

# NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN Research & Education FOUNDATION

## 2024 Update



## 25th Anniversary Retail Value Steer Challenge



The mission of the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation is to advance the future of Nebraska's Beef Industry by investing in research and education programs.

# Board of Directors / Staff / Financial Summary

## 2024 Board of Directors

### Loren Berger

President  
Stapleton – Region 6  
308.532.0930

### Kathi Martindale

Vice President  
Brewster – Region 2  
308.880.0787

### Pat Meiergard

Treasurer  
West Point - Region 3  
402.372.2904

### Jerry Underwood

Alliance – Region 1  
308.760.0167

### Clark Gotschall

Atkinson – Region 4  
402.340.2445

### Dave Lamb

Anselmo – Region 5  
308.643.9454

### Ryan Loseke

Columbus – Region 7  
402.276.1886

### Doug Parde

Sterling – Region 8  
402.239.0321

### Randy Helms

Holbrook – Region 9  
308.962.4123

### Rex Peterson

Member at Large  
Gordon  
308.360.1998

### Malina Lindstrom

Member at Large  
Elm Creek  
308.991.9931

Nebraska Cattlemen VP

### Dick Pierce

Miller  
308.440.2489

## Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Staff

Fundraising Coordinator

Jana Jensen

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Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation

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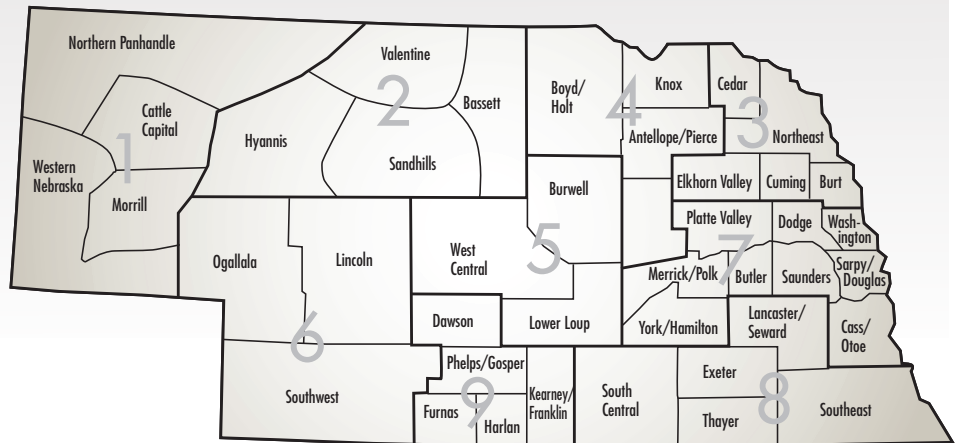
## Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Financial Summary

As of August 31, 2024

Endowed Scholarship/Grant Accounts \$2,398,333.25

Funds at UNL Foundation \$ 421,075.21

**Total Assets = \$2,819,408.46**



**NEBRASKA COMMUNITY**  
FOUNDATION

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation contracts with the Nebraska Community Foundation to assist with fundraising and planned giving opportunities.



# Provides Grants for Youth, Education, Beef Promotion, Research, Infrastructure & Historic Preservation

### Youth & Education

Nebraska Cattlemen Young Cattlemen Conference	\$10,000
National Cattlemen Beef Association Young Cattlemen Conference	\$7,500
Nebraska FFA Ignite Leadership Conference	\$5,000
Nebraska Junior Beef Expo	\$2,000

### Infrastructure

Terry Klopfenstein Feed Technology Center, part of the Klosterman Feedlot Innovation Center	\$50,000 (\$10,000 for 5 years) 2022-2026
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### Youth & Beef Promotion

Nebraska Beef Ambassador Contest	\$1,200
Nebraska Cattlemen Beef Pit 4-H/FFA/HS Rodeo Sandwich Voucher	\$2,500
Ag Sack Lunch Program	\$7,500
NE Farm Bureau/Nebraska Agriculture Activity Book	\$5,644
Nebraska Cattlemen/Nebraska Cattlemen Consumer Promotion & Education Committee – activity book for youth	\$10,500
Nebraska Cattlemen/Nebraska Cattlemen Consumer Promotion & Education Committee	\$7,286
Reprinting of two books – <i>A Doctor for Cows</i> and <i>Beef from the Pasture</i>	
University of Nebraska/Kearney - Agribusiness Beef Supply Chain Industry Tour	\$800



Nebraska FFA IGNITE Leadership Conference



The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Board of Directors touring the Klosterman Feedlot Innovation Center and the Terry Klopfenstein Feed Technology Center, located at the Eastern Nebraska Extension and Education Center near Mead, Nebraska.



Nebraska Beef Ambassadors  
 Collegiate Winner  
 Spencer Walahoski from Overton  
 Senior Winner  
 Leah Christen from Steinauer

# Scholarship Donors



## \*Robert F. Lute II

### Endowed Scholarship

*established September 30, 1993, with \$20,000*

Lute was a teacher, lawyer and accountant and had a love for young people and a tremendous respect for education. The foundation became a way for him to unite the two. "Education was very important to both of us," Kathy Lute said. "Robert knew that education was necessary and not just any type of education. He felt that students needed brawn and brains. He discussed it with me before his death. He wanted money put into a good foundation." Lute's father, Robert Sr., and Kathy, Lute's widow, established an endowed scholarship in Lute's name after his death.



## Frank & \*Shirley Sibert

### Endowed Scholarship

*established May 15, 1995, with \$20,000*

"I can remember how broke I was in college. I received a \$50 scholarship and it was like finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. I know that college students today need and appreciate any financial assistance they can get. I also know that today's students will be tomorrow's leaders. It seems to me that a scholarship to a worthy student today is a good investment in the future," said Frank Sibert.

## \*Martin Viersen Range Management/Conservation

### Endowed Scholarship

*established in 2005, with \$10,000*

Bill Rishel, longtime friend of the Viersen's and former Foundation board member said, "creating a scholarship in Martin's name is a fitting way for Arlene to honor her late husband's legacy as a pioneer in rangeland management and conservation."



## \*Vance Uden

**Endowed Scholarship** *established September 8, 2009, with \$10,000*

Vance Uden was a long-time Black Angus breeder from Franklin, Nebraska. He owned and operated TC Ranch which produced some of the breed's leading genetics. Vance earned many awards and was known world wide for cattle while always striving to produce herd sires that would improve the Angus breed. He was a strong supporter of youth and never

turned down a livestock judging team that needed a place to work out. As a University of Nebraska graduate and former meats and livestock judging team member, it was very fitting when Connie, Dru and Ty Uden chose to create the Vance Uden Memorial Endowed Scholarship Account that will annually award a scholarship of at least \$1,000 to a UNL Senior Livestock Evaluation Team member with preference given to a student majoring in Animal Science and preparing for a career in agriculture.



\*denotes these funds were established in memory of very special people.



# Scholarship Donors



## \*Bill Heller

### Endowed Scholarship

*established October 14, 1996,  
with \$20,000*

Bill Heller worked for Syntex and was a strong supporter of the Foundation. After his death, the allied industry group held a golf tournament to benefit the foundation to honor Bill. As a result, an endowed scholarship will forever honor Bill.



## Ron & Shirley Huss

### Endowed Scholarship

*established in December 2012  
with \$25,000*

Ron and Shirley Huss established this endowed scholarship account to provide an annual scholarship of at least \$1,000 to a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in Animal Science and preparing for a career in agriculture. Preference will be given to applicants whose course of study focuses on beef production.



## Bill Pullen

### Endowed Scholarship

*established in December 2012,  
with \$25,000*

Bill's Volume Sales and Service, owner Bill Pullen, of Central City, Nebraska, was awarded The Friend of the Foundation Award at the 2012 NC Convention. Bill has served as one of the main sponsors for the Foundation's primary fundraiser, the Retail Value Steer Challenge since inception and has donated a steer each year also. After receiving his Friend of the Foundation award, Bill announced he was contributing \$25,000 to the Foundation, this became the Bill Pullen Endowed Scholarship. This endowed scholarship will provide an annual scholarship of at least \$1,000.



## \*Colonel Melvin Huss

### Endowed Scholarship

*established in December 2012, with \$25,000*

Colonel Melvin Huss was a well-known auctioneer, cattleman and livestock market owner. Huss owned and operated the Lexington and Kearney Livestock Markets. The family established this endowed scholarship to honor their father and provide an annual scholarship of at least \$1,000 to a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in Animal Science and preparing for a career in agriculture. Preference will be given to applicants whose course of study focuses on beef production.

# Scholarship Donors



**\*Donavan Yoachim**

**Endowed Scholarship**

*established in 2002, with \$20,000*

Donavan Yoachim was a farmer/stockman from the Hebron area who was instrumental in establishing the Nebraska Cattlemen's Beef Pit at State Fair Park and was a major promoter of the beef industry in Nebraska.



**\*Todd Ricenbaw**

**Endowed Scholarship** *established in 2016*

The Ricenbaw Family and the Nebraska Cattle Beef Pit established the Todd Ricenbaw Memorial Endowed Scholarship which will provide a scholarship of at least \$1,000 to a student attending the University of Nebraska majoring in an agriculture field. "Todd loved supporting and promoting agriculture, especially the beef industry, and we believe in young people who will continue to make a difference in agriculture and want to help them in their educational endeavors."



**Nebraska Cattlemen – Beef Pit**

**Endowed Scholarship**

*established in 2007, with \$6,000*

The Nebraska Cattlemen Beef Pit Scholarship was established by the Beef Pit Committee to provide funds to junior or senior undergraduate students and/or graduate students enrolled full time in a Nebraska college or university studying meat and/or food science. This account was fully funded in 2010 with Beef Pit proceeds.



**\*Clarence and Lois Jean Hartmann**

**Endowed Scholarship**

*established in December 2012, with \$10,000*

The Nebraska Beef Pit established this endowed scholarship to honor Clarence and Lois Jean for serving on the original committee that established the Nebraska Cattlemen's Beef Pit at the Nebraska State Fair. Clarence was a lifelong farmer/cattlemen and an active member of the Dodge County Cattlemen which contributed an additional \$6,500 to this account. This account will provide an annual scholarship of at least \$1,000 .

\*denotes these funds were established in memory of very special people.



# Scholarship Donors

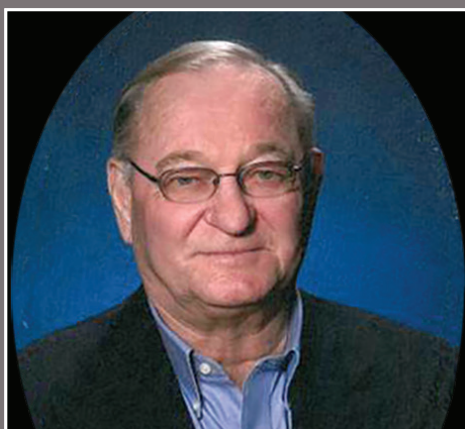


## Cattlemen's Open

### Endowed Scholarship

*established in 2011,  
with \$17,000*

The Cattlemen's Open was a well known golf tournament held at the Holdrege Country Club in Holdrege, Nebraska, and largely supported by cattlemen from across the state for seventeen years. Steve Bohr started the golf tournament as a fundraising event while serving as Chairman of the Nebraska Cattlemen PAC Committee, with help from Wes Nelson.



## \*Bill Briggs Family

### Endowed Scholarship

*established in 2016,  
with \$26,000*

Carole Briggs and her family established the Bill Briggs Family Memorial Scholarship Account remembering their husband and father, Bill Briggs, and showcasing the impact the Briggs family has had on the beef industry in Nebraska and Bill's lifelong career in the livestock feeding business. This endowed scholarship account will provide at least a \$1,000 scholarship to a junior or senior level student enrolled at a Nebraska college or university majoring in a beef industry related field and preparing for a career in the beef industry. Preference shall be given to a student with a GPA of at least 2.75.



## Jim & \*Helen Gran

### Endowed Scholarship

*established in 2016, with \$25,000*

Jim Gran established the Jim and Helen Gran Endowed Scholarship Account to honor his late wife Helen and his contributions to the Beef Industry in Nebraska. Both were lifelong ranchers and strong advocates for the Nebraska Beef Industry working locally and on the state level in various leadership positions. This endowed scholarship account will provide a scholarship of at least \$1,000 to a sophomore level student at NCTA majoring in an area of production agriculture and preparing for a career in production agriculture.

## Educational Funding

Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Assists Nebraska Cattlemen Affiliates and State Breed Associations w/ Scholarship Accounts

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation allows Nebraska Cattlemen Affiliates and Nebraska State Breed Associations to create accounts within the Foundation to receive charitable dollars to support youth and adult educational activities.

- Nebraska Cattlemen Affiliates taking advantage of this opportunity:
  - Cattle Capital Affiliate based out of Alliance
  - West Central Affiliate based out of Broken Bow
- The Nebraska Breed Association taking advantage of this opportunity:
  - Nebraska Hereford Association

### Cattle Capital Winners:

Jayda Meyring  
Mackenzie Liakos

### West Central Winner:

Emily Jonas

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# Scholarship Donors



## \*Shari Flaming

### Endowed Scholarship

*established in 2021 with \$26,500*

The Shari Flaming Memorial Scholarship was established from a planned gift. Shari was a teacher, a cattle feeder, a rancher, a fabulous cook and a lifelong Nebraska agriculture enthusiast. Shari was active in the Nebraska Cattlewomen, the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation and was instrumental in organizing the first Nebraska Cattlemen Ball. This account will award scholarships to students residing in Nebraska, majoring in animal science, feedlot management and/or range management. Students must be involved in student organizations related to their field of study. Students must have a 3.3 GPA and preference will be given to those with cattle industry involvement.

## Western Nebraska Agriculture Scholarship

**Endowed Scholarship** *established in 2021 with \$25,000*

The Western Nebraska Agriculture Scholarship will be awarded to students pursuing an education following high school at an accredited higher learning institution in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and/or South Dakota and majoring in agriculture. Students must have a home address located in the Mountain Time Zone in Nebraska. Preference will be given to students attending a two-year institution, community colleges, trade school and/or Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska.

## \*Dr. Jeff Fox

**Endowed Scholarship** *established in 2021 with \$28,000*

Dr. Jeff Fox ran his own feedlot consulting business, Bovine Veterinary Management Resources, LLC, out of Beemer, serving clients in three states. He served as the vice chair for the Nebraska Cattlemen's Animal Health and Nutrition Committee. Scholarships will be awarded to individuals attending the University of Nebraska, Iowa State University, or Kansas State University who are either a junior or senior undergraduate student majoring in Beef Production, Animal Science with beef emphasis, Feedlot Management or graduate students enrolled in Veterinary Science programs.





# Scholarships

## 2024-2025 Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Scholarships

### Donor Named Scholarship Recipients

<b>Royal</b> Christen Curtis	\$1,200 Col. Melvin Huss Memorial Scholarship	<b>North Platte</b> Ashlyn Robinson	\$1,200 Vance Uden Memorial Scholarship
<b>Maywood</b> Haydn Farr	\$1,200 Bill Heller Memorial Scholarship	<b>Waverly</b> Emelia Rourke	\$1,200 Shari Flaming Memorial Scholarship
<b>Hershey</b> Mekenna Fisher	\$1,200 Donovan Yoachim Memorial Scholarship	<b>Alliance</b> Wade Sanders	\$1,200 Cattlemen's Open Scholarship
<b>Hershey</b> Peyton Fisher	\$1,200 Clarence & Lois Jean Hartmann Scholarship	<b>Scribner</b> Grace Schlueter	\$1,200 Ron & Shirley Huss Scholarship
<b>Cairo</b> William Ford	\$1,200 Bill Heller Memorial Scholarship	<b>Bayard</b> Cambree Schmaltz	\$1,200 Robert F. Lute II Memorial Scholarship
<b>Fremont</b> Dawson Glause	\$1,200 Bill Pullen Scholarship	<b>Page</b> Tucker Stagemeyer	\$1,200 Robert F. Lute II Memorial Scholarship
<b>Elwood</b> Lauren Hickey	\$1,200 Cattlemen's Open Scholarship	<b>Crawford</b> Alexa Tollman	\$1,200 Western NE AG Scholarship
<b>Lincoln</b> Addison Hillman	\$1,200 Clarence & Lois Jean Hartmann Scholarship	<b>Cozad</b> Sarah Treffer	\$1,200 Todd Ricenbaw Memorial Scholarship
<b>West Point</b> Sydney Hutchinson	\$1,200 Ron & Shirley Huss Scholarship	<b>Unadilla</b> Sydney Wellsandt	\$1,200 Bill Briggs Family Memorial Scholarship
<b>Ansley</b> Emily Jonas	\$1,200 West Central Affiliate Scholarship	<b>Lemoine</b> Sheridan Wilson	\$1,200 Martin Viersen Range Management & Conservation Memorial Scholarship
<b>Mackenzie Liakos</b>	\$1,000 Cattle Capital Scholarship	<b>Palmyra</b> Jacob Wood	1,200 Frank & Shirley Sibert Scholarship
<b>Alliance</b> Jayda Meyring	\$1,000 Cattle Capital Scholarship	<b>Sutherland</b> Kaden Wykert	\$1,200 Dr. Jeff Fox Memorial Scholarship
<b>Ravenna</b> Jaylea Pope	\$1,200 Vance Uden Memorial Scholarship		

### Retail Value Steer Challenge \$1,000 Scholarship Recipients

Colton Bernt	Spalding	Kelsey Howard	O'Neill	Seth Oltmans	Beatrice
Ashlyn Boeckenhauer	Wakefield	JessaLynn Hudson	Belvidere	Rio Remund	Arnold
Matthew Bruns	North Platte	Marshall Humphrey	Aurora	Nathan Rippe	Indianola
Rylie Carter	Rising City	Helene Keiser	Gothenburg	Abigail Russell	Hay Springs
Ceiden Childears	North Platte	Jenna Knake	Avoca	Kurt Schneider	Columbus
Leah Christen	Steinauer	Madison Kreifels	Syracuse	David Switzer	Burwell
Brenna Deterding	Cambridge	Dalton Kunkee	Lexington	Gregory Treffer	Cozad
Autumn Deterding	Cambridge	Samuel Loy	Berwyn	Spencer Walahoski	Overton
Kacey Dethlefs	Ravenna	Cassidy Maricle	Albion	Elsie Woerner	Wilber
Abigail Hirschman	St Paul	Ainsley McConnell	Paxton	Jacie Wolfinger	Lexington
Zachary Hirschman	St Paul	Katherine Mohr	Genoa		

# Beef State Scholarship Celebrates 10 Years



2024 Beef State Scholarship winner Weston Svoboda from Burwell pictured with NCF President Loren Berger

## 2024 Beef State Scholarship Winner – Weston Svoboda

Weston Svoboda was the 2024 Nebraska Beef State Scholar. He is the son of Jennifer Svoboda of Burwell.

Weston will be a senior at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln this fall, majoring in ag economics and looking to get his Juris Doctor (JD) from University of Nebraska Law School.

"I have often heard it said that our purpose is the place where our dreams and passions collide. For me, I knew that was pointing me in the direction of agricultural law since I was an elementary stu-

dent. As a fifth generation Nebraska rancher, the beef industry has been at the center of my life since day one. Growing up on a ranch is more than a business, it is a way of life. The rural Nebraska lifestyle equipped me with work ethic, communication skills and perseverance that are central to the person I am today. Thus, I seek a career that will allow me to give back to the place, industry and people who have given so much to me. The combination of an ag economics degree and a JD from UNL Law seems to be the perfect educational platform to reciprocating value to my community."

## Past Beef State Winners

2023	Carston Loseke	2018	Hannah Esch
2022	TaraLee Hudson	2017	David Schuler
2021	Malina Lindstrom	2016	Elisabeth Loseke
2020	Renae Sieck	2015	Curtis Wetovick
2019	McKenzie Beals		

## Spotlight on the Frist Beef State Winner – Curtis Wetovick

Curtis Wetovick of Fullerton, Nebraska, was the first Beef State Scholarship recipient awarded in 2015. After graduating from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln with a degree in Animal Science/ Business Focus and a minor in entrepreneurship, Wetovick returned home to his family farm/ranch operation. His entrepreneurial passions lie in beef cattle production and auctioneering. He immediately started actively growing his Black Angus based cowherd and his career in marketing. He worked the ring for several years before getting a chance to get behind the mic as an auctioneer, where he showed his true talent. His rhythmic chant and charisma awarded him the 2017 Nebraska Auctioneer Association Bid Calling Champion. Weekly Curtis cries bids at four sale barns in two states, along with other contract jobs. "I am very busy with the auctioneering business and I love it. I am also growing my cowherd and backgrounding/yearling business," said Wetovick. "Agriculture has so many opportunities for young people but you gotta get out and make it happen. Don't worry if you don't have the fanciest facilities or equipment. Focus on the things that matter. Also stay involved in industry organizations and advocate for less government in agriculture and do not support policies that make the big, bigger. Work hard and keep livestock on the land."



Curtis, his wife Elizabeth and their pride and joy, daughter Josephine Rose.



# Scholarships/Leadership Development

## UNL Animal Science Scholarship Winners

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation presented 14 scholarships to UNL Animal Science students: 4 - \$500 presented to freshmen, 4 - \$500 presented to sophomores, 3 - \$1,000 to juniors in the Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars program and 3 - \$1,000 to seniors in the Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars program.



## 2024 Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Scholarship Winners at Midyear Conference



## Nebraska Cattlemen Young Cattlemen's Connections



The Nebraska Cattlemen Young Cattlemen's Connections is designed after the NCBA YCC program, but this program is strictly for the development of new leadership for Nebraska Agriculture, especially cattlemen/cattlewomen. The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation contributes \$10,000 to this program annually.

Front Row (L-R) Talia Goes, Talmage; Krista Carter, Alliance; Caitlin Coulson, Ceresco; Stephanie Nelson, Gibbon;  
Back Row (L-R) Dan Malousek, Prague; Kolin Scheele, Fairbury; David McDonald, Phillips; Jason Star, North Platte; Eric Woita, Plainview; Collin Thompson, Eustis

# Nebraska Beef Industry Endowment



## Dr. Jessica Sperber

Sperber joined the Department of Animal Science as an extension assistant professor and extension feedlot specialist in November of 2022. Her role in the department includes delivering relevant education and guiding problem-solving efforts targeted towards feedlot owners, management, consultants, and allied industry. She organizes the Nebraska beef feedlot extension team, coordinate feedlot roundtables, and contributes to feedlot extension publications. She is passionate about the relationship between the cattle feeder and packer, and the technologies that improve beef cattle production efficiency.

Sperber received a \$6,000 grant.

## Past Winners:

2023	Dr. Tommy Wheeler
2022	Dr. Kacie McCarthy
2021	Dr. Matt Spangler
2020	Mark Goes
2019	Dr. Jim MacDonald
2018	Dr. Brian Vander Ley
2017	Dr. Andrea Cupp & Dr. Mary Drewnoski
2016	Dr. Dennis Burson, Jo Bek & Mike Roeber
2015	Dr. Jim McDonald, Jo Bek & Mike Roeber
2014	Dr. Matt Spangler, Jo Bek & Mike Roeber
2013	Dr. Matt Spangler
2012	Dr. Rick Funston
2011	Dr. Rick Funston & Dr. Galen Erickson
2010	Dr. Rick Funston & Dr. Galen Erickson

## History

The Nebraska Beef Industry Endowment was established in December 2009. It will provide grants to beef industry-related research and/or teaching positions at Nebraska post-secondary educational institutions. This award will serve as a thank you and an incentive to those professors/instructors that are providing cutting edge research and/or student instruction in a beef industry related area. This grant will help fund valuable research that might not occur otherwise or allow the continuation of research already being conducted that might not continue because of lack of funding and/or reward a professor/instructor for outstanding educational instruction to their students.

Since 1968, the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation has supported the beef industry by financially supporting research and educational projects/programs. Early on the Foundation was instrumental in prompting

research in the area of calf-scours and center pivot irrigation and more recently providing funding for the new research feedlot at the Panhandle Research Center in Scottsbluff and the new educational facilities at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis. Funding scholarships has always been important for the Foundation with thousands of dollars in scholarships awarded to hundreds of students from numerous endowed scholarships accounts and other sources.

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation established the Nebraska Beef Industry Professorship of Animal Science at UNL in December 1994 with \$200,000. This fund allows an annual stipend of \$10,000 to be awarded to a worthy professor with the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation wanted to duplicate that effort and create a fund that would not be limited

just to UNL, but benefit a post-secondary educational institution and/or teaching position any where in our great state of Nebraska, thus the Nebraska Beef Industry Endowment was created. The board plans to grant up to \$5,000 annually to an outstanding professor/instructor.

The Nebraska Beef Industry Endowment was endowed with \$100,000. The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation board of directors hopes others will see the vital importance of this endowed account and contribute. As the endowed account grows, more grants will be awarded to professors/instructors and/or research projects that benefit the beef industry, especially the beef industry in Nebraska.

For more information please contact any Foundation board member or Jana Jensen, Fundraising Coordinator for the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation at [janajensen@nebcomfound.org](mailto:janajensen@nebcomfound.org) or 308-588-6299.



# Nebraska Range & Conservation Endowment



## Dr. Mary Drewnoski

Drewnoski joined the Department of Animal Science in 2014 and currently serves as an Assistant Professor and Extension Beef Systems Specialist.

Her research and extension program focuses on the utilization of crop residues and cover crop forage for backgrounding calves and feeding beef cows. She also serves on an interdisciplinary team evaluating economical systems for integrated crop and livestock production in Nebraska

Drewnoski received a \$6,000 grant.

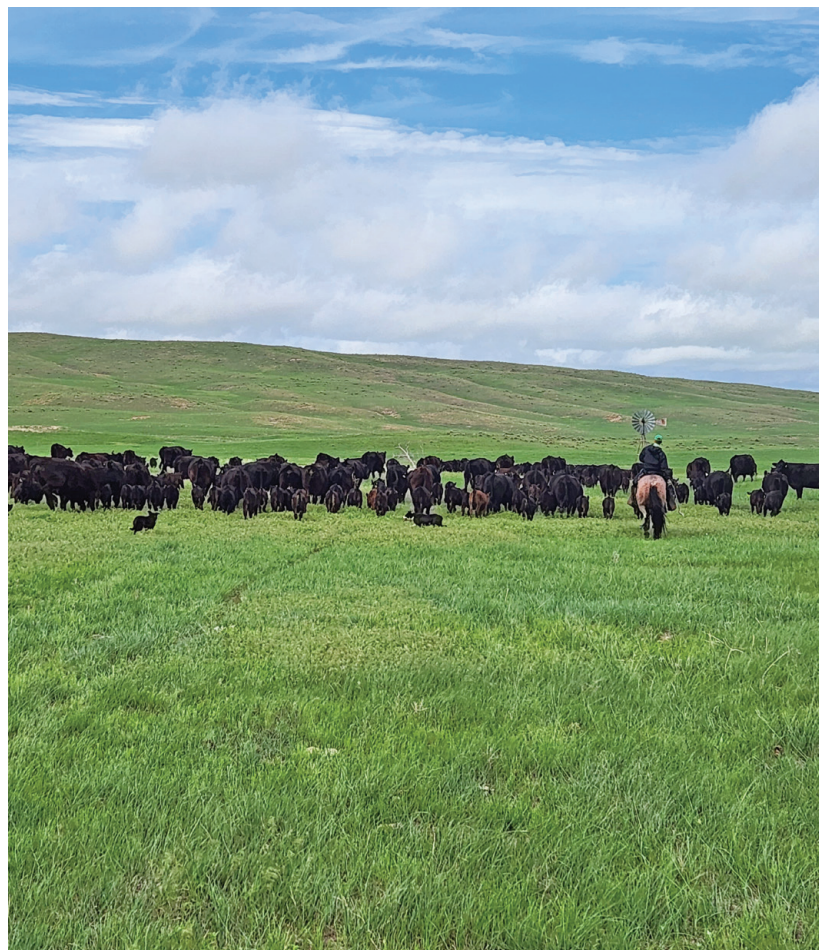
### Past Winners:

2023	Dr. Mitchell Stephenson	2016	Dr. Doug Smith
2022	Dr. Yijie Xiong	2015	Dr. Ron Bolze & Dr. Doug Smith
2021	Dr. Karla Jenkins	2014	Dr. Karla Jenkins & Dr. Ron Bolze
2020	Dr. Dirac Twidwell	2013	Dr. Karla Jenkins
2019	Dr. J. Travis Mulliniks	2012	Dr. Jerry Volesky
2018	Aaron Berger & Bethany Johnston		
2017	Mitchell Stephenson		

## History

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation created the Nebraska Range and Conservation Endowment in 2011. This endowment will provide grants to range management and conservation research and teaching positions at Nebraska post-secondary educational institutions. This award will serve as a thank you and an incentive to those professors/instructors that are providing cutting edge research and/or student instruction in a range management and conservation related area.

This endowment was created from one-half the net proceeds of the 2010-2011 Retail Value Steer Challenge. The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation voted to move enough money from the general account to fully endow the Nebraska Range & Conservation Endowment at \$100,000 at their September 17, 2013, board meeting.





# Supporting UNL



## Nebraska Beef Cattle Industry Professorship

The Nebraska Beef Cattle Industry Professorship of Animal Science at UNL was established in December 1994 with \$200,000. This fund allows an annual stipend of \$10,000 to be awarded to a worthy professor within the University of Nebraska College Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dr. Chris Calkins was awarded this stipend from 1995 – 2011.

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation proudly awarded Dr. Galen Erickson this stipend in 2012 for his cutting edge research with feedlot rations, especially the use of distillers grain and other by-product feed sources in finishing diets for beef cattle. Erickson will receive this award through July 1, 2027.



**Trevor Ross**  
from Nebraska  
Feedyard:  
Timmerman  
Feedyard, KS

**Andrea Lara**  
from Honduras  
Feedyard:  
UNL Research  
Feedlot, NE

**Jesus Lopez  
Gerardo**  
from California  
Feedyard:  
Winner Circle, SD

**Emmalynn Page**  
from Montana  
Feedyard:  
Niewhoner  
Farms, NE

**John Ford**  
from Nebraska  
Feedyard:  
ILS-Robert's Cattle  
Company, NE

## UNL Feedlot Management Course

The Foundation funds a grant each year since 1997 to support the UNL Feedlot Management Course. This fund was established with \$20,000 from the Merck-Merial Generations of Excellence funds. This course is an intensive eight week study on and off campus that provides students an opportunity to get real life experience in the feedlot industry, including internships at feedlots.



# Supporting UNL

## University of Nebraska – Lincoln

A \$100,000 endowed fund was established in 2001 with proceeds from three years of the Five-Star Heifer sale (approximately \$40,000 and then completed with proceeds from the Retail Value Steer Challenge). The UNL livestock judging team receives \$6,000 in support from this account.



Livestock judging (L-R): Savannah Millburn (Assistant Coach), Blake Wert, Tyler Perrin, Kolby Midcap, Tristin Smith, Jose De La Cruz, Layne Miller, Will Carbino, Chase Devries, Tigh Renken (Assistant Coach), Blaine French (Head Coach)

## UNL Meats Judging Team



Meat judging (Back L-R): Allison Everhart, Nicolas Herrera (Head Coach), Elizabeth Hodge (Front Row, L-R): Alexis Gerritse, Laura Reiling

The UNL Meats Judging Team receives \$3,000 in support.

## Andy Bruntz Beef Industry Scholars Scholarship

This fund was originally established in 1997 by Andy's parents, Ann and David Bruntz, to assist with the Southeast Community College livestock judging team's travel expenses. Andy was a member of that team at the time of his death. In 2014 this fund was modified and now provides an annual grant to the Andy Bruntz Beef Industry Scholars Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.



Winner Evan Hartman receiving his \$1,200 scholarship.



# Statewide Support for Judging Teams

## Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis

NCTA received \$4,500 from the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation. Those dollars were generated from the Retail Value Steer Challenge.



**2023 - 2024 NCTA College Livestock Judging Team**  
*(L-R) Lydia Ziemba, Dani Layland (coach) and Matthew Shaffert*

## Northeast Community College (NECC) in Norfolk

NECC received \$4,500 from the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation. Those dollars were generated through the Retail Value Steer Challenge.

### **2023-2024 Northeast Community College Livestock Judging Team**

*Back row (L-R) Kyle Rehak, Wisner; Miles Wright, Burwell; Kelton Bruhn, Stanton; and Kale Taubenheim, Amherst*

*Middle row (L-R) Cole Miller, Charter Oak, IA; Addi Crockett, Davenport; Mason Mackeprang, Bloomfield; Adyson Groteluschen, Columbus; and Mike Roeber, Norfolk, Coach*

*Front row (L-R) Jillian Adams, Scribner; Marah Dornhoff, Minden; and Journee Reeson, Hoskins*





# Honoring Donors



2023 Friend of the Foundation recipient  
Dr. Ivan Rush pictured with Ryan Loseke,  
NCF President

## Friend of the Foundation

Each year the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation will honor and thank an individual or business that has supported the Foundation in an extraordinary way. Each Friend will receive a special thank you gift and their name will be added to a plaque at the Nebraska Cattlemen office.

- 2023 Dr. Ivan Rush
- 2022 Bill and Kathy Rhea
- 2021 David and Ann Bruntz
- 2020 Bill and Barb Rishel
- 2019 Homer and Darla Buell
- 2018 Founding Board members of the Nebraska Cattlemen Research & Education Foundation – Merlyn E. Carlson, Sidney E. Salzman, Alvin J. Kroeger and B. Wallace Mills
- 2017 Gary Tibbetts/Zinpro
- 2016 Al & JoAnn Svajgr
- 2015 Frank & Shirley Sibert
- 2014 Craig and Teri Uden
- 2013 Gallagher Grace/Mayer
- 2012 Bill Pullen
- 2011 Darr Feedlot, Inc.

## Cattlemen's Heritage Society

—donors that have created planned gifts that will benefit the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation will be welcomed into the Cattlemen's Heritage Society. Each will receive a special thank you gift and their name will be added to a plaque at the Nebraska Cattlemen office.

- Frank & Shirley Sibert
- Bill & Barb Rishel
- David & Ann Bruntz
- Al & JoAnn Svajgr
- Dave Hunt
- Jana Jensen

The Foundation has established recognition societies to **THANK** those promoting philanthropy by creating planned gifts and/or endowments through the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation.

## Cattlemen's Legacy Society

—donors that have created endowments within the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation will be welcomed into the Cattlemen's Legacy Society. Each will receive a special thank you gift and their name will be added to a plaque at the Nebraska Cattlemen office.

- Robert E. Lute II Memorial
- Frank & Shirley Sibert
- Bill Heller Memorial
- Donovan Yoachim Memorial
- Martin Viersen Memorial
- NC Beef Pit
- Vance Uden Memorial
- Cattlemen's Open
- Andy Bruntz Memorial
- Clarence and Lois Jean Hartmann
- Colonel Russell Huss
- Ron & Shirley Huss
- Bill Pullen/Bill's Volume Sales
- Bill Briggs Family
- Todd Ricenbaw Family
- Jim & Helen Gran
- Dr. Jeff Fox Memorial
- Shari Flaming Memorial
- Western Nebraska Agriculture Scholarship

# Honoring Donors

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation gratefully recognizes the generous support of those donors who have made a gift to the Foundation from July 1, 2023, to September 1, 2024. Donors are listed in alphabetical order by giving levels.

**Pacesetter**  
\$25,000 and up

**Pioneer**  
\$10,001 - \$24,999

**Partner**  
\$5,001 - \$10,000  
Darr Feedlot Inc

## Trail Boss & Wrangler

\$1 - \$5,000

21st Century Equipment Owen Palm	Broken Bow Livestock Warren White	Cuming County Feeders Association	Faessler Farms Todd Faessler	High Plains Feed Yard Joe Burford
Abiwill LLC	Bruning Bank	D Rudolph	Farm Credit Services of America	Homestead Bank
Agrow Inc Al Svajgr	Bruning Farms Reiss & Heather Bruning	D Witte	Farmers & Merchants Bank	Huss Livestock Market LLC/Lexington Livestock Market
Al & Sallie Atkins	Bruntz Farming & Feeding David & Ann Bruntz	D Wilson	Farmers State Bank	Imperial Beef Brad Foote
Alliance Animal Clinic PC Dr. Clint Kesterson	Burwell Livestock Warren White	Darling International Inc Jason Fagot	Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska Mark Walz	J Dam
Alliance Tractor & Equipment	C. Ourada	Dave & Loretta Hamilton	Feedlot Fencing LLC Penni & Fred Bruning	J & J Cattle Co Jerry Underwood
Anderson Grain	C. Peter McClymont	Dawson County Cattlemen	Fellers Transfer	J&S Feedlot Joan & Steve Ruskamp
Animal Health International D. Klein Farms	Caldwell Cattle & Equipment Dawn Caldwell	Deb VanOverbeke	Denny Fellers	Jagels Land & Cattle LLC Mark & Suzanne Jagels
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		Evans Feed Mike Evans		Justin Childers
		Equitable Bank		K-Cattle LLC Jerry Kuenning
		Exeter Feeders & Breeders		K-Farms Brian Keiser
				KScott Trucking LLC



# Honoring Donors

Karavas & Kranz Julie Karavas	Merlyn Nielsen	Pat Meiergerd	Ron Lewis	Table Top Meats Clayton Krause
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Ken Herz	Milligan Insurance Agency Inc	Phelps County Feeders	Sandy Sonderup	Trotter Inc
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Laura & Tom Field	Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co	Pony Express Chevrolet Buick	Shotkoski Hay Co	UNL Animal Science Teaching
Lee R. & Jennifer L. Weide	Nebraska Corn Board	Powles Ranch Partnership Powles & Jensen Families	Shovel Dot Ranch Homer & Darla Buell	WHR Enterprises Will Rhea
Lincoln County Cattlemen	NE ILS Feeders/ Roberts Cattle Co Brandon Sorensen	Producers Livestock Marketing Association	Sides Aviation LLC Joe Sides	W&J Carpenter Trucking Ward Carpenter
Lois Jean Hartmann Living Trust	Niewohner Brothers	Quentin & Jessica Dailey	Sommers Cattle Company Inc Matthew Sommers	Wagonhammer Cattle Co Jay & Susie Wolf
Loseke Feedlot Ryan & June Loseke	Niobrara Valley Vineyards LLC Greg Nollette	Rainforth Animal Health Jay & Kelly Rainforth	South Central Cattlemen	Waypoint Bank Tim Sladek
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McKenzie Beals Weber	Olson Farms Inc. Kirk & Tracey Olson	Republic Valley Animal Clinic Jeremy VanBoening	Stuart Fertilizer & Grain Inc Everett Vogel	White Land & Cattle Gary White
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Mead Cattle Company LLC	Pat Laird	Rick & Becky Herian	TC Ranch Dru Uden & Uden Family	
Buck Wehrbein		Rodney & Nichole Lamb	TD Angus	
Merck Animal Health				

Contributions were sent to the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation in memory of the following individuals:

Ardeth Loseke	Ray Neujahr
John Rudolph	Rodney Weeth
Lois Jean Hartmann	Scott McGee
Tom Sonderup	

**NEBRASKA**  
**CATTLEMEN**  
*Research & Education*  
**FOUNDATION**

# Retail Value Steer Challenge Celebrates 25 Years!

## 161 STEERS WERE GATHERED FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> RETAIL VALUE STEER CHALLENGE!!!

Serving as the primary fundraising event for the foundation, thousands of dollars has been raised over the last twenty-five years, which has enabled the Foundation to grant additional scholarships, support leadership development programs for youth and adults and fund research and education projects and infrastructure development.

### Average Daily Gain Winners

- 1st Steer #139 – Greg Baxter/  
Powles Ranch Partnership
- 2nd Steer #89 – Broken Bow  
Livestock/Burwell Livestock Market
- 3rd Steer #6 – Steer #94 – Farmers Mutual  
Insurance Company of Nebraska

### Carcass Value Winners

- 1st Steer #72 – Darling International, Inc
- 2nd Steer #37 – NE ILS Feeders/Roberts Cattle Co
- 3rd Steer #110 – Imperial Beef

### Overall Winners

- 1st Steer #9 – Harlan County Cattlemen/  
Hunt Limousin
- 2nd Steer #12 – TC Ranch
- 3rd Steer #117 – Steer #2 – 4+Feeders



Winners of the 2024 Retail Value Steer Challenge



25 Year Donors to the Retail Value Steer Challenge receiving their commemorative bronze made by Vern Friesen from Henderson.

November 2024 kicked off the 26th Annual Retail Value Steer Challenge!

THANK YOU:  
Darr Feedlot and staff  
—For hosting all 26  
steer challenges!





# Leadership Development

## Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation has supported this education event held at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL) for twelve years. Youth from across Nebraska get an inside look at life at UNL and the beef industry as a whole. This event has contributed to the increase in enrollment at UNL – CASN.

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation contributes \$3,000 to this program annually.



**Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Board of Directors** meets in person several times a year. In the fall the board travels to a location where grants have been awarded from the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation. On September 9, 2024, the board traveled to University of Nebraska Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center near Mead, which is also the home of the newly constructed Klosterman Feedlot Innovation Center. The NC Foundation granted to this beautiful new facility and the board enjoyed a tour led by Dr. Galen Erickson.



NCF President Ryan Loseke presented **Craig Uden** with a plaque thanking him for his years of service to the NCF Board of Directors. Craig was an integral part of the Retail Value Steer Challenge and its success! Craig—thank you for ALL you have done for the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation!



**The Nebraska Cattlemen, NCBA YCC representatives** Logan Pribbeno, Quentin Dailey and Crystal Klug, pictured with NCBA leader Buck Wehrbein and Jenna Kibler, both from Nebraska.

# Lee Weide Retires From Nebraska Cattlemen

Written by Pete McClymont | Former NC Executive Vice President

**For an organization to be successful, it needs talented, committed, hardworking individuals who ride for the brand. For the last 27 years, that individual has been Lee Weide and the organizations have been Nebraska Cattlemen (NC) and its related entities of Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation (NC Foundation), Nebraska Corn Fed Beef (NCFB), NC Market Reporting Service (MRS) and the NC Beef Pit. Weide retired from Nebraska Cattlemen at the end of 2023 to move on to the next chapter of his life.**

Since 1997, Weide has been a faithful and dedicated colleague, serving the Nebraska Cattlemen membership with professionalism and commitment in almost every possible capacity. The list of Weide's responsibilities is extensive and worth noting to fully appreciate his contributions to Nebraska Cattlemen.

Weide started with Nebraska Cattlemen in early 1997 with the member-driven Nebraska Corn Fed Beef program, first as database coordinator and then as director. His responsibilities to NCFB were extensive in the beginning days of this value-added program. Weide's talents then allowed for a transition to analyst for the NC Market Reporting Service, then to NC director of feedlot member services and eventually NC vice president of member services. In 2006, Weide became vice president of operations, a position he held until his retirement. His responsibilities under that title effectively encompassed nearly all activities servicing NC membership.

In addition to his duties with Nebraska Cattlemen, beginning in 2005 Weide served as staff liaison to the NC Research and Education Foundation. In this role, he worked closely with the staff at Darr Feedlot where the annual NC Foundation Retail Value Steer Challenge (RVSC) is held. Weide maintained the highest level of detailed data management of cattle for members and contributors throughout each RVSC. The turnaround time from the end of the RVSC to the NC Midyear Meeting where the results were shared and winners announced was always demanding, but Weide always delivered the results completely and on time.

Beginning in 2000, Weide took on the important role of managing the Nebraska Cattlemen Beef Pit at the Nebraska State Fair, an exceptionally high-visibility and vital NC function. Weide and his wife, Jennifer, put in countless hours each year, coordinating and organizing the many volunteers who worked the Beef Pit, coordinating with Daryl and Maggie Griepentrost to help prepare and cook the meat, and working with the State Fair vendors, leadership and staff to ensure that consumers always had an exceptional meal at the State Fair. The Beef Pit has been the leading food vendor at the Nebraska State Fair for many years.

For 15 years, Weide organized all facets of both the Nebraska Cattlemen Annual Convention and Trade Show, typically held in Kearney, and the NC Midyear meeting, held in a location near the current president. Planning and executing these events require a great deal of coordination with the NC Board of Directors, staff, members, vendors and facilities, and Weide's expertise was critical to the success of these events.

Weide's most significant contribution to the Nebraska Cattlemen might well be his role in making 4611 Cattle Drive in Lincoln NC's permanent home. Weide was essentially the on-staff general contractor on virtually every detail, from fundraising to identifying and securing the building site and working with the builders to oversee the construction, all the way to decorating and executing the move-in. His close work with builders Mark and Dave Masek made the member-owned building in Lincoln a reality. There were numerous challenges along the way, but Weide's diligence and ownership of the



Lee Weide and Pete McClymont

process made a substantial difference that came to fruition in February 2019 when operations at the new office commenced. Weide deserves significant recognition and thanks for this effort.

Weide and Jennifer met while students at Kansas State University where he earned a degree in animal science. He then attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he received a master's degree in meat science. He and Jennifer have two sons, Ryan and Kyle.

**In a day and age where moving from one job to another is commonplace, it is important to acknowledge and honor a talented, loyal member servant such as Lee Weide. Many in Nebraska have greatly benefited from his efforts! Nebraska Cattlemen wishes Weide and his family the very best in the future.**

## Weide's 27 Years with Nebraska Cattlemen

- Nebraska Corn Fed Beef Database Coordinator: 1997
- Nebraska Corn Fed Beef Director: 1997-1999
- NC-MRS Analyst: 2000 – 2005
- NC Director of Feedlot Member Services: 2000-2003
- NC Vice President of Member Services: 2003-2005
- NC Vice President of Operations: 2006-2023
- NC Beef Pit Coordinator: 2000-2023

*The Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation sincerely thanks Lee for serving as the staff liaison from 2005 – 2024!*



# Giving Back to the Industry

## Endowed Scholarship Funds:

Permanent funds that will invest in the youth and future of our industry.

- Robert F. Lute II Memorial
- Frank & Shirley Sibert
- Bill Heller Memorial
- Donovan Yoachim Memorial
- NC Beef Pit Scholarship
- Martin Viersen Range Management & Conservation Memorial
- Vance Uden Memorial
- General Scholarship
- Col Melvin Huss Memorial
- Ron & Shirley Huss
- Clarence & Lois Jean Hartmann
- Bill Pullen Scholarship
- Beef State Scholarship
- Cattlemen's Open
- Bill Brigg's Family Scholarship
- Todd Ricenbaw Scholarship
- Jim & Helen Gran Scholarship
- Dr. Jeff Fox Memorial
- Shari Flaming Memorial
- Western NE Agriculture

## Endowed Funds:

Permanent funds that will provide annual funding to these specific areas.

- Nebraska Beef Industry Endowment
- Nebraska Range and Conservation Endowment
- Nebraska Judging Teams Endowment
- UNL Meats Judging Team Endowment
- Leadership Development Endowment (Youth & Adult)
- Operational Endowment

I would like to make a gift to the  
Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation in the form of:

- Check
- Credit Card:
  - VISA    MasterCard    Discover    American Express

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Donor Information

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Please make my gift in memory of:

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Please send acknowledgement to:

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The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization through which contributions are tax-deductible. All gifts of \$35 or more will receive a charitable gift receipt.

## Send to:

Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation  
4611 Cattle Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68521



4611 Cattle Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68521

Education  
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