



# AFAN IN ACTION

## November 2022 Monthly Update

AFAN is growing! At least our scope of work is growing. Which is a positive sign for Nebraska. While our staff of four is still the same, we have expanded from just working with producers to helping on the business recruitment side too. We regularly partner with state and local economic development groups to support and encourage new agri-business development. New ag processing in the state increases local demand for the products farmers and ranchers raise. This improves profitability on farms and ranches which results in improved rural economic vitality.

In this past year, we've had the opportunity to support a number of business development projects that are leading to opportunities to grow the farm side too. We provided support for the Norfolk Crush soybean facility in Norfolk, the Sustainable Beef beef processing facility in North Platte, Blackshirt Feeders LP cattle feeding operation near Benkleman, and multiple livestock operations across the state.

For many years, groups (including AFAN) have been working to grow the dairy industry and this past year we had some success. Milk Specialties in Norfolk is currently doing a major renovation to their facility which will include a new processing line for a new product. This will increase their demand for Nebraska milk. To support this demand, we had the opportunity to work with a group of dairy farmers to create a new cooperative that will supply the facility. Overall, this is giving dairy farmers a chance to expand their operations as well as to take some control over how their milk gets marketed. It is a big win for Nebraska dairy farmers!

Another project we were able to throw support behind is called Geocharged in Seward. This is a family that raises broiler chickens for Lincoln Premium Poultry. They are taking the composted chicken litter, adding some micro-nutrients, and selling it on Amazon and at retail locations across the country. The product has such demand that they had to build a larger facility. This required a permit from Seward County. The county approved the permit, and this locally owned business will provide a lot of economic activity in Seward County.

AFAN produced several videos this past year in an effort to tell the story of Nebraska agriculture. One video has the theme of how large businesses generate spinoff opportunities for small businesses. In this case, we looked at how Costco's investment in Lincoln Premium Poultry is generating opportunities for entrepreneurs in that region. We highlight Fremont Automation, Bird's Eye robotics, and Jones Manufacturing as all of those small Nebraska companies have found niches to grow their businesses based on the LPP opportunity. If you look even further, there are lots of other small businesses (like Geocharged) that have started up because of Lincoln Premium Poultry. Sometimes there is pushback about bringing in large companies from outside the state but if you look at it in this light, it can be a win-win. Those large companies are a cash infusion in capital investment, plus the employment benefits and finally the additional business development then you can see why we should want to recruit companies to come here.

Nebraska will continue to attract agricultural businesses in the years to come and AFAN will be a resource to help. Not only can we help recruit farmers and ranchers to supply inputs, but we can help companies understand Nebraska agriculture and natural resources. Additionally, we will work with local communities and decision-makers to ensure that these business ventures are understood and supported.

Your investment in AFAN is what allows us to work across the state to support and grow the livestock industry which will return dividends to your business. Thank you for your support and investment in the future of agriculture in Nebraska!

Steve Martin  
Executive Director

# Looking Back

THE ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN NEBRASKA

## 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

### DIRECTOR'S UPDATE by Steve Martin

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Nebraska will continue to attract agricultural businesses in the years to come and AFAN will be a resource to help. Not only can we help recruit farmers and ranchers to supply inputs, but we can help companies understand Nebraska's agriculture and natural resources. Additionally, we will work with local communities and decision-makers to ensure that these business ventures are understood and supported.

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### NEBRASKA PORK EXPO

On July 20th, we held our 2nd annual Pork Expo and it was a huge success!

- Over 225 attendees at the Holthus Convention Center in York, NE
- 40 Vendors
- 17 different speakers throughout the day

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2023 NE PORK EXPO**  
**JULY 19, 2023**

**HOLTHUS CONVENTION CENTER, YORK, NE**



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### RETURN ON INVESTING IN AFAN

Your partnership allows us to support livestock and agri-business growth!

- Supported 26 farm and processor projects
- Total capital investment of projects = over \$900 million
- Total payroll of projects = over \$10 million/year

Your investment grows Nebraska!



# AFAN PARTNERS,

We greatly appreciate your investment in our mission to support and grow the livestock industry which creates economic vitality in rural Nebraska.

## Thank You!

COMING IN 2023: Premier Partnership offering exclusive advertising opportunities. For more information contact us directly.



### MID-YEAR UPDATE

- June 29, was the first annual AFAN Mid-Year Update
- Event was held at Kinkaider Brewing in Grand Island, NE
- Updated attendees on current opportunities in livestock development in Nebraska
- Will hold mid-year meetings across the state in 2023



### NSDA/AFAN GOLF TOURNAMENT

- 2nd Annual Golf Tournament
- Hosted at Indian Trails Country Club in Beemer, NE
- 18 Teams enjoyed a beautiful day of golf with some teams taking a lot more strokes than others!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2023 GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
**JUNE 15, 2023**  
**INDIAN TRAILS, BEEMER, NE**



### COUNTY OFFICIAL TOURS

This event allows county decision makers to see modern livestock facilities first-hand

- Hosted one event in Dodge and Platte County. Toured a confined cattle barn, a hog finishing barn, and a broiler barn
- 25 attendees
- Will host 2-3 tours in 2023

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**From our office to your homes, have a wonderful Thanksgiving!**

**With Gratefulness,  
Steve, Kris, Rylee & Mindy**



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## Save the Date

### December

4-6: Nebraska Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

7-9: Nebraska Cattlemen Annual Meeting

14-16: NACO Annual Meeting

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Help us in welcoming and Thanking our newest 2 Star Partner, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce!

The Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce is a partnership of approximately 800 businesses, organizations and individuals who are committed to growing the economy, improving quality of life, and enhancing opportunity for business to succeed in the Columbus region. <https://thecolumbuspage.com/>

AFAN's mission is to grow the livestock industry statewide. This would be nearly impossible without the support we receive from our partners so, THANK YOU!

**Thank you to our partners for your support!**  
**Not a partner? [JOIN US!](#)**

Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska | [becomeafan.org](http://becomeafan.org)



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