

MARCH 19TH - 25TH NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK 2017

Nebraska Agriculture Fact Card

Nebraska's Top National Rankings

1st
Beef and veal exports, 2016 - \$1,126,575,000
Commercial red meat production, 2016 - 8,009,800,000 lbs. (3,633,184,165 kg)
Commercial cattle slaughter, 2016 - 7,239,500 head
Great Northern beans production, 2016 - 746,000 cwt. (37,898,550 kg)
All cattle on feed, Jan 1, 2017 - 2,470,000 head
Popcorn production, 2012 - 353,711,118 lbs. (160,440,664 kg)
2nd
All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2017 - 6,450,000 head
Pinto beans production, 2016 - 1,687,000 cwt. (85,703,556 kg)
Proso millet production, 2016 - 3,080,000 bushels
Bison, number of head, Dec. 31, 2012 - 23,152
3rd
Corn for grain production, 2016 - 1,699,900,000 bushels (43,179,418,285 kg)
Corn exports, 2015 - \$987,200,000
Cash receipts from all livestock and products, 2015 - \$13,951,023,000
Light red kidney beans production, 2016 - 50,000 cwt (2,540,117 kg)
4th
Cash receipts from all farm commodities, 2015 - \$23,007,018,000
Cash receipts from all crops, 2015 - \$9,055,996,000
Agricultural exports, 2015 - \$6,385,100,000
All dry edible beans production, 2016 - 2,766,000 cwt. (140,519,288 kg)
Beef Cows, number of head, Jan. 1, 2017 - 1,920,000
Land in farms and ranches, 2015 - 45,200,000 acres (18,291,791 ha)
5th
Soybean exports, 2015 - \$1,395,900,000
Soybean production, 2016 - 314,150,000 bushels (8,549,755,608 kg)
Grain sorghum production, 2016 - 17,850,000 bushels (453,410,563 kg)
6th
Harvested acres of principal crops, 2016 - 19,223,000 acres (7,779,272 ha)
Commercial hog slaughter, 2016

- 7,985,400 head
All hogs and pigs on farms, Dec. 1, 2016 - 3,400,000 head
All Hay production, 2016 - 5,748,000 tons (5,214,497,886 kg)
Sugarbeet production, 2016 - 1,411,000 tons (1,280,037,668 kg)
7th
Sunflower production, 2016 - 58,150,000 lbs (26,376,396 kg)
Winter wheat production, 2016 - 70,740,000 bushels (1,925,225,885 kg)
Alfalfa hay production, 2016 - 3,113,000 tons (2,824,066,096 kg)
Nebraska Ag Facts
- Cash receipts from farm marketings contributed over \$23 billion to Nebraska's economy in 2015 and 6.1 percent of the U.S. total.
- Nebraska's ten leading commodities (in order of value) for 2015 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, chicken eggs, dairy products, wheat, hay, dry beans and potatoes.
- Every dollar in agricultural exports generates \$1.22 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska's \$6.4 billion in agricultural exports in 2015 translate into \$7.8 billion in additional economic activity.
- Nebraska's top five agricultural exports in 2015 were soybeans, feeds and fodders, beef and veal, corn and soybean meal.
- Nebraska had 48,700 farms and ranches during 2015; the average operation consisted of 928 acres (376 ha).
- In 2015, Nebraska ranked second in ethanol production capacity, with 25 operating plants having production capacity of more than 2 billion gallons (378,541,178 daL). Approximately 31% of the state's 2015 corn crop was utilized in ethanol production.
- Livestock or poultry operations were found on 49% of Nebraska farms.
- The top five counties ranked by agricultural sales in 2012 were Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Lincoln and Phelps.
- In 2015, Nebraska was 12th nationally in certified organic cropland acres (85,172) (34,468 ha.) and in 2011 eighth in certified organic pasture acres (53,174) (21,519 ha).
- 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska is related to agriculture.

- The average age of a Nebraska principal operator was 55.7 in 2012.
- During the 5-year period between 2007 and 2012, Nebraska experienced a 5% increase in the number of farms and a 10% increase in the number of new farmers.
- From east to west, Nebraska experiences a 4,584 foot elevation difference and the average annual precipitation decreases by one inch every 25 miles, allowing Nebraska to have a diverse agricultural industry from one side of the state to the other.
Nebraska's Natural Resources
- Nebraska's farms and ranches utilize 45.2 million acres - 91% of the state's total land area.
- Nebraska is fortunate to have aquifers

below it. If poured over the surface of the state, the water in those aquifers would have a depth of 37.9 feet (11.6 meters). The state has 96,131 registered, active irrigation wells supplying water to over 8.3 million acres of harvested cropland and pasture. Of the total cropland harvested during 2012, 44% was irrigated.
- Nearly 24,000 miles of rivers and streams add to Nebraska's bountiful natural resources.
- There are nearly 23 million acres (9,307,770 ha) of rangeland and pastureland in Nebraska - half of which are in the Sandhills.
Sources: USDA NASS, Lincoln, NE

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\$199.6 Million Invested in Rural Nebraska in 2016 by USDA Rural Development

Nebraska's rural communities received \$199.6 million in USDA Rural Development funding in federal fiscal year 2016. USDA Rural Development's investment in rural Nebraska now totals more than \$3 billion, according to Rural Development Nebraska State Director Maxine Moul.

"Nebraska communities, businesses and citizens invested millions of dollars in fiscal year 2016, with the support and resources of USDA Rural Development," said Moul. "Our Nebraska staff strives each year to utilize the financial resources available through USDA Rural Development to help build stronger rural communities throughout the state."

Rural Development programs assist in funding for rural housing, business and community development, water and waste water, energy, distance learning and telemedicine, electric companies and telecommunications.

Private and community foundations and counties, municipalities and other local governments contributed strongly to the projects funded.

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2016 Nebraska Rural Development Funding include:

Housing:

- \$100.2 million provided to 995 rural Nebraska families to finance homes and provided necessary repairs and removed health and safety hazards for owner-occupied homes.

- \$8.3 million provided 2,422 tenants residing in Rural Development nearly 200 multi-family rural rental housing complexes with affordable rents.

Community:

- \$52.9 million impacted 43 rural communities through community facilities and water and wastewater loans and grants. Funding provided for ambulances, libraries and other community facility needs along with water and wastewater projects.

Business:

- \$36.8 million was invested in Nebraska's rural businesses and ag producers, supporting 98 projects.

Telecommunications:

- Two Distance Learning and Telemedicine projects in Nebraska totaling \$309,807 will bring the benefits of advanced telecommunications services to rural Nebraskans.

Visit www.rd.usda.gov/ne for the full Nebraska 2016 Progress Report.

Competing for Growth

By Governor Pete Ricketts
March 13, 2017

Over the last two years, Nebraska has hit some key growth benchmarks. In 2015, for the first time, Nebraska had over one million non-farm jobs. Our population hit an all-time high of 1.9 million people last year. And just a few weeks ago, Nebraska won the Governor's Cup for the most capital investment projects per capita in the nation. Over 100 new investments helped Nebraska garner this coveted award.

Even with all these successes, Nebraska should not rest. We must continue to look for ways to become more competitive nationally. Other states are constantly working to develop new competitive edges to attract more people, jobs, and investment.

One significant area that Nebraska is not competitive in is taxes. We are a high tax state. Bloomberg ranks Nebraska 16th highest for income taxes and USA Today rates us 5th highest for property taxes. Recently, the Tax Foundation released a new study showing Nebraska ranks 14th highest nationally for income tax collections per capita. High taxes stifle growth, hinder job creation, and burden family budgets. Our tax rates also matter because site selectors in charge of picking venues for new investments screen out high tax states for new projects, meaning Nebraska can miss out on even being considered for some investments.

If we are going to stay competitive, we must make progress in bringing our tax rates down. Over the past two years, we successfully delivered over \$400 million in direct property tax relief for all property owners across the state, and an additional \$40 million in property tax relief targeted at ag land taxpayers. Additionally, we worked with the Legislature last year to put more resources towards state aid to K-12 schools along with new spending controls on school spending.

This year, we are working with the Legislature on new reforms to income and property taxes to make our state more tax competitive.

In the area of income tax, I am working with Revenue Committee Chairman Jim Smith to bring down our top tax rate from 6.84 percent to under six percent. Bringing down the top tax rate is critical because 90 percent of income taxes are paid by Nebraskans who pay in the top tax bracket. This includes solidly middle class families making more than \$29,831 of taxable income. Additionally, 90 percent of Nebraska businesses pay individual income taxes, according to the Nebraska State Chamber of Commerce. Cutting income taxes will give more money back to family budgets, help Main Street grow job opportunities, and make our state more attractive to job creators.

On property taxes, I am working with Ag Committee Chairwoman Lydia Brasch to change the way ag land is valued for taxation purposes. With the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act, we are proposing to move assessments for ag land from a market-based system to an income-potential approach. This will help valuations to better reflect the income of Nebraska's ag producers. This is long-term, structural reform that will help ensure our state's number one industry remains strong. This system has been suggested to me by ag producers across the state, because of the success other ag states have experienced. If the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act were in place for 2017, it would have reduced ag land valuations by about \$2.2 billion.

Getting both income and property tax reform done this year is critical for growing both Main Street and agriculture, and key to bringing together both urban and rural senators in the Unicameral.

While many senators are focused on getting tax reform done this year, a small minority have suggested no tax relief is needed. Last week, one senator even suggested that the Legislature should consider raising taxes instead of providing tax relief. Our income tax rates are already uncompetitive. Raising our income tax would put an additional burden on our middle class families and small businesses. Right now, our sales tax is middle-of-the-pack. Raising our sales tax even a penny would give Nebraska the 14th highest sales tax in the nation, according to the State Chamber.

As you can see, we need to focus on bringing tax rates down if we want to ease the burden on our families and grow Nebraska. Raising taxes would make us less competitive and less attractive to job creators as well as to families looking to move here. If you have feedback on what you would like to see the Legislature do on tax reform, I encourage you to contact your senator. You can find all their information at www.NebraskaLegislature.gov. If you have feedback for me, I hope you will contact my office by emailing pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov or by calling 402-471-2244.

2017 National Ag Day

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will host National Agriculture Day on March 21, 2017. This will mark the 44th anniversary of National Ag Day which is celebrated in classrooms and communities across the country. The theme for National Ag Day 2017 is "Agriculture: Food For Life."

On March 21, 2017, ACA will host major events in the nation's capital including a breakfast event at the National Press Club as well as a Taste of Agriculture Celebration on the Hill. Additionally, the ACA will bring approximately 100 college students to Washington to deliver the message of Ag Day.

These events honor National Agriculture Day and mark a nationwide effort to tell the true story of American agriculture and remind citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us. A number of producers, agricultural associations, corporations, students and government organizations involved in agriculture are expected to participate.

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America. ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry

In addition to the events in Washington, DC on March 21, the ACA will once again feature the Ag Day Essay Contest in addition to an Ag Day Photography Contest. The winning photograph will be part of the 2017 National Ag Day Poster.

Visit www.agday.org for more information on National Ag Day in 2017.

Davenport pork producer provides input on checkoff programs

Duane Miller, a pig farmer from Davenport, served as a delegate to the Pork Act Delegate assembly March 1-3 in Atlanta, Georgia. Miller was appointed as a delegate by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

"It was important to me to represent pork producers from across the United States as a Pork Act delegate," said Miller. "As an industry, we are committed to 'elevate U.S. pork as the global protein of choice by continuously and collaboratively working to do what's right for people, pigs and the planet.' This was reinforced throughout the Pork Act delegate meeting."

Miller was one of 168 appointed delegates who traveled from 49 states across the country to represent pork producers and importers who sell pork products in the United States. The duties of the delegate body include nominating members to serve on the National Pork Board, establishing how much of the Pork Checkoff is returned to state pork organizations, and providing direction on pork promotion, research and consumer and producer education priorities funded by the Pork Checkoff.

To fund programs, America's pork producers contribute 40 cents of every \$100 of sales to the Checkoff. Importers use a sales formula to contribute a similar amount. The role of the Pork Checkoff is to promote and enhance consumer demand for pork on a global basis, as well as invest in research designed to improve production practices and safeguard the pork supply, the environment and animal well-being.

Building consumer confidence and educating America's pig farmers about livestock production practices through training and certification programs are also key priorities.

The National Pork Board earlier approved a 2017 budget for national spending of \$55.4 million for promotion, research and education programs. The strategic direction of the Pork Checkoff is centered on building consumer trust, driving sustainable production and growing consumer demand in the United States and globally.

"It has never been more critical that we work together as producers, processors and food chain partners to make a collective difference to pork's consumers," Miller said.

The National Pork Board has responsibility for Checkoff-funded research, promotion and consumer information projects and for communicating with pork producers and the public. Through a legislative national Pork Checkoff, pork producers invest \$0.40 for each \$100 value of hogs sold. Importers of pork products contribute a like amount, based on a formula.

The Pork Checkoff funds national and state programs in advertising, consumer information, retail and food-service marketing, export market promotion, production improvement, science and technology, swine health, pork safety and sustainability and environmental management. For information on Checkoff-funded programs, pork producers can call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-7675 or check the Internet at www.pork.org.

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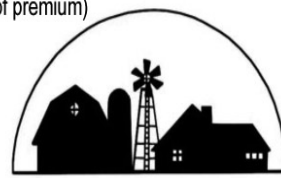
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Collaborative program connects dietitians with beef community

The Nebraska and California Beef Councils recently collaborated on a program to provide culinary dietitians with a taste of beef production practices set in the ranching communities of Napa and Sonoma County California. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' conference focused on the link between nutrition, cooking and the enjoyment of food.

"Beef has a unique and versatile culinary appeal," said Mitch Rippe, Director of Nutrition for the Nebraska Beef Council. "We wanted to showcase those aspects, but also hear from the farmers and ranchers who produce our beef to learn how the nutritious and responsibly-raised product gets to our table."

The program began with an interactive session entitled Plates and Palates. The Plates and Palates presentation included beef cut identification, an interactive taste and flavor session, and suggestions on creating nutritious meals with beef. The session was led by Chef Laura Hagen, Senior Director of Culinary and registered dietitian Erin Weber, Associate Director of Health Communications Outreach, both from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff.

Subject matter was delivered via a carcass diagram with retail cuts of beef and appropriate cooking methods, a hands-on exploration of sweet, sour, salty, bitter, umami (savory) and fermented with umami-rich beef and tastings of two checkoff-developed recipes to show how beef fits in a balanced and healthy dietary pattern.

"It was so nice to talk to a group of foodies who were really interested in the beef umami tasting exercise," said Hagen, who is responsible for the Beef Culinary Center and works alongside culinary staff members to implement food production, recipe testing and food photography. "Hearing what attendees are doing with beef in the kitchen validates the current work we're doing testing new recipes and preparation methods like sous vide and pressure cooking."

In the afternoon, 22 dietitians travelled to Kunde Estates, home of the Sonoma Mountain Hereford ranch. Jim and Marcia (Kunde) Mickelson, fourth generation ranchers and winegrowers, provided a tour of operations at the ranch.

At the center of the discussion were the production practices that contribute to meeting a growing global beef demand while balancing environ-

mental responsibility, social diligence, and food safety. The dietitians were provided a tour of the ranch and given a direct approach to understanding the production cycle by handling a sale bull.

Regrouping at the Kunde family winery, the dietitians were treated to a tasting of five Kunde wines. During the tasting, the group also took a walking tour of the wine caves and discussed the barrel aging process of premium wines. During the event, Rippe and Weber also led a nutrition presentation on the health aspects of lean beef.

"We are helping people to learn more about their food, not just about the nutrients in it, but how all the hard work and efforts by our farmers and ranchers contribute to the high quality, nutritious beef we all enjoy."

As the trusted health and nutrition resource, consumers look to registered dietitians to help them in choosing and selecting the most beneficial foods to feed their families, Rippe said. "Therefore, it is important that we provide dietitians the opportunity to join us in the production experience, so they can see and understand the direct correlation between beef production and beef nutrition."



Courtesy photo

Learning about beef cuts...

Chef Laura Hagen of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association uses a cut chart to discuss various beef cuts and culinary preparation.



Courtesy photo

Touring the ranch...

The group consisting of dietitians gathered for a group photo during the ranch tour at Sonoma Mountain Herefords near Kenwood, Calif.

Solar energy seminar planned at Wilber

Have you wondered with modern solar energy installations if this would be feasible and pay off for you? University of Nebraska Extension has the answers with a seminar at the Saline County Extension Office, 306 West 3rd Street, Wilber, on March 20, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The program brochure can be found at: <http://go.unl.edu/solarmtg>

The seminar "Considerations for Installing Photovoltaic Solar Systems" is being conducted by F. John Hay, Department of Biosystems Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Jeff Carpenter, Energy Coordinator, USDA Rural Development.

This program is open to the public and will focus on application of solar photovoltaic (PV) for farms, ranches, residences and rural businesses. Participants will learn about connecting solar PV to the electric grid, economics, ba-

sic design considerations and feasibility.

Participants will also learn how to use basic online tools to model their own locations and learn about economic considerations such as payback, grants, tax credits, and depreciation.

Incentives are available including the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants and low interest loans from the Nebraska Energy Office. This program will cover local, state, and federal incentives for solar PV and other renewable systems.

Pre-registration is required by March 17 to plan for meeting room space. Pre-register by contacting Nebraska Extension in Saline County by phone (402) 821-2151 or e-mail lou.hajak@unl.edu. The cost is \$5.00 at the door.

For additional information, contact F. John Hay, phone (402) 472-0408, or e-mail jhay2@unl.edu



Blue Valley Bowl Bowling Results

MONDAY MEN'S CITY LEAGUE

High Scratch Team Series: Fangmeyer Const. — 2224; **High Men's Game:** Bryce Mammen 243, Manny Motto 223, Jason Fangmeyer 223; **High Men's Series:** Bryce Mammen 634, Ted Thomas 605, Jason Fangmeyer 603.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BOWLETTES LEAGUE

High Scratch Team Series: Price Funeral Home — 1901; **High Women's Game:** Michele Modlin 219, Cheri Knobel 213, Nancy Vogel 201; **High Women's Series:** Cheri Knobel 564, Michele Modlin 542, Nancy Vogel 536.

WEDNESDAY MEN'S AMERICAN LEAGUE

High Scratch Team Series: Lone Tree Golf Club — 2117; **High Men's Game:** Randy Bartling 268, Bryce Sedlacek 256, Ryan Paul 249; **High Men's Series:** Mike Prellwitz 663, Ryan Paul 657, Randy Bartling 635.

THURSDAY WOMEN'S ROCKETTES LEAGUE

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During National Agriculture Week, we salute our area farmers and agriculture industry for their contributions to our local, national and international communities. Their efforts plant the seeds for prosperity, nourishing our bodies as well as our economy.

Innovations in farming technology and agribusiness have created more efficient farms, but it's the hardwork and dedication of our family farmers that is the heart and soul of our nation's agriculture industry. These farmers are also working to preserve the natural resources that make food and fiber production possible. From conservation to innovation, we recognize the challenges and changes facing today's farmers, and gratefully acknowledge the important impact of their continued successes on our lives and our futures.

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HELP WANTED: Now Hiring: Management position available. Good incentives and bonuses. Apply at 1325 Dove Road in Hebron, NE 68370 or online at Subway.com.
09-tf

HELP WANTED: Good to Go/Valentino's-Bruning is now hiring kitchen/cashier help. Part-time with possible full-time. Excellent starting wage with pay increase after 60 days. Apply in person in Bruning or call Teresa with any questions at 402-353-2040.
10-1

HELP WANTED: Maintenance person for Bruning bldg. Also need bus driver. If interested, please contact Trudy Clark, 402-364-2225.
10-2

HELP WANTED: Pivot Service Technician position now available at Carlson Irrigation Inc., Shickley. Experience appreciated but not necessary, will train the right person. Offering competitive wage, insurance benefits and IRA. Contact Gary or Chadd @ 402-627-4035.
10-02

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11-2

HELP WANTED: Little Blue NRD is accepting applications for seasonal spring help in tree planting, tree wrapping, and weed barrier application. Work will begin approximately the first week of April and last for the tree planting season. For more information contact Little Blue NRD at 402-364-2145.
10-3

HELP WANTED: Thayer County Weed Control has a position for part-time seasonal work as a sprayer operator. Work will begin mid-April and will consist of 20-25 hours per week, depending on weather, through pasture and lawn spraying season which runs through approximately December 1st. Wages negotiable per experience. Inquiries and applications in person at the weed control office at 5431 HWY 136 in Deshler or by phone at 402-365-4366. EOE
11-4

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City of Geneva is hiring for an Activities and Education Director

The City of Geneva is seeking a team-oriented and self-starting person for the position of Activities and Education Director. This is a fulltime position of 40 hours a week Monday through Friday with occasional night and weekend hours.

Responsibilities include the planning, implementing and overseeing a wide variety of youth and adult programming. Examples include summer baseball and softball programs, youth and adult basketball leagues, football, wrestling, soccer, gymnastics and volleyball leagues as well as coordinating CPR Instruction. As director, you will be charged with adding new programming to satisfy community needs. The director also oversees the operations of the Geneva Aquatic Center, hiring of staff and lifeguards and assuring all training standards are met.

The successful candidate will be community minded and service oriented. Must be able to communicate effectively in all situations. The position deals with the public on a daily basis. A college degree is preferred. Position reports directly to the City Administrator.

Benefits include health and life insurance, retirement plan, vacation and sick pay as well as working with a team of professional and progressive-thinking people that strive every day to make Geneva a better community.

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Values & Vision

Applications available at City Hall or submit resume and cover letter to Kyle Svec, City Administrator, PO Box 409, Geneva, NE 68361.

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40-tf

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11-tf

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13-tf

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HAYES COUNTY Commissioners are soliciting applications for a FT Road Maintenance Supervisor. Applications are available by calling 308-286-3413 or online at http://www.hayescounty.ne.gov/webpages/links/public_notices.html. Submit resumes/application to Hayes County Clerk, PO Box 370, Hayes Center, NE 69032. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Hayes County is an EOE.

HAMBURG WELL drilling in Mullen, Neb., is looking for a full time and/or part time employee. Call Travis Hampton at 308-546-7278.

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JR Photo/Nancy McGill

Hubbell, Gilead snuff burning field

Hubbell and Gilead Volunteer Fire Departments were called to approximately 7000 and F Roads about 4:45 p.m. to douse a burning field from an out of control set fire line. Hubbell Chief David Svoboda said a burn permit was not issued. The fire came one day after the high winds had diminished and multiple departments in the area were called to fires. Deshler Fire was called to assist in Nuckolls County; Byron Fire traveled into Kansas for burning cornstalks and a call went out to Chester Fire for mutual aid; and Davenport Fire was called to a fire on private property at 4800 and W Roads.

Kassebaum...

Kassebaum said.

His goal is prepare students for high school.

"They can make choices on their own and education is going to give them those opportunities," he said.

He has many former students who have contacted him

to let him know how they're doing.

"About 15 a year. I just kind of keep quiet about it," he said.

Kassebaum has been nominated for an award before. A student wrote him in for the Milken Educator Award, an

accolade with a \$25,000 prize attached to it.

Along with the Florence J. Clark award, Kassebaum was given a \$3,000 check.

As one might have guessed, part of the money will be used in the classroom.



Photo contributed

Lance Kassebaum, a science teacher at Park Middle School in Lincoln, is the recipient of the Florence J. Clark Award for Excellence in Middle School Teaching. Kassebaum is a former student of Hebron High School.

Thayer Central places third in district

Monday was the district meet for the Thayer Central Speech team as they traveled to Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer High School for the C2-1 contest.

The Titan Talkers came in third place as a team.

Leading the way for the Talkers was Senior Collin Fink and Sophomore Maggie Harris.

Together, Fink and Harris placed second in duet. Individually, Fink placed third

in persuasive speaking and Harris, third in poetry.

Sophomores McKenzie Johnson and Yong Wang each picked up third place in informative speaking and entertainment speaking, respectively.

The four students in five events will represent the Titan Talkers at the C2 State Speech meet March 24 at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Three Seniors finished their seasons with district medals.

Ashley Harms placed fourth in the extemporaneous speaking category. Hyeon Wang earned fourth in informative. Julie Johnson won fifth in poetry.

"Our team met the great expectations I set out for them," Thayer Central Speech Coach, Justin Bomar said. "It starts with the awesome senior leadership we've had all year and ends with the underclassmen, who accepted every challenge."



Photo contributed

The Titan Talkers will send four to the state meet in Kearney March 24 — Senior Collin Fink and Sophomores Maggie Harris, McKenzie Johnson and Yong Wang.

Fraser...

Naval academies.

His next curricular project was computer science. Fraser was one of the first teachers in the state endorsed to teach the program.

He also promoted math and computer science competition between schools.

Additional honors Fraser received were the 1988 Freda Battey Award from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Teacher's College and the Donald W. Millier Distinguished Service Award for teaching mathematics. Former students nominated Fraser for

both awards.

Fraser has a favorite saying he said served him well over the years:

Face the Worst,
Expect the Best,
Do the Most,
Forget the Rest.



Members of the Hebron Lions Club are (left to right) Mike Starbuck, Eldon Kassebaum, Dennis Dye, Jim Fraser, Kent Williamson, Steve Anderson, Elaine Hackbart, Rosemary Dageforde and Glenn Hinz.

Public Notices

VILLAGE OF GILEAD REGULAR MEETING MARCH 7, 2017

The Village Board met in public session on March 7, 2017 at the Village Hall. Notices were printed on resident statements as well as posted at the USPO, Village Hall, and Pioneers Inn. Roll call was taken; board members present where Lyle, Larry, Mike and DeWayne. Also present was Vanice & Wayne Ough and Linda Abelson Village Clerk.

Minutes from the February 2017 meeting were read. There were no corrections to the minutes.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Mike made a motion that the bills be paid as presented. DeWayne seconded, all in favor, motion carried. The bills that were paid are: Salaries \$623.63, LBPWP \$73.15, Fairbury Light & Water \$2946.14, Hebron Journal \$42.37, Garbage South \$175.00, Walmart \$11.59, Carvery Community Church \$600.00, Gilmore & Associates \$197.54 and Thayer County Economic Development \$100.00.

The village clerk presented the Zoning permit from Thayer County Zoning & Planning Commission for Vanice & Wayne Ough to construct a new basement and move the house on it. The board looked over the plans discussed the permit and Larry made a motion to approve the permit, DeWayne seconded. All in favor motion carried.

The board discussed past due utility bills. They also discussed turning the small claims case over to Collection Associates and discussed the contract that the village clerk presented from Collections Associates. Mike made a motion that the Village chairman sign the contract on behalf of the village and the village clerk proceed in turning over the small claims case over to them, seconded by DeWayne. All in favor motion carried.

Lyle presented the bids he received from Craig Beck and Hein Construction to blow out cracks in the streets and fill with hot rubber crack filler. The board discussed the two bids and Larry made a motion to awarded Hein Construction with the contract, seconded by Mike. All in favor motion carried.

The village clerk let the board know their application for audit waiver had been approved. The village clerk presented the bill she and SENDD received from Gilmore and Associates Inc. for preliminary design phase services to date and the email from SENDD stating that it the matching funds percentage form NDED doesn't meet the CDBG required minimum amount of \$1,500 so they won't be able to submit a drawdown request to NDED. The board discussed the option of paying the bill out of their funds, but they decided to wait and discuss it again in April.

Lyle brought up that during the month the Village had purchased 56 more chairs Calvary Community Church that matched the ones previously purchased and that the Fire Department made a donation in the amount of \$500.00 towards the new chairs. Then village board discussed the donation and want to thank the Fire Department for the generous donation.

The board discussed the summer mowing that would need to be done at the park and village hall, they hired Isaiah Keilwitz again this year at the same rate as last year. The board agreed to allow Karen Keilwitz to use the park for her annual Easter Egg Hunt. They also discussed the possibility of renting out the new tables and new cloth chairs and decided against it. They decided the only tables and chairs that could be rented out would be the old ones. They discussed accepting any new fire fighter volunteers for the fire Department but decided to table any applications until next month after doing further research, discussed some bids they have received on purchasing a new tractor with attachments for the lagoon and decided to table doing anything until they have researched their options further. Other things discussed by the village board was the Fairbury power plant closing, where we stand on getting the speed limit lowered on the highway, selling the two old wooden tables in the village hall, checking again with the company that installed the sirens about when he will change the batteries the

village clerk informed them that the last time she had talked to him he had checked them and they were working properly but he would be upgrading them. Wayne brought up the possibility of putting up a lock box for residence to drop off utility payments; the board explained they have tried that before.

There being no further business, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by DeWayne. All in favor, motion carried. The next meeting will be held April 4, 2017 at the village hall.

Sincerely Submitted,
Linda Abelson
Village Clerk
Wk11-1t

ZNEZ

Accident...

Feb. 24, 5:40 a.m. — Melvin Sullivan, 45, of Charlotte N.C., was driving a 2007 Freightliner with a trailer towing his personal vehicle northbound on Highway 81 near Road T on the overpass and lost control because of ice and wind. Sullivan hit the guardrail, went through the median and struck the

guardrail on the other side before coming to a stop. The vehicle Sullivan was towing came off the dolly and flipped over in the northbound passing lane.

No injuries were reported. Estimated cost of damage to guardrails was \$1,000. Estimated damage to the vehicle was \$5,000.

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