

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Lancaster County Ag Society recognizes county's first 150-year AKSARBEN farm family at annual VIP Award luncheon on first day of this year's Super Fair

**Lincoln, NE**— The Lancaster County Super Fair is in full swing as the annual VIP Luncheon kicked off the 2017 Super Fair. The VIP Luncheon was held Thursday, August 3 at 11:30am in the Nebraska Lottery Shade Tent, located in the heart of the event center grounds.

The VIP Luncheon began with a warm welcoming from Lancaster County Ag Society President, Ron Dowding. Following, special guest Rod Fowler the lead anchor from Channel 8 TV, joined Ron to welcome and thank the volunteer Ag Society Board and Junior Board members for all of their hard work and dedication in hosting the annual Lancaster County Super Fair.

**Ag Society Board:** Ron Dowding (President), Kendra Ronnau (Vice President), Jamie Bauman (Secretary), Karen Rutt (Treasurer), John Cooper, Tom Messick, Ron Suing, Jim Swanson and Jay Wilkinson.

**Junior Board:** Jeana Bulling, Travis Hodtwalker, Jacob Messick, Erica Peterson and Hannah Ronnau.

Throughout the Luncheon, Ag Society board directors presented special recognition and honors to the 2017 recipients including;

### LEC sponsors:

Sponsorship over \$5000	Quality Brands (the Local Budweiser Distributor)
Sponsorship over \$5000	Sam's Club
Sponsorship over \$5000	Sysco
Sponsorship over \$10,000	Gana Trucking
Sponsorship over \$10,000	LinPepCo

**Super Fair sponsors:**

Gate Ticket Sponsor        Casey's General Store, B&R Stores (Russ's & SuperSaver), West Gate Bank  
 Sponsorship over \$5000    Nebraska Lottery, Lancaster County Farm Bureau, Walmart

**Friends of LEC and the Super Fair:**

Mark Hoskins & Lancaster Co. Emergency Management  
 Lt Ken Prey & Lancaster County Corrections  
 County Engineer Pam Dingman  
 Ron Bohaty & Lancaster Co Shop  
 Chief Jeffrey Bliemeister  
 Cpt Anthony Butler  
 Sgt. Todd Beam  
 Reynolds Davis with Lincoln Amateur Radio Club  
 David Young  
 Mark Hoskins & Lancaster Co. Emergency Management  
 Lincoln CVB & Visitor's Promotion Committee  
 Miki Esposito & Public Works / Utilities Team  
 Ron Bohaty & Lancaster County Shop Team  
 CIO Steve Henderson & Information Services Team  
 Ed Packard UNICO Insurance

**Buckle Awards:**

The first ever LEC belt buckles were designed and awarded at this year's VIP luncheon to recognize key partners in winning the bid for the National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR) which is first coming to Lincoln in 2020/21. These gold and silver-plated buckles were custom designed with the Lancaster Event Center and NHSFR logos, below name of the award and the recipient's name just as top winners of rodeo events are often presented buckles they proudly wear.

All Around Award	Lincoln CVB and VPC - Grant and Presentation
Gold Buckle Award	LEC Master Planning Committee: Hampton Enterprises, Erickson Sederstrom, REGA Engineering, & Clark Enersen Partners
Good Neighbor Award	UNL CASNR
Wrangler Award	State of Nebraska & Gov. Ricketts which was accepted by Lt. Gov. Mike Foley in attendance on the Governor's behalf
Top Hand Award	Kimmel Foundation

**Champion Awards:**

Champion of the Year	City of Lincoln
Grand Champion Award	Lancaster County

### **Presentation of Plaques to Retiring Board Directors**

Eric Mitchell

Trudy Pedley

### **Recognition of past Ag Society Hall of Fame Recipients:**

Gary Bergman

Harry Muhlbach

Charlie Willnerd

Lorene Bartos

Dick Confer

Rod Hollman

Chet Hill

Bernie Heier

Alice Doane

Larry Hudkins

### **Announcement of 2017 Ag Society Hall of Fame Recipients:**

Jim Countryman

Ron Snover

**Presentation of AKSARBEN Pioneer Farm Families to the LeRoy Busboom & Janis Walvoord families.** The Knights of AKSARBEN Foundation along with the Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers recognizes farm families with the Pioneer Farm Award each year at county fairs across the state of Nebraska. The program requires that the same family has consecutively owned a particular farm ground for 100 years or more.

**Presentation of AKSARBEN Heritage Farm Award to the Elmer E. States family.** In 2014, the Knights of AKSARBEN and Nebraska Farm Bureau have instituted the Heritage Farm Award, which recognizes Nebraska farm families who have consecutively held ownership of farm ground within the same family for 150 years. This award is special this year tying into the 150th anniversary of the founding of the State of Nebraska we are all celebrating. There are only 15 total families receiving this award this year across the 93 Nebraska counties and we are proud to report this is Lancaster County's first Heritage Farm Award. Like the Pioneer Farm Award, each family will receive a plaque to place in their home and a plaque to install outdoors on their farmstead. Mr. George L. States & Mrs. Eliza States acquired their farm in 1867 with 160 acres, which the States family still retains, and farms today. The farm produces corn, soybeans, and alfalfa and raises cattle. Since then the family has passed the farm down throughout the family having 5 owners to date. In the future the States family farm will be passed to the son's of current owners Mr. Elmer E. States and Ron & Lori States.

## ABOUT THE LANCASTER COUNTY SUPER FAIR

The 2017 Lancaster County Super Fair runs from Thursday, August 3rd through Saturday, August 12th. The Super Fair is an annual showcase of Lancaster County and surrounding community exhibits and offers dozens of free and low cost entertainment for all ages with unique daily themes and activities. Our fair continues to grow with over 9000 entries from over 900 4-H and FFA exhibitors, and more than 500 open-class exhibitors. The Super Fair is one of the largest county fairs in the country, attracting more than 140,000 visitors over 10 days. For a full list of free attractions, ticketed events and more information, visit [SuperFair.org](http://SuperFair.org). The Lancaster County Super Fair is hosted by the Lancaster County Agricultural Society, a non-profit 501(3)(c) and volunteer organization dedicating to celebrating the heritage and future importance of agriculture with youth of all ages in our community. The Super Fair is the annual showcase event among 300+ other events held at the Lancaster Event Center, now in its 16th year, in support of the local community and economy.

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