

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# EMERGING AGRICULTURE

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

16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 22, 2024

Welcome to the 16th annual AgCeptional Women's Conference. We are so pleased that you have joined us and look forward to spending the day with you. The AgCeptional Committee has planned many information-packed sessions that focus on agricultural practices, farm management, health and wellness, and more that will uplift you and give you the desire to keep attending year after year.

Through the years, agriculture has evolved to meet the demands of an ever-growing world population. Today we celebrate emerging agriculture and recognize that it builds on lessons of the past as it supports and sustains our families while conserving our precious land and resources for future generations.

Thank you for joining us, and enjoy the day!

Connie Sixta

Dean of Science, Technology, Agriculture and Math  
Northeast Community College

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





**Logan Consbruck**

Agriculture Student at 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

**Karmen Hake**

AgCeptional Administrative Assistant

**Jill Heemstra**

Ag Program Director at Northeast Community College

**Peggy Hintz**

Livestock Producer/USDA FSA County Executive Director

**Clare Hornung**

Recruitment Specialist for UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

**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

**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

**Connie Sixta**

Dean of Science, Technology, Agriculture, and Math at Northeast Community College

**Tara Smydra**

Farmer/ Real Estate Investor

**Madisen Unsel**

Randa Red Angus, USDA NRCS Soil Conservationist

**Rylee Wagner**

Director of Communications - AFAN

**Ashley Weinrich**

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

**Whitney Winter**

Llama Producer/Ag Communication/Journalist

# Opening Session



**Brooke Clay Taylor**  
Brand Strategy Advisor,  
Rural Gone Urban

## “An Unfiltered Journey”

Join Brooke Clay Taylor, founder of Rural Gone Urban and the Rural Gone Urban Foundation, and discover the raw truth behind her remarkable career in strategic communications and entrepreneurship in the agricultural industry, intertwined with the personal struggles of battling cancer and raising a family. Get ready to laugh, cry, and be inspired as Brooke shares the real-life challenges and triumphs that shaped her journey from rural roots to business success.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO FEED THE PLANET UNITES US. IT'S TIME TO TAKE YOUR SEAT.**

# THERE'S ROOM AT THE TABLE.



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# Emerging Agriculture

## 16th Annual AgCeptional Women's Conference

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

8:00 - 8:30 AM

**Check In**

8:00 - 9:00 AM

**Coffee and Conversation**

*Breakfast Sponsored by Central Valley Ag*

9:00 - 10:45 AM

**Opening Session**

9:00 - 9:15

Welcome and Opening Comments

9:15 - 9:45

**Video Presentation**

*Sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America*

**Tribute to the AgCeptional Spotlight Award Recipient**

9:45 - 10:45

**Keynote Speaker**

*"An Unfiltered Journey" Brooke Clay Taylor*

*Keynote Sponsored by Nebraska Corn Board*

10:50 - 11:40 AM

**Red Workshop Session**

11:45 - 12:30 PM

**Lunch and Networking**

*Lunch Sponsored by Nebraska Soybean Board*

12:45 - 1:35 PM

**White Workshop Session**

1:45 - 2:35 PM

**Blue Workshop Session**

2:40 - 3:15 PM

**Closing Session**

Prizes and Closing Comments



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**COOK**

**CHAUFFER**

**LEADER**

**TEACHER**



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[becomeafan.org](http://becomeafan.org)

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Want to know more about the current opportunities in livestock production?

**WE WANT TO HELP!**



# Session Schedule

Location	Red Workshops 10:50 - 11:40	White Workshops 12:45 - 1:35	Blue Workshops 1:45 - 2:35
Suite B	Appraisal of Rural Land <b>Rodney Johnson</b>	Cottage Food Law Training <b>Cindy Brison</b>	Emerging Technologies in Livestock Production <b>Joan Ruskamp</b>
Suite C	Harnessing the Power of a Mindful Pause <b>Katie Hupp</b>	Realizing the Transformative Capacity of Mindful Self-Compassion <b>Katie Hupp</b>	I'd Like to Buy a Bowel; How I Lost My Colon but Found My True Identity <b>Tina Collison</b>
Suite D	All Levels Yoga Class <b>Rachel Stratton</b>	Navigating Family Dynamics on the Farm & Ranch <b>Anastasia Meyer</b>	
Main Room	Transforming How You Use Your Time <b>Amanda Fairley</b>	Postural Restoration Physical Therapy: It's Not About Sitting Up Straight but How to Address Pain and Tension Naturally <b>Kristi Jagels</b>	Stopping the Stress Cycle <b>Hannah Guenther</b>
Suite K	Grain Marketing Insights + Ask the Experts <b>Chad Moyer, Heather Ramsey, Lindsay Saatka</b>	Lakota Earthsong: Cultivating Sustainability Through Ethnobotany <b>Rachel Liester</b>	Small Field - Big Opportunity <b>Stephanie Anderson</b>
Suite L	Skin Health and the Necessity of Sunlight <b>Dr. Keith Vrbicky</b>	Table Scaping and More <b>Patti Stuthman</b>	Beekeeping for Beginners <b>Matt Lance</b>
Conference Room 0197	Advanced Reproductive Technologies in Bovine <b>Vanessa Peterson</b>	Advanced Reproductive Technologies in Bovine <b>Vanessa Peterson</b>	Bridging the Generational Gap: Cultivating Leadership in Agriculture <b>Dr. Tee Bush and Courtney Nelson</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



Poultry    Pork    Dairy    Beef    Aquaculture

### HUMAN FOOD

Other **nutrient-rich soy foods** derived from whole soybeans include:



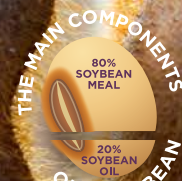
About 2/3 of soybean oil is used in food products. Commonly labeled as vegetable oil, soybean oil is the most widely consumed edible oil in the U.S.

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



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

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



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.

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 **Investing** **MORE**

**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

## APPRAISAL OF RURAL LAND

*Rodney Johnson, Land Manager, Real Estate Broker & Auctioneer, UFARM*

- Value influences
- Value definitions
- Valuation process
- Three approaches to value
- Uniform standards of professional appraisal practice

## ALL LEVELS YOGA CLASS

*Rachel Stratton, Yoga Instructor, Sacred Yoga*

- In this class we will focus on stretching the connective tissues, connecting breath to movement, and relaxing the mind.
- Leave feeling refreshed, revitalized, and renewed.
- If you have a mat, bring it. If not, we have some available to borrow.

## HARNESSING THE POWER OF A MINDFUL PAUSE

*Katie Hupp, Ph.D., English Instructor, Metropolitan Community College*

- Join this session for a basic overview of mindfulness practice including the benefits of pausing long enough to choose how to respond instead of knee-jerk reacting to whatever comes your way.

## SKIN HEALTH AND THE NECESSITY OF SUNLIGHT

*Dr. Keith Vrbicky, Midwest Health Partners*

- Sunlight is arguably the most important nutrient for the human body, as avoiding it double one's rate of dying and significantly increases the risk of cancer.
- Skin cancers are by far the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, and to prevent them, the public is constantly told to avoid the sun. However, while the relatively benign skin cancers are caused by sun exposure, the ones responsible for most skin cancer deaths are due to lack of sunlight.
- Discuss the dangers of conventional skin cancer treatments, the most effective ways for treating and preventing skin cancer, and some of the best strategies for having a healthy and nourishing relationship with the sun.

## GRAIN MARKETING INSIGHTS + ASK THE EXPERTS

*Chad Moyer, Farm Director, KTIC*

*Heather Ramsey, ARC Group*

*Lindsay Sabatka, Central Valley Ag*

- Join the Rural Radio Network for an interactive session featuring a panel of local, trusted grain marketing advisors!
- This session will give you valuable insights into current trends and marketing strategies for your farm or ranch from various perspectives in the value chain: farmers, coops, independent marketers and end users.
- The majority of this session will be dedicated to answering your questions, giving you the chance to dive into the grain marketing that matter most to your operation. Bring your questions! We want this discussion to give you tangible information to bring back to your farm or ranch.
- Not familiar with grain marketing or need some refreshers? No problem! List to the Grain IQ Podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or ruralradionetwork.com. Grain IQ is a joint production from the Nebraska Rural Radio Association and the Nebraska Soybean Board.

## TRANSFORMING HOW YOU USE YOUR TIME

*Amanda Fairley, Career Coaching, Team Development, Amanda Fairley LLC*

- Explore valuable time utilizing tools for transforming the way you work.
- Pinpoint tasks and habits that drain your time and energy and develop strategies to minimize or eliminate them.
- Shift your perspective from merely managing time to utilizing it effectively, prioritizing tasks that create the most significant impact.
- Develop a plan that empowers you to use your time intentionally, creating greater satisfaction and productivity in both your personal and professional life.

## ADVANCED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN BOVINE

*Vanessa Peterson, LVT, Nebraska Vet Services*

- What is Embryo Transfer?
- Let's explore the process of in vivo produced conventional flushing and IVF.
- Learn how to select the right recipient cows for your embryo transfer program.





# WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2023 - HILARY MARICLE



## Maricle Family

Cassidy, Carson, Hilary, Brian,  
Austin, Kate, Cody

As we celebrate another year of AgCeptional Women, their families, and support systems in Nebraska, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the power that comes from working together to support others in the Ag industry that we all love. I would assert that none of us are able to join together at this Conference solely because of our own doing. We acknowledge and appreciate the families that are home doing chores and caring for family members, the coworkers and supervisors who see the value in encouraging us to step away for this day to grow in our personal and professional development, the sponsors that make the AgCeptional Conference happen, Northeast Community College, and the AgCeptional Committee who put in countless volunteer hours to develop a program that is sure to be filled with fun, friendship, and learning. I would like to extend a personal thanks for the opportunity to have received the AgCeptional Woman of the Year Award last year. Everyone who worked to make this honor such a surprise, well done. The recognition is appreciated and the involvement of my family makes it even more meaningful. I know that I am only one of thousands of women across our country and around the world who love everything about agriculture and have a personal belief and passion that we have a unique opportunity to share

this passion about the unique honor that it is to raise the safe and healthy food that the world eats!

Opportunities abound in agriculture as I have been blessed to learn. From serving on the AgCeptional Committee, to teaching agriculture and working in administration at Northeast and UNL Extension, through volunteering with 4-H and being an FFA Advisor, to serving in professional positions in agriculture, there are always mentors that are willing to help you grow and learn. For me, being a Farm Mom is one of the greatest opportunities of my life.

A few highlights that I would encourage everyone to think about include: appreciating your family and supporters, taking advantage of opportunities, and working as an agriculture team.

I hope that each of you take a moment to appreciate your family and supporters. From raising the 7th generation of farmers on a 150+ year farm, to being a working Mom off of the farm, my world would come to a screeching halt without my husband Brian, and our parents. None of our success is possible without a strong tribe of family and friends. We depend on each other to get through the day and are inspired by others to become better people. Take a moment to think about who each of us need to say a quick Thank You to and let them know that their success has inspired us to find our own success.

Each of us are taking advantage of an opportunity to be here today. What else are you doing to seek out and take advantage of opportunities in agriculture? Are you encouraging others to seek out opportunities to grow as individuals in agriculture? I have been blessed to go through the LEAD program, serve in leadership roles in Ag organizations, such as Farm Bureau and many other activities, and saying yes to career

opportunities to serve as a County Commissioner and now with the NE Department of Agriculture. The opportunities abound, what are you taking a risk in and saying yes to?

None of us find success on an island. This Conference brings together women from all aspects of agriculture, from the farmer who is running the combine, to the industry sales representative and everyone else in between. Who is on your agriculture team? Think about the time we each put into building the relationships that matter. This might be your seed reps, the family you buy replacement heifers from, your agronomist, lawyer, banker, ag organizational leaders, and a million others. Let's help build each other up and take the time to strengthen these relationships to build our ag teams individually and as an industry.

As we look to the future, my wish is that each of you knows how important you are to your family, friends, and the world of agriculture. It is only through all of us working together that we will be able to continue to tell the story of how we raise our families and their food in the great tradition that is agriculture. The innovation that is agriculture and integration of food and agriculture into one story as we move forward will only make Nebraska and agriculture stronger. Emerging Agriculture is a perfect theme for this year as the future is bright and I have no doubt that even with the high and low cycles of agriculture that we will continue to see opportunity and should encourage our youth to pursue their dreams to be farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness leaders. As agriculture working together, we can continue to grow agricultural opportunities in Nebraska, nationally, and internationally. As George Washington once said, "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of (wo)man."





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- 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.*

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-Susie Harbaugh, Harbaugh Farms, Tuscola, IL

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*Thank You for Attending the 16th Annual AgCeptional Women's Conference!*

*Save the Date for the 17th Annual Conference November 21, 2025*



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UNL does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see [go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination](http://go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination).

# White Session

## **COTTAGE FOOD LAW TRAINING**

*Cindy Brison, Extension Educator, UNL*

At the end of this training participants will be able to:

- Understand the requirements for Cottage Food sales
- Identify foods that can be sold as part of a Cottage Food business
- Understand safe food handling practices
- Implement packaging and labeling requirements for Cottage Foods
- Register with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture

## **NAVIGATING FAMILY DYNAMICS ON THE FARM & RANCH (2 HOUR SESSION WHITE & BLUE)**

*Anastasia Meyer, Agricultural Economics Extension Instructor, UNL*

- Family business meetings
- Managing family members
- Job descriptions
- Navigating transitions

## **REALIZING THE TRANSFORMATIVE CAPACITY OF MINDFUL SELF-COMPASSION**

*Katie Hupp, Ph.D., English Instructor Metropolitan Community College*

- Join this session for an introduction into self-compassion practice including the value of offering the same kindness to ourselves as we extend to others.

## **TABLE SCAPING AND MORE**

*Patti Stuthman, Urban Farm Décor*

- Learn how to put together a beautiful centerpiece for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## **LAKOTA EARTHSONG: CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ETHNOBOTANY**

*Rachel Liester, Red Road Herbs*

- Rachel will present the results of a pilot project funded by a SARE-funded (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education) workshop to educate under served populations (youth, women, and BIPOC community members) of beginning, current and potential farmers in Lakota ethnobotany as a foundation for increasing sustainable agriculture practices.
- Lakota Earthsong: Cultivating Sustainability Through Ethnobotany is a collaborative endeavor with Lakota Youth Development, Lakota tribal elders and two local ethnobotanists/educators.
- This presentation will highlight the planning and development of a weekend immersion workshop and provide a template for developing regional workshops for specific bioregions and indigenous communities.

## **POSTURAL RESTORATION PHYSICAL THERAPY: IT'S NOT ABOUT SITTING UP STRAIGHT BUT HOW TO ADDRESS TENSION AND PAIN NATURALLY**

*Kristi Jagels, PT, PRC, Owner, Taylor Creek Physical Therapy*

- The top pain and symptoms women come in for include: neck and shoulder pain, vertigo or off balance, hip bursitis, low back pain, SI joint pain or sciatica, pelvic floor issues, and headache or migraines.
- We are Northeast Nebraska's only certified Postural Restoration Physical Therapists.

## **ADVANCED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN BOVINE**

*Vanessa Peterson, LVT, Nebraska Vet Services*

- What is Embryo Transfer?
- Let's explore the process of in vivo produced conventional flushing and IVF.
- Learn how to select the right recipient cows for your embryo transfer program.





# Blue Session

## **I'D LIKE TO BUY A BOWEL; HOW I LOST MY COLON BUT FOUND MY TRUE IDENTITY**

*Tina Collison, Group Fitness Director, Norfolk Family YMCA*

- "Authenticity is about the choice to show up & be real. The choice to be honest. The choice to let our true selves be seen." Brene Brown.
- Sharing my medical journey over the last year, will make you laugh, cry, and maybe cringe when you hear about the balloon that was inserted into my butt.
- Sharing my funny, but super crappy, story is part of the process of being authentic. It is about perseverance, prayer, and yes, a lot of poop.

## **STOPPING THE STRESS CYCLE**

*Hannah Guenther, Rural Health Extension Educator, UNL*

- You have to make time to take care of yourself first to be your best in the often-grueling and nonstop grind of daily life.
- You have stress - everyone does.
- This session will help you to become more aware of how it affects you and manage it in a productive way, with plenty of tangible tips and tricks to help you tackle and overcome your individualized stressors.

## **SMALL FIELD - BIG OPPORTUNITY**

*Stephanie Anderson, CEO, Our Lavender Co.*

- Our story, why lavender?
- How do you farm lavender as an alternative crop?
- What do you do with lavender?

## **EMERGING TECHNOLOGY IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

*Joan Ruskamp, CommonGround Nebraska*

- Key questions to ask technology providers before purchasing
- Finding trusted resources for further vetting
- Ideas of new and emerging technologies to consider

## **BRIDGING THE GENERATIONAL GAP: CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE**

*Dr. Tee Bush, Horticulture Instructor, NECC*

*Courtney Nelson, Precision Agriculture Trainer, NECC*

- Join us for a workshop where we delve into the fascinating world of generational dynamics and their impact on leadership in agriculture.
- We'll kick things off by defining the different generations, from Baby Boomers to Gen Z, and explore their unique characteristics and values.
- Discover how these generational differences shape cross-generational communication and gain valuable insights on fostering effective dialogue across age groups. We'll explore the dynamics of farm families, examining how generational perspectives influence family-run agricultural operations.
- Expect lively discussions, practical tips, and a few surprises along the way as we bridge the generational gap and cultivate a thriving, inclusive agricultural community. Whether you're a seasoned farmer, an aspiring leader, or simply curious about the future of agriculture, this workshop is for you!

## **NAVIGATING FAMILY DYNAMICS ON THE FARM & RANCH (2 HOUR SESSION WHITE & BLUE)**

*Anastasia Meyer, Agricultural Economics Extension Instructor, UNL*

- Family business meetings
- Managing family members
- Job descriptions
- Navigating transitions

## **BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS**

*Matt Lance, Lance Honey Farms*

- How to incorporate honeybees into any size ag program
- How to mitigate the physical demands of beekeeping
- Beekeeping products - what to do with them and who wants to buy them.







## 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.

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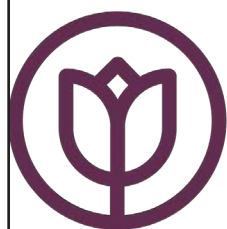
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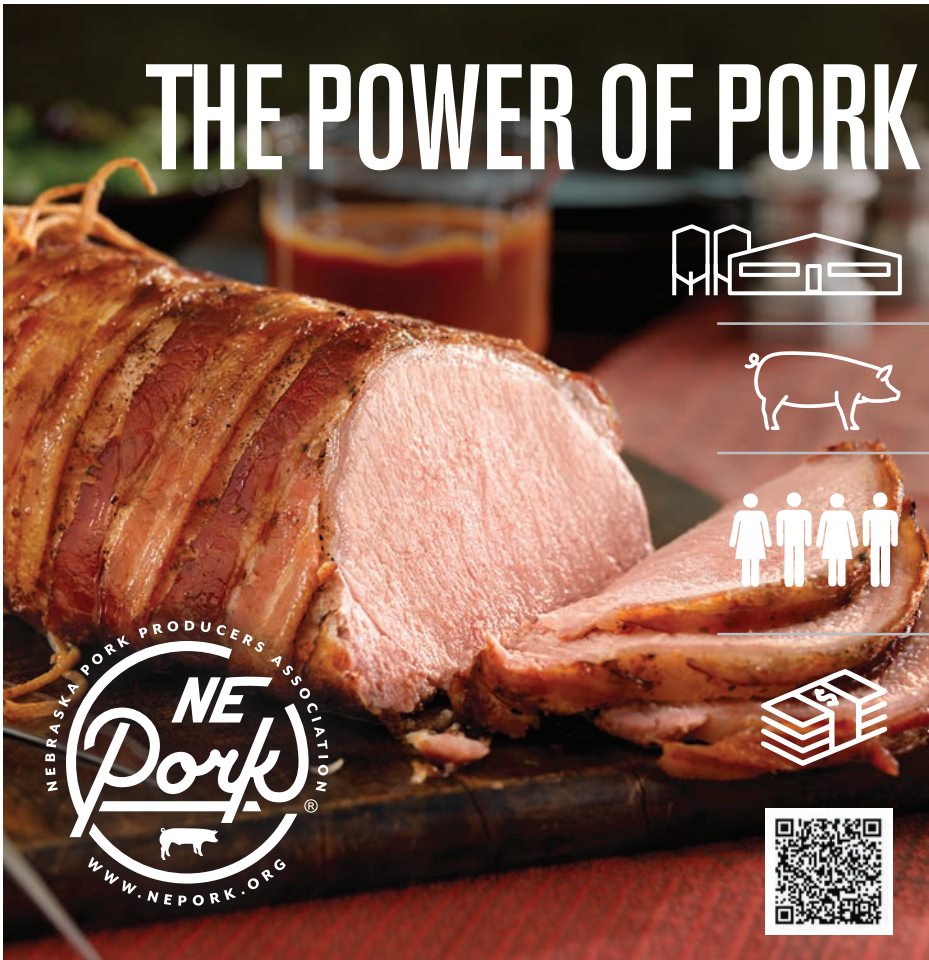


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# PRIORITIZING HEALTH AND WELLNESS ON THE FARM

Nebraska's farmers and ranchers have some of the most important jobs in the world. But as rewarding as those jobs can be, they can also be physically and mentally demanding. In this *article*, we're putting the spotlight on health and wellness. Because when you and your family are thriving, so is your operation.

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## Safeguarding Your Mental Health

From bad weather and drought to shifting commodity prices, farming and ranching can be stressful. Michelle Soll knows as well as anyone: As Farm Project Manager for Legal Aid of Nebraska and a farmer's wife, she's spent over 30 years working with and helping rural residents who've experienced struggles.

"The stress of agriculture is different from a lot of other occupations because there's so much you can't control," Soll said. "You can have a rough season, or if there's a flood or a tornado, you can watch everything you've worked for disappear in a minute."

Add that uncertainty to the challenges of running a business, navigating the economy and possibly supporting a family, and it's no surprise that mental health concerns like depression and anxiety are not uncommon in the farming and ranching community.

Soll wants any rural resident who might be experiencing these or other issues to know one thing: They're not alone. Legal

Aid of Nebraska specializes in helping people overcome the problems and stressors impacting their well-being. Soll leads the Rural Response Hotline, which has been helping farmers and ranchers address their legal, financial and mental health needs since 1984. She fields hundreds of calls per month from people in need of support; that could mean help solving a land dispute or support for dealing with suicidal thoughts.

The Rural Response Hotline's most used service, she says, is its counseling program. It allows people who call to receive up to five free sessions with a licensed mental health therapist who is pre-screened and has knowledge of the agricultural industry.

"Anyone can call the Hotline. We'll visit and talk through your situation, and then go from there and see what options are available, even if they don't want to see a licensed mental health therapist at the start," Soll said. "We understand what farming is like. We know the highs and the lows, the ups and the downs. If you or a loved one need someone to talk to, we'd love to hear from you."



To reach the Rural Response Hotline, call 1-800-464-0258. Your call is free and confidential. To learn more about Legal Aid of Nebraska and its services, visit [legalaidofnebraska.org](https://legalaidofnebraska.org).





Article and tips brought to you by the Nebraska Soybean Board.

## Focusing on Grain Bin Safety

Grain storage is a crucial part of life on the farm. But grain bin accidents are all too common—and they're almost 100% preventable. In 2022 alone, at least 42 grain bin entrapments were reported in Nebraska. Consider the following reminders and tips to keep you and your employees safe while working near stored grain.

### SAFETY REMINDERS

The most common cause of death for grain bin workers is grain engulfment. Total engulfment can occur in 22 seconds, and 92% of people do not survive. By the time grain reaches the knees, it becomes physically impossible for a person to free themselves without assistance.

Flowing grain, grain bridge collapse and vertical grain wall collapse are the most common causes of entrapment. Nearly 80% of engulfment occurs while a bin is being unloaded.

**Flowing grain engulfment:** Often happens when an employee enters the bin while the unloading equipment is left running (for example, to examine a flow interruption). Once the grain begins to flow, the worker is pulled in.

**Grain bridge collapse:** Wet and moldy grain sticks together and can form what seems like a solid surface. When a worker walks on this surface, they break through.

**Vertical grain wall collapse:** Wet grain cakes to the side of the bin. When it is disturbed, it collapses and a worker becomes trapped.

### TIPS FOR PREVENTING GRAIN BIN ACCIDENTS

The only true way to help reduce the risk of grain entrapment on your farm or facility is to strongly discourage people from entering a bin unless it's absolutely necessary. If necessary, follow these steps aimed at grain bin safety.

- 1 Ensure all equipment and power sources for grain handling equipment have been shut off, secured or properly locked.
- 2 The person entering the grain bin must wear a safety harness and lifeline attached and properly secured, or be seated in a boatswain chair—a device that allows a person to suspend from a rope to perform work in high places.
- 3 Wear an appropriate dust mask or respirator when entering grain bins. Grain bins contain substantial amounts of dust and/or mold and present a hazard to workers.
- 4 Never enter a grain bin alone.
- 5 There must be an observer located outside of the grain bin who is able to monitor the person inside the bin.
- 6 Ensure the observer and person in the bin can easily communicate.
- 7 Ensure that rescue resources are available in case the person does become entrapped.

*\*The information in this piece was compiled from a variety of sources and is intended to provide helpful tips only.*





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