



# AFAN IN ACTION

## March 2023 Monthly Update

It appears that March will have come in like a lion and gone out like a lion. But at this point in the winter you know the snow won't last long and we do need the moisture, or at least we can tell ourselves that to feel a little bit better.

This month started with the Nebraska State Dairy Association annual meeting in Columbus. The day was filled with informative speakers and a tradeshow where vendors could answer questions for producers. Of course, there were also lots of dairy products to sample too. We hosted a dairy farmer from out of state that is looking to build a dairy in Nebraska. It is exciting to see growth in the dairy sector.

Dairy farms are heavy resource users which means they buy a lot of goods and services. If you think about it, they are a cow-calf operation, a feedlot operation and they also require milking. The on-farm staff is caring for cows, calves, milking, cleaning, breeding, and feeding around the clock. Then outside vendors are picking up milk, providing services from veterinarians to feed nutritionists to manure management to refrigeration (milk needs to go from 100 degrees to 40 in just a few minutes so the cooling system must work!). It is a lot of activity every day.

A study conducted by UNL showed that for each dairy cow, there is a \$12,000 annual economic impact to the area. Adding a 10,000-cow dairy would have a \$120 million annual economic impact. That study also looked at the economic impact of a large dairy processor building in the state. The impact of a large processor was \$1.7 billion annually!

The Nebraska Poultry Industries annual meeting was next and we attended and presented an update for the association. Nebraska has a thriving egg-layer industry but nearly all the eggs are cracked and processed for the food service industry. We also have a growing broiler industry with Smart Chicken and Lincoln Premium Poultry. All of these operations are in the eastern third of the state which means we could see continued growth further west and still maintain separation for biosecurity purposes.

In between expos, we worked with folks in Buffalo County (Kearney) to gather information on county zoning rules. As the county grows, it will need to make some decisions about the zoning regulations for the Ag part of the county. There is a lot of livestock in the rural areas and zoning can protect that area for future livestock growth but it has to be well thought out. We act as a resource and sounding board for the

county.

As we close out the month we've begun work on the 3rd annual Nebraska Pork Expo; on July 19, York, NE. You can see some information about the event on our website and we will have the full agenda in the coming days. The day-long event will hold sessions on animal health, loose sow housing, research updates, and a panel discussion on the upcoming Farm Bill. The event is free to attend with free breakfast, free lunch, and free social hour. If you are a pork producer or in the industry, you should be at the Nebraska Pork Expo!

By the next AFAN update, we should see spring fieldwork in full swing and maybe even some planters rolling. Stay safe out there on the roads with all the large equipment moving around. And Happy Spring!

Steve Martin  
Executive Director

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## Looking Ahead



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## Save the Date

### March

8-10: Nebraska Planning and Zoning Conference  
15-16: Nebraska Poultry Industries Annual Convention  
28-30: Central Plains Dairy Expo

### April

4-5: NBA's Spring Agribusiness Conference  
20: AFAN County Official Tour  
26: NECC Livestock Field Day

### June

15: [AFAN/ NSDA Golf Tournament](#)



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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!

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