



# 2022/23 Annual Report

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## NCC Member Cooperatives by the Numbers (Annual)

(as of 8-31-23)

24	Nebraska supply/marketing co-ops operating:
335	additional branch locations in Nebraska
67	additional branch locations out of state
3	Rural electric co-ops w/ 2 additional branch locations in Nebraska
2	Telephone co-ops w/ 6 additional branch locations in Nebraska
5	Out-of-state co-ops with 8 branch locations in Nebraska
1	Livestock Marketing Agency
7	Participating Members
30	Supporting Members

### NCC Member Supply/Marketing Co-op Stats:

55,915	total voting members
5,087	employees (full and part-time)
\$11.8 billion	total sales
\$4.7 billion	total assets
\$229.6 million	net savings
\$379.8 million	employee payroll with benefits
\$225.5 million	investment in new equipment and facilities in past year
\$97.4 million	total patronage refunds in past year
\$40.5 million	equity/estate redemption in past year
\$21.7 million	property taxes paid in past year
\$8.7 million	federal/state income taxes paid in past year
\$2.8 million	total charitable, scholarship & community support donations



Rocky Weber  
President



David Briggs  
Board Chairman

# Message from the President & Chairman

For 78 years members of the Nebraska Cooperative Council have put principal into action by ***Cooperation among Cooperatives***. This is one of the Seven Principles of Cooperation. Nebraska's agricultural cooperatives collaborate with other agricultural and rural utility cooperatives through the Nebraska Cooperative Council to address common challenges, such as:

- ***Promoting legislation to protect the cooperative business model or the business operations of cooperatives and,***
- ***Interacting with state or federal regulatory agencies on regulatory issues affecting all agricultural cooperatives***

In Nebraska in 2022-23 the Council sponsored legislation to deregulate the setting of grain storage rates by the PSC and worked with the PSC in updating other warehouse and dealer licensing requirements. NCC testified at legislative interim hearings and at PSC listening sessions on grain dealer and grain warehousing issues. We testified and requested amendments to several tax credit bills to make sure cooperatives could pass through tax credits to members. We defended electrical cooperatives ability to lobby and participate in elections. We sponsored legislation to raise the jurisdiction of Small Claims Courts in Nebraska so that cooperatives could more easily administer collection of bad accounts.

On a Federal level we have been consistently involved in federal legislative efforts to properly effectuate and now keep Section 199A(g). This has included participation in meetings of democratic and republican staff members of House Ways and Means Committee Members on removing the 2025 sunset provisions applicable to 199A(g). NCC has worked closely with other agricultural groups to attempt to make the H2-A migrant worker visa system work better for agricultural cooperatives and in asking Congress to disapprove new Department of Labor regulations affecting the AEWR. NCC further promoted the interests of Nebraska cooperatives by joining with other industry associations in communicating with Congress and the White House on issues including the then impending railroad strike as well as proposed regulations regarding rail safety in order to keep supply chains moving as freely as possible.

- ***Educating cooperative management teams and directors on current and future issues impacting farmer owned cooperatives***

Programing in 2022-23 brought Labor and H2-A specialists to the Director/Manager Workshop and provided virtual sessions on Successful Cooperative Governance in the 21st Century through the Leadership Luncheon Series. NCC and its neighboring state councils collaborated on bringing to their respective members internationally recognized geo-political thinker Pippa Malmgren from London via a virtual program. The Graduate Director Seminar featured Retired Army Colonel David Fivecoat with an interactive workshop of Compe-

tencies to be a Strategic Thinker. With the Board Leadership Seminar, NCC again provided member cooperative boards the opportunity to discuss common governance issues and "learn from each other".

- ***Maintaining an effective political and lobbying arm through the NCC-PAC to educate and promote relationships between the Nebraska agricultural cooperative system and the Nebraska Legislature***

Because member cooperatives financially support the NCC-PAC, we participate in candidate fundraisers to develop and maintain critical relationships with Nebraska senators. The fact that we have as many urban and rural senators that routinely agree to assist us on sponsoring a bill or asking questions at committee hearings to help us on issues indicates that cooperatives, working together on these issues, have a presence with our policy makers.

- ***NCC Board greenlights GROUNDWORK...Cultivating The Ag Leaders of Tomorrow***

The NCC Board of Directors has given approval to a new young producer program aimed at strengthening the link between young producers and their local cooperatives by approving ***GROUNDWORK...Cultivating The Ag Leaders of Tomorrow***. This program will expose young producers, sponsored by their respective local cooperatives, to cutting edge national and state thought leaders on agricultural issues in order to assist each of them in being one of the "Farmers of the Future". In addition this program will provide opportunities for participants to participate in advocating on agricultural and cooperative issues with both state and federal legislators with a Cooperative Day at the Capitol in Lincoln and a visit to Washington D.C. in the summer of 2024.

By working together, NCC members, through the Council's activities pool resources and knowledge, creating a stronger, unified voice for Nebraska's agricultural community. This is the essence of the cooperative business model...agricultural cooperatives are organizations formed by farmers and agricultural producers to collectively address common challenges, such as marketing their products, accessing resources, and achieving economies of scale. For 78 years, your Nebraska Cooperative Council has been the nucleus for cooperation among its member cooperatives.

Thank you for your support and participation in these efforts. We look forward to continuing to be the means by which Nebraska's agricultural and rural utility cooperatives continue to "cooperatively" advance, protect and defend their common interests.

*Rocky David*

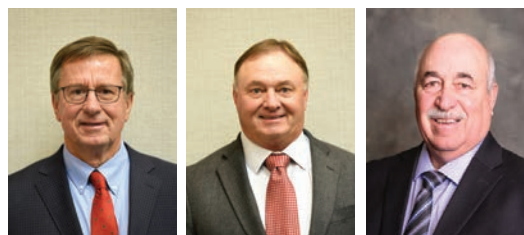


## Board of Directors

David Briggs - Westco, Alliance (Bd Chair)  
Dean Thernes - Farmers Pride, Battle Creek (Vice Chair)  
Tim Rowe - Country Partners Co-op, Gothenburg (Secretary)



Evan Brandes - Aurora Co-op Elevator Co  
Galen Kuskas - Farmers Cooperative, Dorchester  
Jeff Loschen - CPI, Hastings



Bart Moseman - Farmers Co-op Elevator, Hemingford  
Cary Sandell - CoBank, Elkhorn  
Jeremy Wilhelm - Frontier Co-op, Lincoln



## Committees

### Legislative Advisory Committee

Rocky Weber .....Nebraska Cooperative Council (Co-chair)  
Dean Thernes.....Farmers Pride, Battle Creek (Co-chair)  
Evan Brandes.....Aurora Co-op Elevator Co  
Luke Carlson.....CVA, York  
Matt Caswell .....AGP, Omaha  
Jeff Loschen .....CPI, Hastings  
Bart Moseman.....Farmers Co-op Elevator Co, Hemingford  
Jamey Nygren .....Farm Credit Services of America, Omaha  
Allan Zumpfe.....Farmers Cooperative, Dorchester  
David Briggs.....Westco, Alliance (ex-officio)

### NCC-Political Action Committee

Dean Thernes.....Farmers Pride, Battle Creek (Chair)  
Gary Brandt.....CPI, Hastings  
Carl Dickinson.....CVA, York  
Galen Kuskas .....Farmers Co-op, Dorchester  
Mary Kay Lyon .....CHS Inc, Holdrege  
Douglas Olsen .....Panhandle Co-op Assn., Scottsbluff  
Bill Schuster .....Aurora Co-op Elevator Co.  
Jeremy Wilhelm .....Frontier Co-op, Lincoln  
David Briggs.....Westco, Alliance (ex-officio)

### Excellence in Cooperative Education Committee

Tim Rowe.....Country Partners Co-op, Gothenburg (Chair)  
Carl Dickinson.....CVA, York  
Chad Fehringer .....Farmers Pride, Battle Creek  
Jay Geu .....Frenchman Valley Farmers Co-op, Imperial  
Jeff Krejdl .....Ag Valley Co-op, Edison  
Cary Sandell.....CoBank, Elkhorn  
Neil Stedman .....Frontier Co-op, Lincoln  
Brook Stromer.....CoBank, Elkhorn  
David Briggs.....Westco, Alliance (ex-officio)  
Adam Feser.....Nebraska Cooperative Council

### Hall of Fame Committee

Galen Kuskas .....Exeter (Chair)  
Bruce Favinger .....Minden (Vice Chair)  
Don Anthony .....Lexington  
Jay Larson.....Kearney  
Dale Piper .....Springfield  
David Briggs.....Westco, Alliance (ex-officio)  
Rocky Weber .....Nebraska Cooperative Council (ex-officio)

## Staff

Rocky Weber - President & General Counsel  
Adam Feser - Director of Cooperative Advancement  
Deb Mazour - Office Manager & Program Coordinator

# State Legislation 2023 Session

While the Council monitors all legislative activity in order to keep its cooperative members abreast of any legislative changes that may affect how cooperatives conduct business, the primary responsibility of the Council in the legislative arena is to monitor and effect legislation that pertains to “cooperative specific issues.” This legislative priority includes, but is not limited to, legislative action affecting:

- Cooperatives as business entities unique from corporations and limited liability companies
- Cooperative corporate governance and the rights and obligations of cooperative board members, stockholders and patrons
- Laws, including tax codes, that may affect how cooperatives allocate patronage to their patrons
- Equity management and equity redemption restrictions
- Securities and other “safe harbor” exemptions that provide cooperatives the ability to raise and manage equity

These legislative priorities involve issues that affect the very nature of the cooperative business model, whether it be a local or regional cooperative, a utility cooperative, a transportation cooperative, or the Farm Credit System, CoBank or related cooperative entities uniquely formed to serve the needs of cooperative business organizations.

The 2023 Nebraska Legislature convened on January 4 and adjourned the 90-day session on June 1. There were 820 bills introduced with 50 being signed into law. The contentious nature of the session meant there were long-running filibusters, resulting in a flurry of omni-bus bills being passed at the end of the session that contained many separate bills. Full descriptions and status updates on legislation affecting cooperatives were emailed out to members in the form of Legislative Updates throughout the session.

Listed here are some of the more significant bills we followed.

## SIGNED INTO LAW

### **LB 562 - Adopt the E-15 Access Standard Act and change provisions of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act, the Nebraska Higher Blend Tax Credit Act, the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority Act, and the Nebraska Pure Food Act**

LB 562 passed on Final Reading with a vote of 46-0-3 and was signed into law by the Governor on June 1. The version of LB 562 that was adopted requires new fuel sites and sites where 80% of infrastructure is being replaced to offer E-15 from at least 50% of dispensers beginning on January 1, 2024. It would also require a report from the Department of Revenue and Department of Environment and Energy on the statewide ethanol blend rate. If that blend rate is below 14% for 2027, beginning in 2028 retailers must advertise and sell E-15 from at least one fuel dispenser.

A waiver exists for sites with only 1 dispenser or that averaged less than 300,000 gallonage sold per year from 2021-2023. A retailer can submit one waiver application to cover multiple small sites.

This bill creates a retail tax credit for gallons of E-15 sold. The tax credit is 8¢ in 2024, 9¢ in 2025, 8¢ in 2026, 7¢ in 2027, and 5¢ in 2028, with a cap of \$5 million annually.

Elements of LB 116 (Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act) were included in LB 562. For purposes of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit, the definition of farm includes improved or unimproved tracts of land, and tracts of less than 10 acres could qualify. It would remove the requirement that members of the Board overseeing the program come from each congressional district. It also raises the net worth cap on who qualifies from \$200,000 to \$750,000 in the amended version, as opposed to \$1 million as it was introduced. Pensions, retirement, and other types of deferred benefits would not count toward farmer's net worth for this pro-

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## State Legislation

(continued from page 5)

gram. The bill was amended into LB 562 and a floor amendment set the cap on the total amount of credits under this program at \$2 million instead of \$5 million.

### **LB 683 - Change provisions relating to the County Bridge Match Program, the Highway Cash Fund, the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund, the Roads Operations Cash Fund, the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act, the One-Call Notification System Act, and the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, adopt the Rural Communications Sustainability Act, and create the Nebraska Broadband Office and the Underground Excavation Safety Committee**

LB 683, a Transportation and Telecommunications Committee priority bill, passed on Final Reading with an Emergency Clause with a vote of 39-0-10 and was signed by the Governor on May 26. The bill as introduced was supported by the Council. It creates the Nebraska Broadband Office to ensure all federal, state, and local funding programs are leveraged strategically to ensure all Nebraskans have access to broadband by January 1, 2028.

There were several bills amended into LB 683, including LB 412, which was supported by the Council. It would allow for federal funds to be allocated to eligible broadband projects in 2nd class cities and villages.

### **AMENDED INTO ANOTHER BILL & SIGNED INTO LAW**

### **LB 138 - Adopt updates to federal law relating to motor vehicles and motor carriers and change provisions relating to transportation**

LB 138 was passed on Final Reading on a 41-0-8 vote and signed by the Governor on June 1. The Council had no position on this bill, but parts of LBs 453 and 199 were amended into it.

LB 453 – Provide an additional use of the Highway Cash Fund and change provisions relating to bridge replacement and road construction contracts (Oppose) ... The Council opposed LB 453 on the grounds that it allows the Director-State Engineer, at their sole discretion, to budget for and pay any of the administrative costs related to the Division of Aeronautics from the Highway Cash Fund. The Council believes the funds for these costs should come from elsewhere, but this portion of the bill was included in

LB 138.

LB 199 - Provide for a driving privilege card for federally authorized aliens (Support) ... The Council testified in support of LB 199, which allows for people with a parolee immigration status, which currently includes many Ukrainian refugees, to obtain a legal means of driving. The Council argued for the need to include CDLs in the types of licenses they may obtain, as many of the refugees have an ag background that could help address cooperatives' workforce needs, and the final legislation will allow for this.

### **LB 249 – Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act**

Parts of LB 249 were amended into LB 191, which passed on Final Reading 46-0-3 and was signed by the Governor on May 26. LB 249, as introduced by Senator Briese, would have transferred \$20 million to the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Fund. The Council supported the bill's effort to invest in rural Nebraska housing, which is necessary for addressing the ongoing labor shortage. The version amended into LB 191 removes the \$20 million but keeps changes to the Act that would broaden the types of projects that are eligible.

### **LB 267 - Critical Infrastructure Utility Worker Protection Act**

The Council submitted a letter of support for LB 267 citing the importance of protecting critical infrastructure in times of crisis. The bill will ensure all necessary measures to protect utilities workers to keep critical infrastructure functioning during disasters. LB 267 was amended into LB 191, which passed Final Reading on a 46-0-3 vote and was signed by the Governor on May 26.

### **LB 814 - Budget Bill**

LB 814 was part of the budget package brought by Speaker Arch on behalf of the Governor.

As passed it included provisions of many bills including two that the Council supported (LBs 361 and 741). LB 814 passed with the emergency clause on a vote of 42-3-4 and was approved by the Governor on May 24 with line-item vetoes, none of which affected the portions of the bill that included LBs 361 and 741.

LB 361 - Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program (Support)...LB 361 would appropriate \$1 million for FY23-24 and FY24-25 for the Precision Agriculture Grant Program. Agriculture has been and will continue to become increasingly digitized, automated, and technology dependent. Technology also supports sustainable agricultural practices, helping our farmers respond to climate concerns and consumer preferences. These investments are critical to keeping Nebraska agriculture competi-

## Feser joins Council as Director of Cooperative Advancement



In September 2022 we were happy to introduce Adam Feser as the Council's new Director of Cooperative Advancement.

Adam grew up on a farm in rural South Dakota, just outside of Groton, where his father and grandfathers were active members of local cooperatives. Adam has lived in Lincoln since moving here in 2003 to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he earned his M.A. and B.A. in Political Science.

While at UNL, Adam met his wife, Amanda. They have 4 sons, Theodore, age 10, Franklin, age 8, Louis, age 5 and Arthur, age 10 months.



tive and profitable into the future. The Council submitted a letter of support for this bill.

LB 741 - Transfer money and appropriate funds relating to housing (Support)... LB 741 would appropriate \$25 million for FY23-24 and FY24-25 to the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Fund as well as \$25 million each of those years for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The Council submitted a letter of support for this bill.

### **LB 727 - Revenue and Taxation**

LB 727 passed on Final Reading with an emergency clause on a vote of 46-0-3 and was signed by the Governor on June 6. The Council did not have a position on this bill, but as passed it contained 3 bills of interest to the Council (LBs 118, 180, and 706):

LB 118 - Change provisions of the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act (Support) ... LB 118 from Senator Brandt makes a few changes to the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act. It reduces the application fees and reduces the minimum investment for livestock producers from \$50,000 to \$10,000 for the program.

LB 180 - Adopt the Nebraska Biodiesel Tax Credit Act (Support w/ AM) ... This bill, brought by Senator Brandt, would create a refundable retail tax credit of 14¢ per gallon of biodiesel sold by retailers in a calendar year, with a cap at \$5 million. The Council supported this bill with an amendment clarifying that cooperatives could pass through the Biodiesel Tax Credits so their patrons would be able to utilize the tax credit.

LB 706 - Authorize the issuance of highway bonds under the Nebraska Highway Bond Act (Support) ... This bill from Senator Moser would authorize the issuance of bonds, not to exceed \$450 million in principal and \$35 million service (up from the \$30 million as it was introduced) for a period of not more than 19 years, in order to accelerate the completion of highway construction projects under the Build Nebraska Act.



### **LB 305 - Grain warehouse storage rates/charges (Support); LB 264 - Change provisions of the Grain Dealer Act and the Grain Warehouse Act (Neutral)**

LB 305 was proposed by the Council to deregulate grain storage and handling rates for Nebraska licensed grain warehouses. LB 264 would change several provisions for Nebraska grain warehouses and dealers, and the Council testified in a neutral capacity on these changes. These bills were amended into LB 262, which was an Agriculture Committee priority bill. The bill was placed on General File but did not move further.

### **LB 725 - Banning Electric Cooperatives from being involved in Candidate or Ballot Question Elections; LB 726 - NE Electric Consumer Right to Transparency and Local Control Act; LB 133 - Provide entities exercising the power of eminent domain are subject to the Open Meetings Act**

LB 725 would have barred electric cooperatives and member owners from political activity; LB 726 would have placed several new requirements on electric cooperatives; LB 133 would have made some cooperatives subject to the Open Meetings Act. The Council opposed these 3 bills which did not advance from committee.

## **CARRIED OVER TO 2024 SESSION**

### **LB 139 - Change Jurisdictional Amount of Small Claims Court (Support)**

Senator Brandt introduced LB 139 on the Council's behalf to increase the small claims court jurisdictional limit from \$3,900 to \$10,000. LB 139 with Judiciary AM1518 advanced unanimously from committee to General File. AM1518 would have made the jurisdictional amount \$6,000 on July 1, 2023 and \$7,500 on July 1, 2024. The bill was nearly included in a separate package on the last day of the session but ended up not finding a ride. The bill, as amended, is still on General File and will be a carryover bill in the short session, requiring an amendment to change the effective dates. The fact that LB 139 advanced unanimously from committee with the support of the Judiciary Chair is evidence it has a good chance of moving in the short session.

## **WORKERS COMPENSATION BILLS**

Several bills were introduced in 2023 dealing with workers compensation. The Council is a member of the Nebraskans for Workers Compensation Equity & Fairness (NWCEF), a coalition of business organizations that seek equitable action on any bills impacting employer-employee relationships.

LB 191 - Adopt the Critical Infrastructure Utility Worker Protection Act and change provisions relating to the Contractor Registration Act, the Employment Security Law, the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act, and the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act (Support) ... LB 191 passed with the emergency clause on a vote of 46-0-3 and was approved by the Governor on May 26. It amends the Nebraska Worker's Compensation Act to provide confidentiality of and access to certain injury reports, with certain exceptions. This would prevent plaintiffs' lawyers from reviewing initial reports of injuries and soliciting employees.

The NCC Political Action Committee continues to be a significant part of the Council's overall legislative program. The NCC-PAC was established in 1999 to help gain access to legislators from urban and rural areas of the state through voluntary contributions from members.

As the urban areas of the state continue to grow in population, it is important that the Council has access to the state senators serving those areas. Through the NCC-PAC, the Council has the opportunity to communicate with and educate state senators regarding issues that are important to cooperatives and rural Nebraska.

With term limits, the ability to update and educate senators has become even more crucial. As senators move in and out of leadership positions much more rapidly, maintaining open communication has become much more critical. The NCC-PAC

actively participates in urban and rural legislative races to help develop a broad base of relationships with policymakers.

In July 2022, the NCC-PAC conducted 25 candidate interviews. State Senators Tom Brandt and Myron Dorn joined the Committee for lunch on the final day to discuss the upcoming 2023 legislative session.

Following the interviews, the NCC-PAC provided campaign donations to 31 candidates in 22 legislative races. Throughout the 2021-22 fiscal year, the NCC-PAC contributed in 26 instances to incumbents holding fundraisers or a post-election contribution to successful candidates. The NCC-PAC contributed \$54,200 in total to legislative candidates in the 2021-22 election cycle.

Contributions by Council members to the NCC-PAC totaled \$24,925 for the 2022-23FY. At the end of the fiscal year on August 31, 2023, NCC-PAC maintained a balance of \$86,314, which will be available for use in the next election cycle.

With 2024 approaching, the Council has been tracking candidate announcements and interacting with Council Members on races in open legislative districts where cooperatives maintain locations. The interview process will provide an opportunity for the Council to understand more about the candidates and their stances on issues pertinent to cooperatives. These interviews also give the Council a chance to educate a new class of state legislators about the importance of cooperatives to Nebraska's economy.



...to the following members who provided voluntary contributions to the NCC-PAC for the 2022-23 fiscal year:

Alliance - Panhandle Rural Electric  
Alliance - WESTCO  
Aurora Co-op Elevator Co  
Battle Creek - Farmers Pride  
Clarkson - Farmers Union Co-op Supply  
Dodge - Co-op Supply Inc N/S  
Dorchester - Farmers Co-op  
Edison - Ag Valley Co-op N/S  
Fairfield N/S Co-op Fertilizer  
Friend - Farmers Union Co-op Co  
Gothenburg - Country Partners Co-op  
Grant - Midwest Electric Co-op Corp  
Hastings - CPI

Hemingford - Farmers Co-op Elevator Co  
Holdrege - CHS Inc  
Imperial - Frenchman Valley Farmers Co-op  
Lincoln - Frontier Co-op  
Pilger - Farmers Co-op  
Scottsbluff - Panhandle Co-op Assn  
Sidney - Crossroads Co-op Assn  
Talmage - Farmers Co-op Co  
York - CVA  
Brandon SD - CHS Inc  
Yuma CO - CHS/High Plains Co-op  
AGP  
CHS Inc

## NCC Mission Statement

To defend, protect, and enhance the agricultural cooperative movement through proactive programs in education, legislation, governmental affairs, communication, and regulatory issues.



# Federal & State Government Relations

The Council continues to work closely with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) and the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) regarding federal legislation and regulations. NCFC has a continuous presence with Nebraska's congressional delegation, their respective staffs, and policy makers which allows the views of farmer owned cooperatives to be held in the forefront of any discussions. NCC President Rocky Weber is an elected state council representative on the NCFC governing council.

NCFC, along with strong support from state councils such as Nebraska, monitors any efforts that would threaten the cooperative business model. Issues such as mandatory equity redemption, interest on members' equity, securities, patronage redemption, Capper Volstead repeal, and many more are continually monitored to ensure that the cooperative business model is not compromised.

The ARA represents retailers, distributors, and suppliers of crop protection products, fertilizer, equipment, technology and other services.

## SECTION 199 AND 199A

With the impending sunset of the Section 199A(g) DPAD tax provision at the end of 2025, the Nebraska Cooperative Council continues its efforts to educate our congressional delegation and influence Congress to keep 199A(g) in place. There are currently pending in the House and Senate place holder bills that would remove the sunset provision of Section 199A.

In 2022 the Council actively participated in efforts to attempt to get the Treasury Department to pull back its Section 199A regulations that prohibit cooperatives from using non-patronage income in calculating the Domestic Production Activities Deduction (DPAD).

In 2022, working with Congressman Adrian Smith, the Council was successful in having the Congressman submit a Question For the Record to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen which will require the Department to formulate a formal response on the issue.

Working with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC), the Nebraska Council participated in a meeting in June 2023 on Capitol Hill with both Democratic and Republican staff members of the House Ways and Means Committee that has jurisdiction over tax issues. We stressed with both groups the importance of keeping 199A intact for farmer cooperatives and their farmer members. We also maintain a very good working relationship with Congressman Smith who sits on the Ways and Means Committee as well as his staff on the 199A issues. In addition, in June of 2023 the Council joined an industry coalition letter to House and Senate members encouraging support of maintaining Section 199A.

Rocky is a member of the NCFC 199A Working Group through which cooperatives from around the nation are working together to gather data and prepare a lobbying effort with Congress in 2024 on the 199A issue. In July of 2023 the Council coordinated with its marketing cooperative members to aggregate section 199A data for use with our own delegation as well as to be included in

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## Federal & State Government Relations

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the national data collected by NCFC. The Council is currently planning a fly-in to Washington DC in March 2024 to visit the Nebraska Congressional Delegation on this issue.

### GRAIN

The Council regularly monitors and interacts with the Public Service Commission (PSC) on Grain Warehouse and Grain Dealer Regulations and actively lobbies the Nebraska Legislature on issues affecting grain warehouses and dealers. In fact, the Council is currently the only statewide trade association interacting with legislators and regulators on grain warehouse and grain dealer issues.

In May 2022 the Council led an effort seeking an increase in the Schedule A & E grain storage rates for corn and soybeans. Those rates have been unchanged since 2015. The Council gathered data and coordinated member testimony at a PSC hearing seeking a 50% increase in the current rates due to substantially increased costs of construction, insurance, labor and maintenance experienced by grain warehouses. We were successful with the PSC approving the 50% increase in August 2022.

In November 2022 the Council was the only trade association interacting with PSC members and grain division staff on potential updates to Nebraska's grain warehouse and grain dealers statutes and regulations.

The Council also appeared and testified on grain issues at an interim hearing held in December 2022 by the Legislature's Agriculture Committee. In the 2023 legislative session, LB 264 was introduced on behalf of the PSC to update grain warehouse and grain dealer licensure, bonding, and related requirements. LB 305 was introduced on behalf of the Council to remove the requirement that the PSC annually set grain storage and handling rates for Nebraska warehouse licensees. We appeared at the committee hearing on both bills. Both bills have been brought to the floor of the Legislature as part of LB 262.

### TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS

In September 2022 the Nebraska Council communicated directly with each member of our Congressional Delegation by letter asking each to support efforts by Congress to intervene in the then pending railroad strike which would have crippled rail shipping during harvest. In addition the Council joined ag and related industries in coalition letters (joined by 322 local, state and federal trade associations) asking the White House and Congress to intervene and avoid a crippling rail strike. The Senate ultimately did vote to stop the pending rail strike.

### AG LABOR CRISES

As Nebraska Council membership continues to face a difficult time in accessing ag labor, the Council has actively lobbied the Nebraska Congressional delegation on the ag labor crises and specifically on allowing farmer owned cooperatives to access the H2-A temporary immigrant worker program as part of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (FWMA) introduced in the House in 2021. The Council has coordinated workforce information and



aggregated economic impact data to deliver to our congressional offices and coordinated with regional cooperatives and NCFC on a national level to attempt to alleviate the challenge to Nebraska farmer owned cooperatives. As a direct result of these efforts, the national Farm Workforce Coalition has included wording in its legislative program amendments that would make farmer cooperatives eligible for the H2-A program.

In August 2022 the Council participated in a Ag Workforce Coalition letter to the Senate Leadership encouraging it to take up the Ag Workforce Modernization Act. We followed this with correspondence to and a virtual meeting with Senator Deb Fischer including several representatives of Nebraska cooperatives in November 2022 urging action in the Senate on this issue. We followed this with participation in another Coalition letter to Senate leadership in December urging passage of Senator Bennet's (D-CO) Affordable and Safe Food Act during the lame duck session that contained the provisions of the FWMA and an additional letter to Senator Deb Fischer encouraging her support of Senator Bennet's efforts. Congress remains hopelessly deadlocked on immigration issues that have blocked success on these efforts.

In March 2023 we again joined the Coalition in seeking a Congressional Disapproval Resolution in an effort to repeal the Department of Labor's new Adverse Economic Wage Rate.

Many cooperatives have been licensed as Farm Labor Contractors and are accessing H2-A employees through that designation. The Council continues to monitor Department of Labor actions for both Farm Labor Contractors and H2-A considerations. As members have encountered regulatory issues, the Council has actively gathered information and coordinated getting assistance from Nebraska's congressional delegations on these issues.

### FBI OMAHA AREA THREATS TO AGRICULTURE

In June 2023 NCC participated in a two day 2023 Agriculture Threats Symposium held by the Omaha Field Office of the FBI in conjunction with the Nebraska Farm Bureau.

The symposium was designed to provide information on threats to the agriculture sector in the Upper Midwest and offer resources and guidance for the sector to prevent, detect, and mitigate these threats.

Concluding that the NCC membership would benefit from further interaction with the FBI Omaha Field Office on the



threats to agriculture, the Council hosted an in-person roundtable between NCC members and representatives of the Omaha Field Office of the FBI at its office in Lincoln on August 3, 2023. This program centered on not only criminal and international threat actors, but also on cybersecurity.

One of the take-aways from the meeting was how simple it is for bad actors to gain access to facilities and computers. Several Member CEO's who attended the roundtable asked that we expand this offering in a virtual format so they could have other employees of their cooperatives have access to this information to raise awareness of threats.

Thereafter, Agents Wade Greening and Ken Schmutz of the Omaha FBI Field office presented a virtual program available to all employees of member cooperatives on August 24, 2023. It was well attended with cooperative employees from across Nebraska able to gather information and ask questions on internal and external threats on agricultural supply and marketing cooperative operations.



*Agent Wade Greening from the Omaha Field Office of the FBI during the in-person roundtable on August 3, 2023.*

Our 2022/23 cooperative education programming offered several opportunities for cooperative directors and management teams to be exposed to national thought leaders on topics from governance and migrant labor to economic outlooks through a combination of in-person and virtual programming.

## **DIRECTOR/MANAGER WORKSHOP (DMW)**

This year's program was held in November in Kearney with 112 participants and was titled "Whirlwinds: Managing the Labor, Weather & Economic Challenges to Your Cooperative."

Kristi Boswell and Eileen Scofield from the international law firm Alston & Bird began the program with an in-depth discussion of temporary immigration to address labor shortages, the variety of temporary visa programs available to agriculture, and potential issues that can arise while using these programs.

Ag commodities expert Shawn Hackett then examined past, current and forecasted weather trends and applied them to commodity pricing models.

The final speaker was Ken Zuckerberg, Lead Information Analyst at CoBank, who explored current and coming economic challenges facing the industry, including labor shortages, inflation and rising interest rates. He also delved into various ways technology might be used to address these challenges and raised issues that may be topical for winter Board retreats.

## **LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON SERIES**

For the second time, the Council offered a Leadership Luncheon Series which was two 1-hour virtual programs offered during December. There were 78 participants. This year's LLS focused on application of the First Principles of Cooperation

# **Director Education**

to Successful Cooperative Governance in the 21st Century. Dr. Richard Leblanc, Internationally Recognized Professor of Governance, Law and Ethics at York University in Toronto, Canada, led the sessions.

Part A was an introduction to first principles of cooperative governance with Part B focused on the board of directors, committees, and individual directors, as well as evaluation of the cooperative board's effectiveness.

*(Continued on page 12)*



*Over 110 cooperative representatives attended the Director/Manager Workshop in Kearney.*



## Director Education

(continued from page 11)

### DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (DCP)

DCP is a four-phase program covering all aspects of the roles and responsibilities of directors and how these differ from the manager. To date 8,495 phases have been completed. Over 1,707 individuals have graduated from the four-phase program. CoBank cosponsors DCP with the Council.

For 2023, we offered Phases 3 and 4 with a total of 43 phases completed. Our hope is to be able to return to offering all four phases each year at some point but as the number of current directors who have completed DCP increases, it will depend on how much board turnover there is.

### GRADUATE DIRECTOR SEMINAR (GDS)

GDS is for directors not engaged in completing DCP in the current year. This year, 23 individuals attended GDS.

The afternoon of Jan 4th focused on Legal Foundations and a Bylaw Refresher presented by Bill Kutilek with Crosby Guenzel LLP. Dr. Jody Herchenbach with UNK rounded out the afternoon program on developing the most important skills for directors.

The evening reception and dinner was once again sponsored by CoBank, and DCP registrants also attended. The evening speaker was Retired Army Col. David Fivecoat.

The Jan 5th program focused on Competencies to be a Strategic Thinker with Col. Fivecoat who led the group through a session to help individuals develop the competencies to be a strategic thinker. The session closed with Col. Fivecoat and working through some cooperative examples with the new competencies that Col. Fivecoat presented.

### MULTI-STATE PROGRAM

The Council once again partnered with the Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and South Dakota State Councils to offer a webinar for all of our members. Nebraska had 39 participants.

The program was held on January 12, and with generous financial support from CoBank, we were able to utilize internationally recognized Dr. Pippa Malmgren. She is an economist who brought “simple sense making” to the complexities of the world economy, geopolitics and technology.

### BOARD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR (BLS)

BLS was held on February 22nd at the Hilton in Omaha. It featured the ever-popular open discussion format with Rocky Weber and Bill Kutilek. A total of 37 individuals participated and again found it to be extremely valuable.



*DCP Phase 4 participants below listen as Dr Keri Jacobs (top left) from the University of Missouri leads discussion in a panel with current Board Chairman Neil Stedman (top center) with Frontier Co-op and Retired Co-op Manager Don Truhe (top right) from Yankton SD.*



### Cooperative Principles

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training & Information
- Cooperation among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

## STATE FFA COOPERATIVE SPEAKING CONTEST

2023 marked the 72nd consecutive year that the Council annually sponsored the State FFA Cooperative Speaking Competition which provides an incentive for young people to learn more about the cooperative form of business; to develop speaking and communication skills; and to involve local cooperative representatives in the ag education process.

Seventy (70) students participated in the district contests with 32 students qualifying for the state competition. William Paxton from Stuart FFA won the top prize. For the fourth consecutive year, the NCC Education Foundation provided additional recognition for FFA cooperative speakers. In addition to the normal ribbons and trophies, the Foundation provided a \$50 cash stipend for each of the twelve district Cooperative Speaking Contest winners.

At the state contest, the Foundation provided the medals, trophies, and cash awards of \$250 for 1st place, \$125 for 2nd place, and \$75 for 3rd place.

## CO-OPS 101

Since 2011 the Council, through a CHS Foundation Cooperative Education Grant, has been offering Co-ops 101 presentations at community colleges, NCTA, UNL, UNK, Doane, Wayne State, and select high schools.

During that time frame, we have provided 162 presentations for 2,886 students throughout the state. These presentations focus on the difference in the various business models and how the cooperative business model serves agriculture in Nebraska. During the presentations we discuss cooperative governance, patronage, equity and representation, and how these differentiate cooperatives from other business models.

In the 22/23 Academic Year, we provided 10 presentations to 164 college students with presentations at CCC-Hastings, UNK, NCTA, SCC-Beatrice, and Doane-Crete for college students, and at The Career Academy Early Ag Experience in Lincoln for high school students.



*Above: Taylor Collins from Farmers Cooperative-Dorchester talks about job opportunities at cooperatives during the Co-op 101 at Doane College on April 11, 2023.*

## INTERN RETREAT

The Council hosted our fifth Cooperative Intern Retreat on June 14, 2023 in Kearney with nearly 100 cooperative interns and staff in attendance. The program kicked off with Dr. Jody Herchenbach from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and Rocky Weber from the Council discussing Nebraska's agricultural cooperative system.

The interns then had the opportunity to visit in small groups with cooperative CEOs in four separate rotations. The CEOs involved in the program were Carl Dickinson (CVA), Gary Brandt (CPI), David Briggs (Westco), and Jeremy Wilhelm (Frontier). In addition to the CEO roundtable discussions, the interns also heard from a panel of producers which included Jerrad Stroth of Juniata (CPI), Chris Beins of Henderson (Aurora Co-op), and Ryan Sukraw of Gothenburg (Country Partners Co-op). The panel shared their personal experiences of being a cooperative member and leader.

In 2023, the retreat was a joint effort by the Council with financial support from the NCC Education Foundation.



*Gary Brandt, from CPI headquartered in Hastings, answered questions from students during the CEO Roundtable portion of the Cooperative Intern Retreat.*



*The 2023 Cooperative Intern Retreat with 84 interns and 13 co-op staff.*



# Annual Meeting & Hall of Fame

The 77th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Cooperative Council was held in Kearney on November 16, 2022 at the Younes Conference Center North. A total of 227 members and guests attended.

Council Board Chair David Briggs of Alliance kicked off the meeting by welcoming members and special guests, recognizing sponsors, and offering his Chairman's report. Council President Rocky Weber then provided the financial report and President's report. Rocky highlighted the state and federal issues the Council is engaged in that impact cooperative members.

Following these reports, Election Committee Chairman Bart Moseman announced that Jeff Loschen, Board Chair of CPI, was elected for a 2-year producer position on the NCC Board of Directors. Tim Rowe, Board Chair of Country Partners, was re-elected to the 4-year producer position and Jeremy Wilhelm, CEO of Frontier, was re-elected to the 4-year manager position. It was also announced that Cary Sandell from CoBank was elected to serve as the Participating Members Representative for a 2-year term. The Council congratulates these directors and thanks them for their willingness to serve in support of Nebraska's cooperative system.

After the business session, recognition clocks were presented to Dave Beckman, Mike Hechtner, and Ed Woeppel. Dave served on the NCC Board of Directors for 10 years, including 6 years as Secretary, 4 years on the Legislative Advisory Committee, and 7 years on the Excellence in Cooperative Education Committee. Mike served on the Council's Board for 14 years as a Participating Member Representative. Ed retired in June of 2022 after 23 years of service to the Nebraska Cooperative Council and its members. Ed educated a generation of cooperative directors, managers, and students in that time.

The Nebraska Cooperative Council and its members were delighted to induct two extremely deserving cooperators into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Hall of Fame: Don Anthony and Dave Thomsen.

Don Anthony served 34 years of service as a cooperative director, beginning with the Lexington Cooperative Oil Board in 1984. He served on the All Points Cooperative Board from 1989-2017, including serving as Chairman from 2004-2015. Don also served on the Farmland Industries Board from 2000-2004, the CHS Inc. Board from 2006-2018, and the NCC Board from 1989-1994, as well as several NCC committees. Don was a champion for the cooperative business model and was proud to be an advocate for co-ops.



***NCC Board Chairman David Briggs (at podium) welcomes everyone to the 2022 Annual Meeting.***

Dave Thomsen became a staff accountant for a cooperative auditing firm in 1977, and he would spend the next 41 years of his career in the service of farmer owned cooperatives. In June, 1983, he became Gardiner & Co's CPA in charge of its Lincoln, NE office and in 1988 became an Owner/Partner. In 2003, the firm became Gardiner Thomsen and remained so until Dave's retirement in 2018.

Dave's valued advice is still associated with cooperative best practices for patronage allocations, revolving members' equity, analyzing mergers, and mitigating taxes for cooperatives and their patrons. He played a hugely important role in guiding Nebraska cooperatives in receiving the tax benefits of IRC Section 199. Dave was a trusted advisor and essential resource for cooperatives throughout his career.

For the Annual Meeting's finale, Sean Swarner shared his inspirational story. Sean overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to beat cancer twice in his childhood. Then he decided to continue beating the odds to inspire others to do the same, climbing the tallest mountain on all 7 continents though he only has 1 functional lung.

After the meeting adjourned, the annual membership reception was held which gave all members and supporters time to enjoy fellowship, food and drinks.



## Highlights of the 2022 Annual Meeting, Hall of Fame, and Reception



*Keynote speaker Sean Swarner*



*NCC Board Chair David Briggs (far left) and President Rocky Weber (far right) with (above) Hall of Fame Inductee Dave Thomsen and his wife Sally and (below) Hall of Fame Inductee Don Anthony and his wife Linda*



*Recognizing outgoing NCC Board members Mike Hechtner, CoBank (2nd from right) and Dave Beckman, CVA-York (far right)*



*Following adjournment of the meeting and Hall of Fame ceremony, everyone enjoyed time for fellowship, food and drinks.*



# Financial Statements

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES August 31, 2023 and 2022

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION August 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS		
	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
Cash - Unrestricted	\$1,162,200	\$1,102,045
Cash - Restricted - FFE	9,089	41,769
Cash - Restricted - NCC-PAC	86,314	65,052
Cash - Restricted - NACA	61,151	60,427
Cash - Restricted - UNL Tickets	2,871	1,443
Cash - Restricted - Energy Source	0	13,477
Cash - Restricted - Legacy Initiative	<u>17,675</u>	<u>54,483</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,339,300	1,338,696
Investments - Unrestricted	698,968	584,932
Investments - Restricted to FFE	583,032	566,099
KRVN Golden Notes	0	25,000
Certificates of Deposit	47,095	0
Deferred Compensation Assets	4,186	4,186
Prepaid Expenses	<u>6,636</u>	<u>24,767</u>
Total Current Assets	2,679,217	2,543,680
INVESTMENTS:		
KRVN Golden Notes	25,000	0
Certificates of Deposit	0	45,751
Cash Value of Deferred Compensation Assets	<u>8,373</u>	<u>12,559</u>
Total Investments	33,373	58,310
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT:		
Furniture & Office Equipment	87,009	87,009
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(72,862)</u>	<u>(68,903)</u>
Net Property & Equipment	14,147	18,106
RIGHT OF USE ASSET - Operating Lease	<u>153,411</u>	<u>173,499</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$2,880,148</u>	<u>\$2,793,595</u>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt		
Operating Lease Liability	\$ 19,879	\$ 19,553
Prepaid Dues	552,936	562,125
Deferred Compensation Payable	4,186	4,186
Accrued Expenses	<u>27,160</u>	<u>26,244</u>
Total Current Liabilities	604,161	612,108
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES - Net of Current Maturities:		
Operating Lease Liability	135,406	155,284
Deferred Compensation Payable	<u>8,373</u>	<u>12,559</u>
Total Long-Term Liabilities	143,779	167,843
NET ASSETS:		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	1,372,075	1,247,702
With Donor Restrictions		
Fund For Excellence	592,122	607,868
NCC-PAC	86,314	65,052
National Affairs Cooperative Action Fund	61,151	60,427
NCC-UNL Tickets	2,871	1,443
Energy Source	0	13,477
Legacy Initiative	<u>17,675</u>	<u>17,675</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>2,132,208</u>	<u>2,013,644</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$2,880,148</u>	<u>\$2,793,595</u>

GENERAL FUND		
	2023	2022
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:		
Members' Dues	\$562,879	\$565,531
Contributions	50,010	50,000
Participating Members' Dues	87,209	89,680
Meetings	47,898	41,638
Workshops	117,924	101,250
Interest Income	22,855	3,909
Investment Income from Marketable Securities	26,599	22,087
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Marketable Securities	48,143	(55,662)
Miscellaneous	2,727	3,537
PPP Loan Forgiveness	0	66,343
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>80,110</u>	<u>97,606</u>
Total Revenue and Support	1,046,354	985,919
EXPENSES:		
Salaries	443,060	409,125
Payroll Taxes	26,601	24,649
Employee Insurance	15,786	19,174
Retirement	<u>33,042</u>	<u>36,850</u>
Total Personnel Expenses	518,489	489,798
Accounting Fees	27,646	26,525
Auto	0	38
Books and Magazines	79	79
Consulting Services/Contract Labor	26,525	25,950
Depreciation	3,958	3,958
Directors' Fees	18,242	19,584
Dues/Contributions	7,123	5,148
Equipment Leases	1,074	2,476
Impact Study	19,787	13,192
Information Technology	22,500	18,006
Insurance	8,395	7,962
Legal Fees	0	5,249
Meetings	49,081	38,810
Office Supplies	5,100	7,461
Parking	5,240	5,614
Postage	699	600
Promotions	90	293
Property Taxes	278	322
Rent	34,091	32,427
Repairs and Maintenance	88	206
Telephone	6,229	6,481
Training	50	0
Travel	15,218	8,725
Utilities	2,170	1,559
Workshops	69,940	48,341
Miscellaneous	(221)	0
Fund Expenses	<u>80,110</u>	<u>97,606</u>
Total Expenses	921,981	866,410
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	124,373	119,509
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,247,702</u>	<u>1,128,193</u>
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$1,372,075</u>	<u>\$1,247,702</u>



## FUND FOR EXCELLENCE (FFE) FUND

	2023	2022
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:		
Investment Income (Loss) from Marketable Securities	\$(13,420)	\$ 37,139
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Marketable Securities	(2,326)	(85,096)
Total Revenue and Support	(15,746)	(47,957)
EXPENSES:		
Total Expenses	0	0
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(15,746)	(47,957)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	607,868	655,825
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$592,122	\$607,868

## NCC-PAC FUND

	2023	2022
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:		
Contributions Received	\$ 26,685	\$ 29,900
Interest Income	165	138
Total Revenue and Support	26,850	30,038
EXPENSES:		
Donations	5,538	53,950
Office Supplies	50	0
Total Expenses	5,588	53,950
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	21,262	(23,912)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	65,052	88,964
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$86,314	\$65,052

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS COOPERATIVE ACTION (NACA) FUND

	2023	2022
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:		
Interest Income	\$ 724	\$ 132
Total Revenue and Support	724	132
EXPENSES:		
Total Expenses	0	0
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	724	132
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	60,427	60,295
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$61,151	\$60,427

## UNL TICKETS FUND

	2023	2022
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:		
Contributions Received	\$ 62,417	\$ 42,904
Interest Income	25	7
Miscellaneous	0	120
Total Revenue and Support	62,442	43,031
EXPENSES:		
UNL Tickets	16,880	19,528
UNL Contribution	44,000	24,000
Postage	134	128
Total Expenses	61,014	43,656
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	1,428	(625)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,443	2,068
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$2,871	\$1,443

## ENERGY SOURCE FUND

	2023	2022
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:		
Interest Income	\$ 31	\$ 4
Total Revenue and Support	31	4
EXPENSES:		
Contributions Returned	13,508	0
Total Expenses	13,508	0
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(13,477)	4
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	13,477	13,473
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 0	\$13,477

## LEGACY INITIATIVE FUND

	2023	2022
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:		
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 0	0
EXPENSES:		
Total Expenses	0	0
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	0	0
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	17,675	17,675
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$17,675	\$17,675

## SUPPLY/MARKETING COOPERATIVES

Alliance - WESTCO  
Aurora Co-op Elevator Co  
Battle Creek - Farmers Pride  
Clarkson - Farmers Union Co-op Supply Co  
Dodge - Cooperative Supply Inc N/S  
Dorchester - Farmers Cooperative  
Edison - Ag Valley Co-op, N/S  
Elsie - Hi-Line Co-op Inc  
Fairfield N/S Co-op Fertilizer Assn  
Friend - Farmers Union Co-op Co  
Gothenburg - Country Partners Co-op  
Hastings - CPI  
Hayes Center - Hayes County Farmers N/S  
Co-op  
Hemingford - Farmers Co-op Elevator Co  
Holdrege - CHS Inc  
Imperial - Frenchman Valley Farmers Co-op  
Lincoln - Frontier Co-op Co  
Lindsay - Farmers Co-op Assn  
Pilger - Farmers Co-op  
Ravenna - Farmers Co-op Assn  
Scottsbluff - Panhandle Co-op Assn  
Sidney - Crossroads Co-op Assn  
Talmage - Farmers Co-op Co  
York - CVA

## RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Alliance - Panhandle Rural Electric  
Membership Assn  
Grant - Midwest Electric Co-op Corp  
O'Neill - Niobrara Valley Electric Member-  
ship Corp

## TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

Blue Hill - Glenwood Telephone  
Membership Corp  
Hemingford Co-op Telephone Co

## OUT-OF-STATE SUPPLY/ MARKETING COOPERATIVES

Yuma CO - CHS/High Plains Co-op  
Great Bend KS - American Plains Co-op  
Moundridge KS - MKC  
Seneca KS - Ag Partners Co-op, Inc  
Brandon SD - CHS Inc

## LIVESTOCK MARKETING

### AGENCIES

Producers Livestock Marketing

## PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Ag Processing Inc  
CHS Inc  
CoBank  
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc  
Farm Credit Services of America  
GROWMARK, Inc  
Land O'Lakes Inc

## SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Associated Benefits Corp  
Associated Milk Producers, Inc  
Austin Mutual Insurance Co  
BerganKDV  
Berkley Agribusiness  
BNSF  
Campbell, Shaffer & Company  
Credit Bureau Services, Inc  
EBM Construction, Inc  
FCCS Consulting  
Four Points Federal Credit Union  
Gallagher  
Gardiner + Company  
Inspiro Inc  
Lincoln Inspection Service  
Lockton Companies  
Marsh McLennan Agency  
McPherson Concrete Storage Systems  
Milliman, Inc  
Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Co  
Nebraska Corn Board  
Nebraska Ethanol Board  
Nebraska Rural Radio Assn  
Olsson  
ProValue Insurance  
Stone X Financial Inc - FCM Division  
Summit Carbon Solutions  
The Cooperative Finance Assn  
United Benefits Group  
USI Insurance









## **Nebraska Cooperative Council**

635 South 14th Street, Suite 125

Lincoln, NE 68508

Ph: 402/475-6555

Website: [nebr.coop](http://nebr.coop)