



## Nebraska Farmers Union Accomplishments

### 2010 - The Issues:

- ✓ **2009-2010 Legislative Session:** NEFU leaders testified on 28 Bills at their Legislative Hearings, supported 35, and opposed 8. NEFU brings the policy set by members to Lincoln. Win or Lose, we always try our best.
- ✓ **Climate Change:** NEFU Public Affairs Director Graham Christensen gave presentations to students on Ag's Role in Climate Change at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Creighton, & Nebraska Wesleyan. Both President John Hansen and Christensen continue to focus on the importance economically, environmentally, & for national security purposes by lobbying, researching, & educating Nebraskans on the importance of this issue.
- ✓ **Conservation:** NEFU Vice President Roy Stoltenberg served on the Natural Legacy Partnership Team in order to implement environmental & conservation benefits for Nebraska's plant and animal species & the habitats they depend on. NEFU gave many presentations on the soil benefits of carbon sequestration in Nebraska & continues to gather the latest no-till info through events & partnerships with the Natural Resources Districts. NEFU continues to work hard to encourage farmers to use solid conservation techniques & help producers find ways to gain access to financial incentives for implementing these environmentally positive techniques.
- ✓ **Ethanol:** NEFU was active at all levels of the EPA approval process to allow 15% blend for vehicles back to 2001. NEFU also worked to ensure VEETC tax credits for ethanol remained in place for 2011.
- ✓ **Farmers Union Insurance:** NEFU Public Affairs Director Christensen held joint public meetings with several Farmers Union Insurance Agents to educate farmers on both insurances and issues that affect family farmers & ranchers.
- ✓ **Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA):** NEFU supports enforcement of the 1921 Packers & Stockyards Act. Through implementation of new GIPSA language many of the enforcement issues to protect producers from monopolistic livestock concentration issues would be addressed. NEFU has been very active with calls, letters, & basic education to help make sure that finally Packers and Stockyards fulfills its duties in protecting farmers & ranchers.
- ✓ **Health Care:** NEFU was involved in a Nebraska based health care coalition that worked together to help implement long-awaited reform of the health insurance industry in order to insure more small businesses while better protecting farmers & ranchers from losing the family operation due to pre-existing condition scenarios.
- ✓ **Jobs:** NEFU President Hansen attended the Nebraska Forum on Rural Jobs & Small Business Credit put on by USDA Rural Development & Christensen has been actively engaged in a pro-jobs coalition which discusses legislative ideas to bring more jobs to Nebraska.
- ✓ **Keystone XL Pipeline:** At the 2010 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, NEFU members passed policy that opposes the Keystone XL Pipeline unless certain criteria is met to ensure the safety & protection of Nebraska landowners & the state's natural resources. NEFU has been active in working to ensure these concerns are met.
- ✓ **NE Rural Response Hotline:** NEFU President Hansen and Secretary Vern Jantzen served on the Board of Directors for this joint effort with Interchurch Ministries to serve farm & ranch families in their time of crisis. **Call 800-464-0258**
- ✓ **Trichomoniasis**—NEFU President John Hansen serves on this state advisory committee.
- ✓ **Wall Street Reform:** NEFU worked with NFU & a financial reform coalition to help reign in oversight over the Wall Street banks that had been ruthlessly funneling money out of ag commodity markets over the last decade.

### Taking Your Message Across the Country:

- ✓ NEFU President John Hansen, Chairman of the NFU Legislative Committee, spent time in Washington DC & on conference calls to make sure the policy for family farmers & ranchers continues to be adopted.
- ✓ NEFU continued its national leadership for agricultural market reforms, including a ban on packer feeding, mandatory price reporting, captive supply reforms, enforcement of anti-trust laws, contract producers reforms, & mandatory country-of-origin-labeling (COOL).
- ✓ NEFU took 17 students & professors from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Southeast Community College in Beatrice, and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis to "*The College Conference on Cooperatives*" in Minneapolis in collaboration with the National Farmers Union & Cenex Harvest States Foundations.
- ✓ NEFU brought over 15 members to the Department of Justice/USDA workshop on livestock concentration in Fort Collins, CO to weigh in on the problems with livestock concentration & the importance of implementation of the new GIPSA language.

- ✓ Six NEFU members & Farmers Union Agents traveled to Washington DC for the Fall Fly-In to express their concerns. Dairy, Climate Change Legislation, Ethanol, & Wall Street Reform were the primary topics.
- ✓ NEFU participated in the Obama Administration's 'Great Outdoors Initiative' in Grand Island. The listening session gave people the opportunity to weigh in on ways to help create a healthier & more active society.
- ✓ NEFU President Hansen has served as a national trade advisor on the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee for Grains, Feeds, and Oilseeds. Since 1994, he has championed the trade interests of family farmer and ranchers.

## **Wind Energy & Renewable Energy Education:**

- ✓ NEFU once again led the way in renewable energy education by teaming up with other Nebraska organizations to hold over **80** statewide educational programs including informational meetings, presentations, workshops, conferences, & college classroom presentations on Wind Energy related issues in Nebraska.
- ✓ Three NEFU members serve as Co-Chairs of the Nebraska Wind Working Group: NEFU President John Hansen, NEFU District 5 Director Dan McGuire, & NEFU member & former State Senator Cap Dierks.
- ✓ NEFU through its contract with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory & the Department of Energy put on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wind Power Nebraska Conference which featured over 70 speakers & a record 504 attendees!
- ✓ NEFU continues to use these educational opportunities to help teach Nebraskans on local economic opportunity through **ownership & investment in wind energy** & other renewable energy resources.
- ✓ NEFU & the American Corn Growers Foundation worked together to develop the \$80 million 42 MW Crofton Hills Wind Farm, scheduled for 2011 construction that will give ownership to local landowners & Nebraska farmers using the Minnesota Flip financing structure under the C-BED law that will provide real rural economic development!
- ✓ NEFU President Hansen & Public Affairs Director Christensen traveled to Dallas for the AWEA Wind Power 2010 National Conference & the NREL/DOE Wind Powering America Summit to learn about the latest in the wind industry.
- ✓ NEFU continued to help local communities set up zoning regulations for both small & large wind energy projects.
- ✓ NEFU continued to help local communities set up LLC's & Landowner Wind Farm Associations to keep control of wind energy locally.
- ✓ NEFU continued to focus on transmission issues. As demand for renewable energy continues to rise, Nebraska must find ways to export this commodity. Transmission upgrades are necessary & rural Nebraskans will carry this clean energy to its final destination & must be treated fairly in this process.
- ✓ NEFU President Hansen presented at the AWEA National Community Wind Energy Conference in Portland, OR. Hansen focused on farmer ownership of wind energy & policy that can help farmers build locally owned wind farms.
- ✓ Nebraska Wind Working Group & NEFU booths at Conventions, Conferences, & Trade Shows included: Southeast Community College Ag Expo in Beatrice, Nebraska Sustainable Ag Society Annual Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska Wind Supply Chain Workshop in Lincoln, Southeast Nebraska Farm Show in Saline County, Governor's Ag Conference in Kearney, Sandhills Ranch Expo in Bassett, Center For Rural Affairs Renewable Energy Fair in Lyons, Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln, Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island, Wind Power 2010 in Kearney, the NEFU State Convention in Grand Island, & the Nebraska Ag Classic in Kearney.

## **The Staff:**

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