



Pete Ricketts
Governor

State of Nebraska

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GOVERNOR'S AG CONFERENCE EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE NEARS ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

(LINCOLN) – With the 27th annual Governor's Ag Conference rapidly approaching, Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach is reminding anyone interested in attending about the upcoming early registration deadline.

The Conference, scheduled for March 4-5, will be held at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Kearney. Early registration for the Conference ends February 18.

"We are covering a number of issues of significance to Nebraska's agriculture sector," Ibach said. "Topics such as emerging trade markets, connecting urban and rural constituencies through agriculture, and federal policy changes all will impact Nebraska farmers and ranchers in the future."

Joining the current lineup of speakers will be a panel who will discuss the importance of planning for a successful transition of farm and ranch operations. Two of those panelists include Dr. Danny Klinefelter and Eryka Morehead.

Through his work as a professor and Extension economist with Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M University, Dr. Klinefelter specializes in agricultural finance and management development, including farm transitions.

Eryka Morehead serves as a regional financial consultant in Nebraska for Farm Bureau Financial Services. She travels the state working side by side with clients and their advisors to create estate plans.

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“In Nebraska we have more producers older than age 65 than there are younger than 45. While farm transition planning can be a hard discussion for families to have, it is a necessary dialogue,” said Ibach. “Those conversations can include successful transition from one generation to the next or can include transitions to other interested parties. Our panelists will discuss best practices in order to have successful results.

Other speakers at this year’s Conference will include: Jim Wiesemeyer, a Washington, DC-based policy expert with Informa Economics, who will cover federal policy issues impacting agriculture; Mike Dwyer, with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Global Policy Analysis Division, who will provide insight and information on emerging markets of relevance to Nebraska agriculture; and John Heck with The Scoular Company and Randy Thelen with the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, will announce results from a recent Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce study on ways to build value-added agriculture opportunities in Omaha and create an urban-rural synergy. Governor Pete Ricketts will provide keynote remarks during the luncheon on March 5th.

The Conference is open to anyone interested in learning more about Nebraska agriculture. A \$100 registration fee covers participation at the entire Conference. More information, including the schedule and online registration, is available at www.nda.nebraska.gov. Registrations will also be accepted over the phone by calling NDA toll-free at 800-831-0550.

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***MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA** are invited to attend the Conference. To make arrangements, please contact Christin Kamm at (402) 471-6856 or via email at christin.kamm@nebraska.gov. A media box will be available both days. In addition, all speakers will be asked to meet with the media following their presentations. The media room will be located in Stateroom D at the Holiday Inn.