



**AG***ceptional*  
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING  
15YEARS

A woman in agriculture can take the lead  
Whatever the challenge, whatever the need  
She'll rise to meet demands of the day  
in her own unique phenomenal way  
She's much more than just exceptional  
Yes, She is what we call AgCeptional.

A story to tell, a lesson to learn.  
AgCeptional women are taking their turn.  
The seeds they plant grow tall and strong.  
They've been ignored for far too long.  
Let's give credit where credit is due,  
AgCeptional women are making it through.

They make it through good times, they  
make it through tough.  
They make sure there's more than enough.  
They work, they give, they laugh, they love.  
They stand tall when push comes to shove.  
Let's give credit where credit is due,  
AgCeptional women are tried and true.

The barn, the field, and tractor too.  
Office, industry, business or school.  
The garden, garage, yard or home.  
Wherever they are, let it be known.  
The difference they make is felt, it's real.  
We cannot act like it's no big deal.

They make it through good times, they  
make it through tough.  
They make sure there's more than enough.  
They work, they give, they laugh, they love.  
They stand tall when push comes to shove.  
Let's give credit where credit is due.  
AgCeptional women are tried and true.

By: Corinne Morris

**AG***ceptional*  
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



A heartfelt welcome to the 15th annual AgCeptional Women's Conference, where we gather to celebrate the embodiment of grace, gratitude and grit within the agriculture community.

In this dynamic space, we come together to honor the tireless dedication of women who lend their strength to the fields, farms and families that sustain us all. With grace we navigate challenges, with gratitude we acknowledge our blessings, and with unyielding grit we forge ahead, shaping the future of agriculture.

May this conference be a beacon of inspiration, fostering connections, and empowering each of us to continue making a profound impact in the world of agriculture.

Let us all embrace this opportunity to learn, share and grow together!

Tara Smydra  
Conference Director

# AgCeptional Committee

## Tara Smydra

AgCeptional Director  
Dean of Science, Technology, Agriculture & Math at  
Northeast Community College

## Jill Heemstra

Ag Program Director at Northeast Community College

## Ashley Weinrich

Executive Assistant of Science, Technology, Agriculture  
& Math at Northeast Community College

## Karmen Hake

AgCeptional Administrative Assistant

## Logan Consbruck

Agriculture Student Northeast Community College

## Liz Doerr

Pork Producer and Office Administrator, Retired Zoning  
Administrator

## Roxanne Dusel

Farm Wife/Grain Producer

## Traci Ebel

Substitute Teacher, Ag & FFA Supporter

## Kimberly Fehringer

USDA Rural Development Loan Specialist Midwest  
Region

## Karen Grant

Farmer/Livestock Producer

## Peggy Hintz

Livestock Producer/USDA FSA County Executive  
Director

## Mary Pat Hoag

Retired Agriculture Editor, Norfolk Daily News

## Clare Hornung

Recruitment Specialist for UNL College of Agricultural  
Sciences and Natural Resources

## Cori Koopman

Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations at  
Northeast Community College

## Agnes Kurtzhals

Communications Associate - AMM Department at  
UNL's Haskell Ag Lab

## Susan Littlefield

Farm Director KRVN/Rural Radio Network

## Hilary Maricle

Farmer/Livestock Producer

## Jan Miller

Pork Producer, Past Nebraska Pork Producers President

## Renee Minary

Producer

## Corinne Morris

Retired Dean of Ag, Math & Science at Northeast  
Community College

## Deb Neidig

Producer

## Kathy Neidig

Cattle Operation and Business Owner

## Courtney Nelson

Precision Agriculture Trainer at Northeast Community  
College

## Joan Ruskamp

Farmer/Cattle Feeder

## Rylee Stoltz

Director of Communications - AFAN

## Madisen Unsel

Randa Red Angus, USDA NRCS Soil Conservationist

## Whitney Winter

Llama Producer/Ag Communication/Journalist



# OPENING SESSION

## “Grit and Glue: A Celebration of the Women Who Make Our Farms and Communities Go Round”

From floods, droughts and derechos, to supply chain challenges, trade wars, animal disease outbreaks and a global pandemic, the last few years have been rocky for our families, our farms and our communities. Yet, in the midst of these character-revealing events, there are countless stories of farm women who rise to the challenge and give us so many reasons to be optimistic about our future. Julie Kenney, Iowa farmer and former Iowa Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, will take us on a journey of some of those stories and help us celebrate all of the women who make our farms and communities go round.




**Julie Kenney**  
Farmer, Former Iowa  
Deputy Secretary of  
Agriculture



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 **NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION**

***Making the Connection.***  
Strong Agriculture. Strong Nebraska.

The mission of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation is to engage youth, educators, and the general public to promote an understanding of the vital importance of agriculture in the lives of all Nebraskans.

Visit our booth or learn more at [www.nefbfoundation.org](http://www.nefbfoundation.org)



# Grace, Grit, Gratitude

## 15th Annual AgCeptional Women's Conference

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023

<b>8:00 - 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Check In</b>
<b>8:00 - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Coffee and Conversation</b> <i>Breakfast Sponsored by Central Valley Ag</i>
<b>9:00 - 10:45 AM</b>	<b>Opening Session</b>
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome and Opening Comments
9:15 - 9:45	<b>Video Presentation</b> <i>Sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America</i> <b>Tribute to the AgCeptional Woman of the Year</b>
9:45 - 10:45	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> "Grit and Glue: A Celebration of the Women Who Make Our Farms and Communities Go Round" <i>Keynote Sponsored by Nebraska Corn Board</i>
<b>10:50 - 11:40 AM</b>	<b>Red Workshop Session</b>
<b>11:45 - 12:30 PM</b>	<b>Lunch and Networking</b> <i>Lunch Sponsored by Nebraska Soybean Board</i>
<b>12:45 - 1:35 PM</b>	<b>White Workshop Session</b>
<b>1:45 - 2:35 PM</b>	<b>Blue Workshop Session</b>
<b>2:40 - 2:50 PM</b>	<b>Afternoon Snack</b>
<b>3:00 - 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Closing Session</b>
3:00 - 3:45	Producer Panel
3:45 - 3:55	Prizes and Closing Comments



# ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND INCREASED YIELDS

TOGETHER IN PERFECT 'FARM'ONY



AT THE NEBRASKA CORN BOARD, WE ARE DEDICATED TO HELPING FARMERS GROW THE CROP OF THE FUTURE, WHILE GROWING THEIR OWN FUTURES. LOOK AT A FEW OF OUR INITIATIVES:



## MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Expanding livestock feeding and ethanol infrastructure upgrades while engaging in international/domestic trade opportunities.



## RESEARCH

Funding input efficiency and finding new uses for corn—from biodegradable plastics to other renewable, environmentally friendly ways to use corn.



## EDUCATION

Supporting programs built around agriculture and engaging the next generation through opportunities.



## PROMOTION

Promoting Nebraska's corn industry—including Unleaded 88 messaging—to develop more conversations with consumers.

With more than one billion bushels of corn produced a year, the need for innovation has never been greater.

See more ways we're working for Nebraska's corn farmers at [NEBRASKACORN.GOV](http://NEBRASKACORN.GOV).

**NEBRASKA CORN. THE PLANT THAT CAN CHANGE THE PLANET.**



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# SESSION SCHEDULE

Location	Red Workshops 10:50 - 11:40	White Workshops 12:45 - 1:35	Blue Workshops 1:45 - 2:35
Suite B	When the Unthinkable Suddenly Happens, You're Left to Make the Decisions <b>Robin Wegener</b>	When the Unthinkable Suddenly Happens, You're Left to Make the Decisions <b>Robin Wegener</b>	Mental Health Matters: Get Some Exceptional Advice <b>Lisa Guenther, Terry Nelson, Stacey Aldag, Andrea Suhr</b>
Suite C	Entrepreneurship: Direct to Consumer Beef Panel <b>Kalie Beutler &amp; Amanda Beierman</b>	Reaching Goals in Your Small Town <b>Amanda Beierman</b>	Real Estate 101: Negotiating a Farm Lease <b>Randy Oertwich</b>
Suite D	Federal Ag Policy Update: A New Farm Bill and a Whole Lot More <b>Jordan Dux</b>	Top 5 Discoveries When Teaching Farm/Ranch Transition and Succession <b>Allan Vyhnalek</b>	Pride, Patience & Perseverance: Parkinson's and Exercise <b>Tina Collison</b>
Main Room	Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids and You <b>Dr. Keith Vrbicky</b>	Culinary Hacks to Make the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice <b>Hannah Guenther</b>	Farm to Table <b>Karol Swan</b>
Suite K	Current Trends in Outdoor Recreation and Agritourism <b>Jenna Bartja</b>	Invest in Yourself <b>Tina Myers</b>	Succulent Planting Bar <b>Andrea Dobias</b>
Suite L	Farm Service Agency Programs for Women in Agriculture <b>Monica Dolezal-Bruning &amp; Morgan Sapp</b>	Straight Talk on Carbon Capture and Carbon Intensity Scores <b>Dawn Caldwell, Elizabeth Nelson, Julie Bushell</b>	Straight Talk on Carbon Capture and Carbon Intensity Scores <b>Dawn Caldwell, Elizabeth Nelson, Julie Bushell</b>
Conference Room 0197	The Date Night You Need Before Building Your New Home (or Starting a Remodel) <b>Rachel Rardon</b>	The Date Night You Need Before Building Your New Home (or Starting a Remodel) <b>Rachel Rardon</b>	The Date Night You Need Before Building Your New Home (or Starting a Remodel) <b>Rachel Rardon</b>



# soybeans

## The Miracle Crop

The soybean plays an important role in U.S. agriculture—providing both protein and oil that are used throughout the world.

### ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Soybean meal is the #1 vegetable protein choice for livestock, poultry and aquaculture.

### TOP 5 GLOBAL MARKETS FOR SOYBEAN MEAL



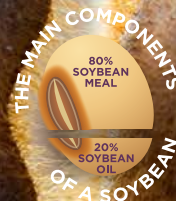
Soybeans are a "legume" (LEG-yeom), a type of plant that grows its seeds in pods and is used for food.

The flowers on the soybean plant produce an average of 40-80 pods that each hold 3-4 seeds (beans).

### HUMAN FOOD Other nutrient-rich soy foods derived from whole soybeans include:



About 2/3 of soybean oil is used in food products. Commonly labeled as vegetable oil, soybean oil is the most widely consumed edible oil in the U.S.



Soybeans produce their own fertilizer by collecting nitrogen from the air, storing it in nodules on their roots and releasing it back into the soil.

Soybeans contain all 9 essential amino acids, making them a complete protein.

Check out these two podcasts/programs made available by the Nebraska Soybean Board!

**Grain IQ**  
Rural Radio Network

▶ Latest Episode

We know farmers are good at producing grain, but we want them to be good at marketing it, too. Grain marketing is a critical part of keeping **MORE** Investing

**Weekly Market Roundup**  
Rural Radio Network

▶ Latest Episode

Join us for a conversation about the markets over the past week!

Business News - Updated Weekly



# RED SESSION

## WHEN THE UNTHINKABLE SUDDENLY HAPPENS: YOU ARE LEFT TO MAKE THE DECISIONS

*Robin Wegener*

- Know about your operation and where you go from here.
- Plan-Compile information and answers while you still have someone to ask.
- It's the little things that matter; what to consider to move forward and survive.
- Things you never planned or expected.
- Build your "OWN" team to navigate and create your "new" legacy and future.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP: DIRECT TO CONSUMER BEEF PANEL

*Amanda Beierman, 2383 Farms*

*Kalie Beutler, Beutler Beef*

- Amanda and Kalie will share their experiences with getting started in a direct to consumer beef operation.
- Join in the panel discussion by asking questions you may have about starting your own business, what a direct to consumer beef operation does, etc.

## POLYUNSATURATED FATTY ACIDS AND YOU

*Dr. Keith Vrbicky, MD, FACOG, Midwest OB/GYN, Midwest Health Partners, PC*

- Studies have linked high intake of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) to potential negative effects on health and metabolism.
- This presentation will discuss What are Fatty Acids?, The Damaging Effects of PUFAs, The Detoxification of PUFAs, The Metabolic Power of Shorter Chain Fats, and Fatty Acid Recommendations.

## CURRENT TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION AND AGRITOURISM

*Jenna Bartja, Adventure Travel Specialist, Nebraska Tourism Commission*

- The current climate in outdoor recreation and agritourism - what travelers are looking for and booking for.
- In-state resources and easy add-ons for destinations to incorporate to keep apprised of the ever-evolving desires of travelers.

## THE DATE NIGHT YOU NEED BEFORE BUILDING YOUR NEW HOME (OR STARTING YOUR REMODEL)

*Rachel Rardon, Interior Designer, Rardon Design*

- Good communication with your spouse is vital, well, always - and this is true when building your new home.
- During this session, we will discuss how you can start your building process off on the right foot. You will take home a list of questions that you and your spouse can review together on the date night you need before building your new home.
- Instead of arguing about which backsplash to choose, you'll be looking forward to slow Saturday mornings with coffee in your new kitchen or wild cookie baking parties with your grandkids.
- Your marriage is even more important than a beautiful house, and this initial date night is just the first step to keeping your priorities straight throughout the process.

## FEDERAL AG POLICY UPDATE: A NEW FARM BILL AND A WHOLE LOT MORE

*Jordan Dux, Senior Director of National Affairs, Nebraska Farm Bureau*

- There has never been a more important time for farmers and ranchers to engage with decision makers in Washington D.C.
- In this session, we will discuss the next Farm Bill, new regulations coming from the EPA, and much more.

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Morgan Sapp, FSA County Executive Director in Cuming County*

*Monica Dolezal-Bruning, FSA Farm Loan Manager based out of Wayne County*

- USDA Farm Service Agency implements programs that provide producers with a financial safety net, can help them recover from natural disaster, and can finance the development of, ongoing operations of, or growth of an operation.
- In this session, attendees will get an overview of FSA programs and learn which ones have special provisions available to certain classifications of producers, including women.



# WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2022 - ANITA KEYS



**Keys Family**  
**Amanda, Anita, Kerry, Stacey**

This year's AgCeptional Women Conference theme, "Grace, Gratitude, and Grit," is the perfect response to the 2022 theme, "What's Next?"

As I consider my upbringing on a farm in rural Wayne County, I consider GRACE a part of my formative years. My parents modeled "courteous goodwill" as we learned the true work ethic of gathering and packing eggs, walking beans, and the importance of the family farm. I see "unmerited favor" living in a rural area, surrounded by nature, and positive role models. My parents taught us service through our involvement in 4-H and their commitment to many volunteer organizations. We were raised in a Christian home, with a strong Biblical foundation. "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

Continuing on to college and beyond, I was blessed with good friends and numerous learning experiences. Many of my friends were from East Campus, or ag campus as it was known. Getting my degree and eventually my master's in home economics prepared me for my career in Extension and for life in general.

One amazing opportunity was participating as an International 4-H Youth Exchange (now IFYE) representative to West Germany after college. I had seven host families for three weeks each during a six-month time period.

What an opportunity to learn about another culture, a foreign language, agriculture in other settings, and yourself. Upon returning to the good old USA, I eventually was hired to work as an Extension agent in Thayer County, living in Hebron. I loved working with Extension club ladies, the Thayer County Feeders, and the 4-H families. Later I worked part time in Central Sandhills: Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, and Grant counties. I'm still involved with the IFYE Alumni Association, recruiting host families and exchange students. We've also enjoyed hosting IFYEs from other countries.

I switched roles to rancher's wife when I married Kerry Keys of Elsmere in Cherry County. We had the opportunity to raise our two daughters, Stacey and Amanda, in the beautiful Sandhills of Nebraska on his fourth-generation family ranch. GRIT came into play as we dealt with flooding, fire, drought, and tough decisions. We've also shown "courage and resolve" and "strength of character" as we worked through the estates of each of our parents. My role on the ranch has evolved as I help with cattle drives, branding, vaccinating, weaning, etc., becoming more flexible, most of the time!

Being involved on the ranch opened up other doors, as I participated in Ag in the Classroom, LEAD, Women in Ag, AgCeptional Women's Conferences, and CommonGround. I love sharing our ag story and helping people understand how safe their food is. Being a lifelong learner is something I support and encourage in others. Spending lots of time judging 4-H events, and substitute teaching, allow me to interact and impact the lives of many youth. There are excellent young people progressing to their future roles in the world of agriculture. My business, Keys Canning and Crafts, allows me to be creative in canning unique types of jams and jellies. Plus, I enjoy the opportunity to visit with lots of people as a vendor at craft fairs.

Throughout my life, my faith has played a major role in my actions and decisions. I have a definite "attitude of GRATITUDE." I Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I'm thankful for my many blessings and count them daily. I appreciate the life I have been able to enjoy. God has given us strong families, great friends, excellent health, supportive church families, and all of our needs.

We've been involved in various area churches and can see God's plan for having us there at that time. As Esther learned, we were there "for such a time as this." (Esther 4:4)

Family ranks high when I consider gratitude. I married my best friend. Good suggestion, by the way! Kerry's a great husband, super Dad, and excellent provider. He has a real heart for ranching, is a steward of the land, and truly cares for the cattle. He's the spiritual leader of our home, currently leading a community Bible study on Revelation.

Both Stacey and Amanda attended country school through eighth grade, homeschooled during high school, and went on to get their master's degrees. Stacey works with the youth of Nebraska Extension in Burt County and Amanda's a CPA in Broken Bow. Both enjoy their agricultural connections in their careers.

I challenge you this year to contemplate how God has given you "Grace, Grit, and Gratitude." Just being in the field of agriculture is one blessing we share. Be bold in telling your story, whether that be in line at the grocery store, with your urban friends and family, or through social media. Consumers trust a farmer/rancher. After all, you're a primary source. Keep a positive attitude as you continue to be an "AgCeptional Woman."



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Nebraska's farmers are growing more with less water and fewer chemicals than ever before. And yet, we still struggle with the quality of our water in some areas.

Nitrate levels in Nebraska's groundwater are on the rise, especially in portions of Northeast Nebraska. The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) has analyzed the nitrate data gathered from their Groundwater Quality Sampling Program and have found some troubling trends across their 15-county district.

Data collected over the past 40 years indicates elevated concentrations of nitrate in portions of Cuming, Colfax, and Dodge Counties, reaching levels that could pose health risks to humans and threaten the environment.

The agriculture industry depends on clean water, healthy soil, and pure air to supply a growing world with food, feed, and fuel. Farmers meet daily challenges as they work to protect our resources for future generations.

Working together, we can make a positive impact on the health of our soils and the quality of our groundwater.

Visit [nitrateinwater.org](http://nitrateinwater.org) to find out more!



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[www.lenrd.org](http://www.lenrd.org)



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Do you have a shelterbelt in need of renovation? Do you want to plant trees on your property, but you're not sure where to start? We'll help you develop a successful plan. We can provide cost-share up to 75% on trees, weed barrier, planting services, and tree removal.

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[tstewart@lenrd.org](mailto:tstewart@lenrd.org)

### Benefits of Trees:

- Save money on heating and cooling
- Less need for snow removal
- Prevent wind damage to buildings and personal property
- Add value to your property
- Provide shade for people and livestock
- Provide wind protection for livestock
- Natural air filters for odors on livestock farms
- Promote water quality
- Provide visual barrier for privacy
- Reduce soil erosion
- Beautify landscape
- Provide shelter for wildlife
- Attract pollinators
- Lower livestock feeding costs during the winter
- Increase crop yields



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## USDA Farm Service Agency

- Farm/Ranch ownership and operating loans to assist operations of all sizes
- Income safety net, disaster assistance programs provided through the Farm Bill
- Support for conservation through implementation of the Conservation Reserve Program
- Interim financing to allow you to market grain when the time is right
- Options for youth and beginning farmers/ranchers to encourage the next generation

Stop by our booth to learn more about how we can help your operation be successful.

United States Department of Agriculture  
 Farm Service Agency

[www.fsa.usda.gov/ne](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ne)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



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# THERE'S ROOM AT THE TABLE

## OUR PLANET IS HUNGRY. TOGETHER, WE FEED IT.

As owners of Central Valley Ag, it's together we move forward. Join us as we Grow Agriculture Together at [cvacoop.com/roomatthetable](http://cvacoop.com/roomatthetable).



# WHITE SESSION

## **CULINARY HACKS TO MAKE THE HEALTHY CHOICE THE EASY CHOICE**

*Hannah Guenther, Nebraska Extension Educator*

- During the busy seasons of planting, calving, and harvest, it's easy to put healthy eating on the back burner.
- This session will dive into simple tips and tricks to feed your farmer, rancher, and family quick, nutritious (and delicious) meals.
- This session will include two recipe demonstrations!

## **REACHING GOALS IN YOUR SMALL TOWN**

*Amanda Beierman, 2382 Farms*

- Push past limiting beliefs of what others think.
- Don't allow small town stigma to keep you from achieving your goals.
- Resources to find that community to help build confidence.

## **TOP 5 DISCOVERIES WHEN TEACHING FARM/RANCH TRANSITION AND SUCCESSION**

*Allan Vyhnalek, Extension Educator Emeritus*

- In this session, Allan will look at what he considers to be the top roadblocks to effective farm/ranch succession planning.
- Information will be given to avoid these roadblocks and put together an effective succession plan.

## **WHEN THE UNTHINKABLE SUDDENLY HAPPENS: YOU ARE LEFT TO MAKE THE DECISIONS**

*Robin Wegener*

- Know about your operation and where you go from here.
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*Rachel Rardon, Interior Designer, Rardon Design*

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## **INVEST IN YOURSELF**

*Tina Myers, Personal Color Consultant and Stylist, House of Colour*

- Color analysis
- Style analysis
- Building a capsule wardrobe

## **STRAIGHT TALK ON CARBON CAPTURE AND CARBON INTENSITY SCORES**

*Dawn Caldwell, Executive Director of Nebraska Renewable Fuels*

*Julie Bushell, CEO of Ethos*

*Elizabeth Nelson, Executive Assistant at Siouxland Ethanol*

- Why does carbon capture and utilization and Carbon Intensity (CI) scores matter to Nebraska Agriculture.
- In a world searching for sustainable food, fuel and fiber, Nebraska has the opportunity to show consumers here and abroad with data and stories how Nebraska farmers are making a difference.
- This panel will be moderated by Hilary Miracle, deputy director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.





# BLUE SESSION

## **MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS: GET SOME EXCEPTIONAL ADVICE!**

*Stacey Aldag, Lisa Guenther, Terry Nelson, Andrea Suhr, NECC Faculty*

- Ever feel bogged down by, in author Craig Groeschel's words, "septic thoughts," "scare pollution" and negativity?
- We have solutions for "mind pollution!"
- Please join us to hear ideas on how we're managing to eliminate "deception infections" to make our busy lives joy-filled, manageable, and flourishing!

## **PRIDE, PATIENCE & PERSEVERANCE: PARKINSON'S & EXERCISE**

*Tina Collison, Group Fitness Director, Norfolk YMCA*

- Living with a Parkinson's disease prognosis can leave one feeling powerless and hopeless.
- Participating in exercise can give patients a purpose and increase their productivity, strength, and balance.
- Learn about the Parkinson's-specific YMCA programs and hear the personal testimonials from people in your community.
- This presentation will be priceless.

## **FARM TO TABLE**

*Karol Swan, CommonGround Volunteer*

- This presentation will help attendees keep current on local food products and examine the most recent statistics showing Nebraska's role and the economic impact of agriculture to the state's economy.
- This information will help attendees communicate the importance of agriculture with consumers.

## **SUCCULENT PLANTING BAR**

*Andrea Dobias, Blossom and Birch*

*\*Limited to 30 participants. Please bring \$20 to pay for succulent and planting supplies.*

- Have a beginner's green thumb or don't have the time for a high-maintenance plant? A succulent is just the plant for you!
- Join Blossom and Birch for a succulent planting bar to get started with a new plant.

## **THE DATE NIGHT YOU NEED BEFORE BUILDING YOUR NEW HOME (OR STARTING YOUR REMODEL)**

*Rachel Rardon, Interior Designer, Rardon Design*

- Good communication with your spouse is vital, well, always - and this is true when building your new home.
- During this session, we will discuss how you can start your building process off on the right foot. You will take home a list of questions that you and your spouse can review together on the date night you need before building your new home.
- Instead of arguing about which backsplash to choose, you'll be looking forward to slow Saturday mornings with coffee in your new kitchen or wild cookie baking parties with your grandkids.
- Your marriage is even more important than a beautiful house, and this initial date night is just the first step to keeping your priorities straight throughout the process.

## **REAL ESTATE 101: NEGOTIATING A FARM LEASE**

*Randy Oertwich, Land Management Sales, UFARM*

- Brief overview of ownership options.
- How to negotiate a farm lease, what is fair rent, and different rental types.
- Whether to choose management, consulting, or doing it yourself.

## **STRAIGHT TALK ON CARBON CAPTURE AND CARBON INTENSITY SCORES**

*Dawn Caldwell, Executive Director of Nebraska Renewable Fuels*

*Julie Bushell, CEO of Ethos*

*Elizabeth Nelson, Executive Assistant at Siouxland Ethanol*

- Why does carbon capture and utilization and Carbon Intensity (CI) scores matter to Nebraska Agriculture.
- In a world searching for sustainable food, fuel and fiber, Nebraska has the opportunity to show consumers here and abroad with data and stories how Nebraska farmers are making a difference.
- This panel will be moderated by Hilary Miracle, deputy director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.



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# BEAN TO BOTTLE

HOW DOROTHY LYNCH,  
NEBRASKA'S ICONIC DRESSING,  
GETS A BOOST FROM SOYBEAN OIL





Dave Korger, who has helped produce Dorothy Lynch salad dressing for over 43 years, displays a tanker of soybean oil, one of the product's primary ingredients.

**W**hat's orange, goes with everything, and says "Nebraska" about as much as a run play inside Memorial Stadium? It could only be one of America's favorite salad dressings: the one and only Dorothy Lynch.

Let's talk about how Nebraska soybeans play a role in bringing this delicious condiment to the dinner table.

If you're from Nebraska, there is a good chance you grew up around Dorothy Lynch. Manufactured near Columbus in the small town of Duncan, this slightly sweet, tangy and oh-so-creamy concoction has been mass produced since 1964. Gordon "Mac" Hull purchased the recipe from restaurant owner Dorothy Lynch herself before opening his factory. Today, you can find it on store shelves in at least 25 states.

The recipe for the famous dressing—which people put on a lot more than just salads including chicken, french fries and meatloaf—stems from just four ingredients: tomato soup, vinegar, spices and (you guessed it) soybean oil produced by Nebraska farms.

In fact, Tasty Toppings, the Columbus-owned-and-operated company whose

one-and-only product is Dorothy Lynch, uses around 800 gallons of soybean oil a day, which it sources from a refinery near Hastings.

“

People have grown up with it. They remember it from childhood when it was always around the dinner table. It goes from generation to generation.

— MARILEA HULL, OWNER & CEO

”

Tasty Toppings Owner and CEO Marilea Hull took over the family business with her husband, Jamie Trebac, due to her dad's health problems in 2021. She considers supporting Nebraska agriculture and keeping Dorothy Lynch local part of her father's lasting legacy.

“Even though you can find us in half the country, our roots are right here in Nebraska,” she said. “We're proud to support local farmers, whether that's through soybeans or even the tomatoes we use in our recipe.”

Trebac, who serves as COO, revealed that Nebraska soybean oil is, in fact, one of the secrets to Dorothy Lynch's ultra-smooth texture and characteristic flavor.

“The way it blends. The way it mixes. The way it gives body. It also hits the right mix for us in terms of taste,” he said.

And, speaking of locally grown: people tend to be surprised, he remarked, to discover the dressing sold in thousands of stores is not made in a giant industrial facility, but in a small town, by fewer than 20 employees, using a number of local ingredients.

“We're not some big entity. We're here, proudly made in Nebraska,” he said. “We wouldn't have it any other way.”

For Marilea Hull (and many others), Dorothy Lynch salad dressing—once sold out of the trunk of her father's car and hawked to local grocers during family trips—has evolved from its humble origins in a smalltown restaurant into a piece of Nebraska's history, heritage and culture. It is something that anyone who has called Nebraska home, can claim as their own.

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