



# AFAN IN ACTION

## April 2022 Monthly Update

Grow the livestock industry for the betterment of rural Nebraska, this is the mission of AFAN. As a small team, we rely on partners and making connections to accomplish this mission. This past month we had a lot of opportunities to make connections. We had meetings with the Hastings Chamber Ag Committee to discuss how a community can be proactive in attracting agriculture businesses. We had a very similar conversation with the Phelps County Development Corporations board of directors; that one was wrapped around lessons learned from the Lincoln Premium Poultry project in Fremont. Both great conversations with forward-thinking people.

Along that front, an excellent group of people came together in Norfolk this past month to support a new \$375 million soybean crush plant. The city council approved the change in zoning to allow that project to move forward. It will have a tremendous positive impact in Norfolk and for the farmers in the region!

AFAN was on the road again in dairy development with the Central Plains Dairy Expo in Sioux Falls, SD, and the Cheese Expo in Milwaukee, WI. These were great opportunities to connect with dairy companies and talk about how their company could grow in Nebraska. We also had the pleasure of showing Nebraska to two sets of dairy farmers that would like to build in our state. They were both looking at locations in Northeast Nebraska. When Nebraska has a new dairy processing facility we will have a lot of interest from dairy farmers that want to move here.

We had the opportunity to tour Jones Manufacturing in Beemer, NE. They make the Mighty Giant hay grinders but also have a new product for poultry houses. This is another example of how a large company, Costco/Lincoln Premium Poultry, making an investment in Nebraska has spurred innovation and small business opportunities. The new product is a wide-belt elevator that quickly removes litter from broiler houses. The far-reaching impacts of one project are pretty incredible!

AFAN hosted 22 county officials from 7 different counties on a tour of Modern Livestock Facilities in Colfax and Platte Counties. This traveling program (coming to Central and Southeast Nebraska later this year) is to give county decision-makers a chance to see what new hog, dairy, poultry, and beef facilities look like. Now, when they are working with livestock producers, they have a modern knowledge base to draw from. The tour went well and there were lots of great conversations.

As I mentioned at the beginning, AFAN could not do the work that we do without our

partners. These are the connections we need to help others learn more about livestock. Our partners are also our financial supporters and for that, we are extremely grateful. A full list of our partners is on our website, if you are looking for companies in the agricultural sector, check there first and support the people that support us!

Steve Martin  
AFAN Executive Director

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## Looking Ahead

April has blown by, literally! Later this week our team will be helping Northeast Community College with their first livestock field day. We had the opportunity to meet with the leadership at the college and suggest multiple speakers for the event. Our team also will be headed to The Nebraska Economic Developers Association's Annual Meeting in Valentine, NE on May 12 and 13th. We also have a few zoning hearings to tackle as the month progresses into May.

Looking ahead a couple of months the AFAN/ NSDA golf tournament is at the end of June and the Nebraska Pork Expo will be on July 20th in York, NE. More information on both of these events can be found [here](#)

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## Save the Date

### April

6: AFAN County Official Tour  
12-14: Cheese Expo, Milwaukee, WI  
21: NECC Livestock Field Day

### June

2: AFAN County Official Tour in Central Nebraska  
8-10: World Pork Expo, Des Moines, IA  
23: [AFAN & NSDA Golf Tournament, Beemer, NE](#)

### May

10-12: Animal Ag Alliance Stakeholder Summit,  
Kansas City, KS  
11-13: NEDA Annual Meeting, Valentine, NE

### July

20: [Nebraska Pork Expo](#)

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