in production agriculture, agribusiness or a closely related occupation. Preference of LEAD Participants is given to individuals between the ages of 25 and 55 who possess proven leadership potential, capability and a commitment to Nebraska.

The LEAD Organization

The Nebraska LEAD Program is under the direction of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council and is supported by individuals, businesses and industries, as well as public and private institutions of higher education and research.

The LEAD Purpose

The dynamic industry of agriculture plays a profound and over-riding role in every phase of Nebraska life. The LEAD Program recognizes that the development of human resources for agriculture and Nebraska should not be left to chance. The LEAD Program strives to address the needs of community members involved in the business of agriculture by presenting opportunities to broaden one's knowledge and strengthen leadership and decision-making abilities.