

University Of Nebraska-Lincoln

Block And Bridle



2020– 2021 Annual

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Block & Bridle

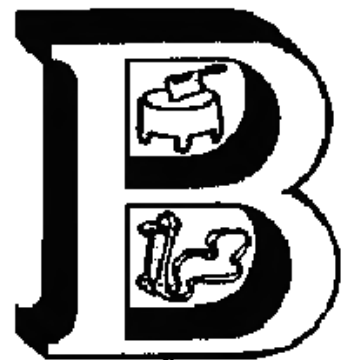
History

The National Block & Bridle Club was formed on December 2nd, 1919 in Chicago, Illinois. Student representatives from four animal husbandry clubs in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri came together and became the charter chapters of the new national organization. The chapters put together a constitution that included the new organization's objectives that have been revised over time to read as follows:

- ◆ To promote a higher scholastic standard and more complete understanding of animal science among student members.
- ◆ To promote animal agriculture through development of a program of activities that will supplement study of the animal sciences in colleges and universities.
- ◆ To enhance professionalism of students who will one day be leaders in the animal agricultural industry.
- ◆ To bring about a closer relationship among all students pursuing some phase of animal agriculture as a profession.

Emblem

The Block and Bridle emblem represents the principles on which the club was built. Character, sincerity, and a moral life are asked of members when they are initiated into the Block and Bridle club. These attributes are depicted in the straight vertical line of the "B." The distinct curves of the "B" are symbolic to social pleasure, mental health, and the determination of Block and Bridle's members. The block and cleaver inside the top loop represents the material aspects of life and our professions. The bridle in the lower loop stands for the behavior of members, the discipline we maintain upon ourselves, the mannerisms and respect we show toward others and the manner in which we treat our livestock.



Animal Science Faculty



From Left to Right, Front Row: Lena Luck, Sheila Purdum, Andrea Watson, Dennis Burson
2nd Row: Kathy Anderson, Lisa Karr, Ron Lewis, Samodha Fernando, Bryan Reiling
3rd Row: Andrea Cupp, Gary Sullivan, Jennifer Wood, Steve Jones, Mary Drewnoski
4th Row: Clint Krehbiel, Matt Spangler, Jim MacDonald, Brett White
5th Row: Jessica Petersen, Dennis Brink, Hiep Vu, Chris Calkins, Tom Burkey

2020-2021 Officer Team



Back Row (left-right): Tyson Olson (Marshall), Kathlyn Hauxwell (Treasurer), Malina Lindstrom (Beef Vice President), Lauren Ahlers (Pork Vice President).

Front Row: Laura Reiling (Secretary), Shaye Koester (President), Abigayle Warm (Historian), Lauren Kaliff (Ambassador).

Block and Bridle Club 2020 - 2021



(l-r): Malina Lindstrom, Kathlyn Hauxwell, Laura Reiling, Abigail Warm, Lauren Ahlers, Shaye Koester, Lauren Kaliff, Tyson Olson, Maddie Sonnenfeld, Marissa Volcek, Abigail Lutjelusche, Unknown, Korrina Niemann, Neleigh Anderson, Dani Kasselder, Sarah Dilley, Liz Hodges, Konnor Nielsen, Alain Furasek, Sydney May, Chaylee Tonniges, Asha Scheideler, Allison Carpenter, Ralston Ripp, Danie Brandl, Sadie Ference, Tyler Rystrom, Alyssa Moser, Sophie Korytowski, Regan Burenheide, Kenzie Deprez, Emily Rempel, McKenna Dornhoff, Allison Everhart, Madi Marker, Kelsey Simpson, Emily Fischer, Brinn Space, Neleigh Gehl, Hailey, Tara Allen, Kylie Dierks, Brooke Ehlers, Maddie Huwalt, Emma Schmidt, Treaven Scheideler, Felicia Knoezer, Evan Blank, Alex Flessner, Heath Keiser, Jason Rainforth, Sawyer Willnett, Kelsey Loseke, Dominic Gittlein, Zach Flessner, Paul Van DeWalle, Nick Weitzenkamp, Grant Jones

December 10, 2021

Dear Block and Bridle Club Members, Alumni, and Friends:

Welcome from the Department of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska! We are very proud of all our students who have participated in Block and Bridle Club activities throughout 2021. Many pandemic-related roadblocks were overcome by this wonderful group of students, and the Block & Bridle Club in Nebraska Animal Science continues to grow and thrive. Block and Bridle has a rich history and strong tradition, and I am proud that the University of Nebraska was one of four charter colleges of the National Block and Bridle Club. The purpose of the club is to promote a higher scholastic standard, increase understanding of animal agriculture, develop our future leaders, and to bring about a closer relationship among students. More than ever before, we are learning that a well-rounded education extends beyond the classroom, and Block and Bridle provides our students with many opportunities for experiential learning. I encourage our students to set high goals and standards, take advantage of open doors, serve those who are underserved, and to always look for opportunities to advocate for animal agriculture. Thank you for modeling resilience and for your commitment to excellence during this unprecedented time!

The Block and Bridle Club has several activities that contribute greatly to Nebraska Animal Science and more broadly to IANR and the Nebraska livestock industries we serve. Club activities in 2021 included the Big Red Beef Show, Annual Steak Fry, Initiates Night, State Fair Beef pit, Kimmel Orchard AppleJack Festival, and the long-standing tradition Little Aksarben Livestock Show. These activities engage our current and future students, clientele, and stakeholders, and provide the public with the opportunity to learn more about Nebraska Animal Science and the livestock industry. The Block and Bridle Club is also honored to be hosting the 101st National Block and Bridle Convention on Nebraska Innovation Campus in spring 2022. Block and Bridle Clubs from across the nation will attend this convention to learn from professionals, network with members from other universities, and tour Nebraska agricultural industries. More than 400

Block and Bridle members and advisors are expected to gather for this event. On behalf of the department, I express my sincere appreciation to Tom Burkey, Brianna Buseman, Kacie McCarthy, and Benny Mote for their leadership and oversight of the club and help with preparing for the 101st National Block and Bridle Convention.

Celebrating the selection of Mr. Jerry Adams as the 2020 Block and Bridle Honoree was delayed to spring of 2021 due to COVID-19. Jerry is from Broken Bow, Nebraska, and a 1971 graduate of UNL with B.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics, Animal Science, and Mathematics. Jerry is currently co-owner of Adams Land & Cattle. His leadership to the beef cattle industry has been exemplary, and Jerry serves on the boards for several organizations important to agriculture and rural community vitality. Mr. Adams has also had extensive involvement with UNL and IANR strategic planning and has been a strong supporter of 4-H, FFA, and the Custer County Foundation. His visionary leadership has had a major impact the beef cattle industry, youth development, and his community. We were privileged to name Jerry as the 2020 Block and Bridle Honoree. We enjoyed an excellent turnout at the 2021 Block and Bridle Honoree Banquet and are looking forward to hosting another spectacular event on April 9, 2022.

In closing, congratulations to our Block and Bridle Club members for a job well done. I wish each of you the very best as you continue your academic and professional careers, pursue your passions, and serve the livestock and allied industries.

Sincerely,

Clinton R. Krehbiel
Marvel L. Baker Head

December 31, 2021

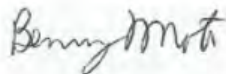
On behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Block and Bridle club, our membership, and my fellow advisors, we welcome you to peruse our annual showcasing our club and our numerous accomplishments in what is definitely classified as “not a normal year.” The officer team and the club as a whole rose to the occasion turning many challenges into opportunities.

One change you will notice is that the club changed from having its officer team lead from an academic year to a calendar year. This transition was in discussions for some time but was given a not so little push to fruition with COVID-19 forcing us to remote learning in the spring of 2020 when we traditionally hold elections. The 2019-2020 officer team graciously extended their leadership for an additional semester allowing for elections to be held with members present. The 2021 officer team faced many restrictions yet had some of the most well attended and interactive meetings in my tenure as a club advisor which is commendable in and of itself regardless of the restrictions on distancing and capacity.

Planning for the 2022 Block and Bridle National Convention went into hyper drive with our club proud to showcase Nebraska Agriculture and offer tremendous personal growth and educational sessions. We were blessed with support from administration allowing the club to host our annual Big Red Beef Show at the State Fair Grounds. This show is one of the premier jackpot shows in the region and has the well earned reputation of being professionally ran by our dedicated students. It was also nice to get back to a sense of normalcy by once again gathering with our friends and neighbors over a great steak at the club’s Steak Fry.

As a proud UNL Block and Bridle club alumni myself, I often think back to a quote that I first heard from our 2001 Block and Bridle honoree Sallie Atkins, “the world is ran by those who show up.” This phrase has remained very vivid in my conscience and this club and officer team has been the epitome of those words in action. The resiliency of this officer team and the club during 2021 was inspiring to witness. I take comfort in knowing that this team and club will keep showing up for animal agriculture and I for one look forward to seeing the success they obtain in their future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Benny Mote
Advisor, UNL Block and Bridle

2021 Block and Bridle President's Report



You Can't Stop Us

The reality is that 2021 looked a lot different for the club but it didn't stop us from growing, succeeding, and serving our members. Club meetings, events, fundraisers and morale carried on and reached more students than I've seen in my years of involvement.

I could really call every event we hosted a success. First of all, hosting an event amidst Covid is a success in itself but our committee chairs and members along with the officer team and members went above and beyond this year. Big Red Beef Show, Banquet, Steak Fry, and Little Aksarben all grew in size and showed not only the rest of campus but also the state of Nebraska the impact UNL's Block & Bridle club creates.

Club meetings occur twice a month and our membership has grown substantially! Members are excited, active and committed. There is always energy in the room that creates hope for the future of agriculture as our members work together and grow as individuals and professionals. We bring in speakers, discuss different species, network, learn new skills and of course enjoy our time together.

National Block & Bridle Convention will take place March 31 – April 2 this year and we are HOSTING! The planning committee is hard at work to put everything together for this event and make it one that attendees will never forget. The Good Life: Standing Out from the Herd will consist of many industry tours across the state of Nebraska, engaging speakers and workshops as well as a whole lot of networking and fun. If you want to contribute to the success of this event please reach out to one of the advisors or members!

To say the least, I am proud to have served this club and even more proud of my fellow officers and members for creating an outstanding year for everyone in 2021. I'd also like to say thank you to our alumni and sponsors for your continuous support. You are still making a difference in all of our lives and helping build the future of agriculture.

Sincerely,
Shaye Koester

2021 UNL BLOCK & BRIDLE TREASURER'S REPORT

I have taken great pride and pleasure in serving as the 2021 UNL Block & Bridle Treasurer. First, I would like to thank our advisors, sponsors, donors, and the UNL Animal Science Department for providing us with countless opportunities to grow and expand our organization. It wouldn't be possible to facilitate bi-monthly meetings, Annual Banquet, Little Aksarben, scholarships, amongst all other events, without their support.



Throughout the year, the UNL Block & Bridle hosts several annual fundraisers that are time-honored traditions and allow us to have one of the biggest university organizations in CASNR.

The first weekend in March is when we hosted the 2021 Big Red Beef Show in Grand Island, Nebraska. At this prospect cattle show, over 270 head of market and breeding animals were sorted by judges Christine Gabel and Willy Weis. Thanks to our wonderful sponsors and exhibitors, top-end livestock were awarded over \$15,000 in payouts and awards and Block & Bridle raised over \$6500 to go back to our organization! Steak Fry is our signature fall fundraiser where this year, members prepared and cooked a delicious and filling steak dinner to students, faculty, and friends. The ticket sales sold from the Steak Fry raised over \$2500 in just one night! We thank all members for their effort and involvement in planning these fundraisers and our community participation.

With these funds, we have been able to offer tremendous opportunities and experiences for our members. At the 2020 UNL Animal Science and Block & Bridle Annual Banquet, we awarded \$2450 in scholarships to outstanding and involved members. In April, we were able to send advisors and select members to the 2021 National Block and Bridle Convention, hosted by Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. This past October, we hosted the Little Aksarben Collegiate Livestock Show, where students from all over the university work with livestock and compete for awards in each species division and the coveted All-Around Showman Buckle. Not to mention, we are extremely excited and busy planning the 2020 National Block & Bridle Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska that will be attended by students from all across the country!

I've enjoyed learning all the mechanics that it requires to fund this organization and am forever grateful for the support along the way. Our advisors, Dr. Kacie McCarthy, Dr. Benny Mote, Dr. Thomas Burkey, and Brianna Buseman have spent countless hours helping ensure that every event and meeting is a success, while constantly pushing us as officers and members to strive for improvement. Andi Hallberg and Julie Keys have also offered amazing assistance to me as I navigated the management of our organization's funds. This year was extremely successful for Block & Bridle, and it couldn't have been possible without our entire network. The knowledge I gained through this position will continue to hold value for years to come, and I am excited to see the future of UNL Block & Bridle

With Gratitude,

Kathlyn Hauxwell

UNL Block and Bridle 2021 Secretary's Report

Allow me to start by saying that I am honored to have served as the 2021 UNL Block and Bridle Club Secretary. This position has given me many amazing opportunities, that I couldn't be more thankful for. As the secretary I serve as the primary communication between the officer team and the club members. This allowed me to meet a ton of new people, promote the club, and form valuable connections.



I think everybody will admit that 2021 was a year unlike any other, and I cannot be prouder of my fellow officers for the work we have all put in to make this year a success. However, none of this would have been possible without the guidance from our Block and Bridle advisors: Brianna Buseman, Dr. Kacie McCarthy, and Dr. Benny Mote.

The spring semester started off in full swing with the Big Red Beef Show, and the Animal Science Alumni and Friends/Block and Bridle Banquet. To assist with planning the 2022 National Block and Bridle Convention, we sent five Block and Bridle members to Iowa State for the 2021 National Block and Bridle Convention. The fall semester was packed to the brim with club meetings twice a month, Little Aksarben, Steak Fry, volunteering at Kimmel Orchard and the Nebraska Cattlemen's Beef Pit, and hosting initiate's week.

Serving as club Secretary has been an incredible experience and I cannot wait to see where the club and its members go in the future!

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Reiling 2021 UNL Block and Bridle Club

UNL Block and Bridle 2021 Historian's Report

Though 2021 was unique and eventful to say the least. In spite of this having the opportunity to serve as this club's Historian has been a great honor. I would like to thank my fellow officers for the time and effort put in to brainstorm with our creativity and leadership skills to remain an active and prospering club in this unruly time. Block and Bridle's foundation builds off of our strong advisory board consisting of: Dr. Kacie McCarthy, Brianna Buseman, Dr. Benny Mote. Additionally I would like to thank Andi Hallberg for all the behind the scenes work she does. My job as Historian wouldn't have been successful without your assistance and guidance.



Going through old annuals showed me that this club truly is built on tradition, impact in the livestock industry, and opportunities to interact and explore the agricultural industry. It was, by the determined efforts and creativity of our entire leadership team, that we were allowed to continue these events and traditions Block and Bridle was built on.

My favorite part of the job has been interacting and meeting people both verbally and through the lens. I personally believe I had the best job of photographer. You have the ability to jump perspectives, capture little memories and nuances here and there that others can't, at every event and meeting. My personal favorite event to help with was Little Aksarben stock show and Big Red Beef Show, this is due to my roots in showing livestock. There are many skills I gained in this role, as well as my previous years experiences, that I can take with me down the road in my career.

Best regards,

Abigayle Warm

Senior Spotlight

Lindsey Peters

Hometown: Scribner, NE

Graduation Date: December 18, 2021

Major: Animal Science with an option of Food and Production Management

Future Plans: Continuing my education to obtain my Master's degree in Animal Science specializing in Animal Ethology at Iowa State University starting January 1, 2022.



What advice would you give to a younger member?

Advice I would give to a younger member would be to not be afraid to volunteer and get yourself out there. There are several opportunities that this club has and you can take advantage of every one if you take it. Go outside of your comfort zone and get involved, it will only help you in the grand scheme of things.

Montana Markus

Hometown: Loup City, NE

Graduation Date: May 2021

Major: Animal Science

Future Plans: Work for an embryologist and continue to build my cattle herd.

Favorite activity of the club: My favorite activity we hosted was "Big Red Beef Show"

What advice would you give to a younger member?

Do and be involved in everything you possibly can, even if you don't think you will like it or you have never done it before it is more than worth the experience and connections you will make.

Big Red Beef Show



The 2021 Big Red Beef Show took place March 5-6, 2021. The barns opened on Friday, March 5th at 9:00 am so that people could move their equipment and cattle in through the morning. Check in took place in the afternoon where 250 head of cattle were entered to exhibit. In the evening, the showmanship competition was held for each age division. Showmanship was judged by Emily and Aksel Wiseman. Aksel is currently a



graduate student at UNL and an avid follower of the cattle industry. On Saturday, March 6th the breeding and market beef shows began at 8 am. The Big Red Beef Show is a two-ring event, which gives each calf two opportunities to be judged. This portion of our show also had two great judges. In Ring A we had Christine Gabel and in Ring B was Willie Weis. There was plenty of competitive cattle to sort through and many that found success in one or both rings. The Big Red Beef Show went on to earn the Block and Bridle Club \$6,500. Of course, the show could not go on without the help of club members and volunteers. Aside from show tasks we had to work with some COVID-19 obstacles as well. The entire UNL group was required to wear masks, the arena had a pre-approved flow of traffic, and sanitizing stations and wipes were widely used. Nonetheless, 2021 proved to still be a profitable year for the show and the Block and Bridle Club.

-Kelsey Loeske, Big Red Beef Show Chair



Big Red Beef Show in Past Years ...

This show is just another example of the traditions the Block and Bridle Club has upheld over the years. The Big Red Beef Show has been put on by UNL Block and Bridle since 1976.



CUTLINE #8

The Reserve Champion in the Hereford and Polled Hereford Breeding Heifer division of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Block and Bridle Big Red Beef Progress Show at the State Fairgrounds 4-H Complex April 12, is shown by Mark Van DeWalle, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Van DeWalle, Cedar Rapids. Presenting the trophy is the Nebraska Hereford Queen, Louise Beyea, Norden (left), Polled Hereford Queen Carol Priefert, Fairmont, and Block and Bridle Queen Willow Krause, Alliance (right). (Please credit Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources photo)

4/16/80



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Thank you all for your support!

Kimmel Orchard

Each year members of Block and Bridle have the opportunity to volunteer at Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard near Nebraska City. The Orchard is dedicated to agricultural education research, historic preservation, and wholesome family experiences. Our members spent time helping with everything from selling kettle corn, stocking shelves, and working the cash register to running the wine tasting bar, packaging donuts, and my personal favorite of baking cookies! We appreciate Kimmel for giving us this unique experience and for their generous donation that allows us to continue to give our Block & Bridle members a quality experience during their college careers!

-Best Regards,

Lauren Kaliff, B&B Ambassador



Initiates Night

Initiates night on October 5th was a fun opportunity for the new members in Block & Bridle to connect with one another! How it works is each member gets a paddle that they can decorate however they wish and then afterwards get it signed by 5-10 faculty members!



The signatures allow the initiates to interact with the professors in the Animal Science department and it's a great networking opportunity! This year we had a great turnout with a lot of eager members that came in with a plan for their design. We had everything from livestock, to family brands, and even a corn cob that impressed the whole crowd! We had over 30 members decorate paddles this year and we can't wait to continue this fun tradition next year!!



-Lauren Kaliff, B&B Ambassador

National Convention

The National Block and Bridle Convention themed “A Heritage in the Heartland” was hosted by Iowa State University in the spring of 2021. The 100th National Block and Bridle Convention consisted of guest speakers, workshops, and industry tours centered around Iowa’s agriculture. My favorite speaker from the convention was Jim Olson, who was a former CIA agent. He discussed his service, as well as his wife’s service, to our country; it was truly inspiring to learn about the process of becoming an agent and hear about some of his missions in Russia. Additionally, I attended Dr. Marcus Kehrl’s workshop about the role of biosecurity pertaining to global food security. Diseases such as the African Swine Flu and Hand, Foot, and Mouth disease were hot topics discussed; as well as, preventative measures for these diseases, and how to manage them should they become an issue in the United States. Finally, I attended the tour titled “Swimming Into The Century” which consisted of visiting a Prairie Moon Winery, Midland Seafood, a land-based seafood company that uses innovative Algae-Based™ RAS, and Nichols Cryo Genetics’ world-class facility specializing in semen and embryo collection and transportation services.



Animal Science Banquet

The annual Block and Bridle Banquet was hosted on Saturday April 10th at Robbers Cave in Lincoln, NE in conjunction with the Animal Science awards celebration. This year a team of students, advisors, staff, and faculty collaborated to recognize and honor students from the Student Ambassador team, Block and Bridle, the Horse Judging team, the Meats Judging team, and the Livestock Judging team. The Animal Science department also awarded major influencers in the agricultural world, some of which started their careers at the



University of Nebraska-Lincoln's animal science department.



Students were able to share these honorable moments with their friends, families, and advisors; among those attendees were Chancellor Green, Dr. Clint Krehbiel and Dr. Bryan Reiling. Several awards

were handed out from each club. These included members of the year, top judges, and honored volunteers throughout each club. The highlight of the night, as always, was the annual cake auction. The cake auction generates funds many of the annual scholarships given by the Block and Bridle club. In addition to the cake auction we did a live auction including items donated from each club. We'd like to extend a huge thank you out to our sponsors from this auction. Without you it would it would not be possible to provide and participate in the activities we do every year.



Sincerely,

Montana Markus, Banquet Chair

Nebraska Cattleman's Beef Pit

On August 28, 2021, nine Block and Bridle members and 1 advisor volunteered to help the Nebraska Cattlemen crew work a shift at their annual Beef Pit during the state fair. The Beef Pit is always our first event of the fall semester and never fails to be a fun experience. New members are introduced to returning members while others reconnect with one another and network with Nebraska Cattlemen volunteers and Beef Pit customers.

The Beef Pit serves as a unique food stand at the state fair. The beef pit allows attendees to come inside and cool down while they enjoy a delicious beef meal. Whether they choose a prime rib sandwich, BBQ sandwich or a hotdog; customers gain an amazing experience of Nebraska beef paired with some delicious sides too!

Working a shift at the beef pit is six hours of hard work, hustle, smiles and laughter. Block and Bridle members had a hand in all aspects of the shift. Members filled plates, took orders, visited with customers, cleared tables and cleaned up after the event. Amidst the business of rush hours and hungry fairgoers who crave a nice meal, the kitchen was full of laughter.

Our club enjoys helping each year and we're abundantly grateful for our friendship with the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association. We plan to continue doing this each year and hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Shaye Koester



Block & Bridle's Annual Steak Fry 2021

On behalf of the Block & Bridle Club, I would personally like to thank everyone that played a role in making the 2021 'Steak Fry' a success. This year the event was held on October 1st from 5:00-7:00pm at the Animal Science Complex. Through the generous support of our sponsors, faculty/staff, and student help we were able to raise \$3,500+ and feed a little over 300 people a steak dinner. Throughout the planning process we were blessed with incredible support. Our sponsors, Cargill, The Nebraska Beef Council, and Dickie Consulting, LLC, played a very impactful role in our ability to have such a great event. Cargill donated all the steaks served at our event again this year, something they have graciously done for the last 10 years. The Nebraska Beef Council donated "Good Life. Great Steaks." t-shirts co-branded with our



event logo for those helping at the event to wear to stand out from those joining us for a steak dinner. Dickie Consulting, LLC, donated money to go towards paying

the grocery bill for the sides served alongside the steak. All these contributions are greatly appreciated! With over 60 people volunteering their time to ensure the event ran smoothly, I was overwhelmed with happiness. This event would not have been successful without everyone else's willingness to support the Block & Bridle club. This year we were able to incorporate a couple of additional features to the event. The first being online pre-sale tickets, which went over very well. We sold 265 tickets before the event even began! Secondly, the fundraising chair and I collaborated on a raffle to take place during the event. We were able to select three different individuals to take home either a collect of UNL Animal Science goodies, a breakfast from Kimmel Orchard, or a gift card to HyVee. Lastly, we decorated the tables to create a more formal feel while our guests joined us for the evening. The opportunity to organize this event was a huge honor for me and a great last event to plan before I graduate from UNL in December. I truly enjoyed the chance to share my



passion for the beef industry with the club, the university, and the community. I am forever grateful for all the incredible experiences I have gained throughout my time at UNL. I look forward to giving back and supporting the club in new ways in the coming years. I want to give a huge shout out to our advising team, Brianna Buseman, Andi Halberg, Benny Mote, and Kacie McCarthy for all their help and support while planning this event, but especially for ensuring my ideas came alive. The Block & Bridle club is truly blessed to have such innovative, intelligent, and driven individuals leading the club. Again, thank you to everyone that played a role in making sure the 2021 Steak Fry was successful again this year. I look forward to attending next year!

Best Regards,

Felicia Knoerzer- 2021 Steak Fry Chair



Little Aksarben Stock Show

Cattle, sheep, hogs, and goats. The R.B. Warren Arena was flooded with competition and laughter as the 93rd Annual Little Aksarben Showmanship competition was held on October 29th, 2021. With 20 showmen competing in four different species and two experience levels, the heat rose in the UNL Animal Science Complex as these students showcased their livestock skills.

Students signed up to compete a month in advance and were given about two and a half weeks to build bonds with their livestock and get them ready to show. Hogs were trained, cattle clipped, and goats and sheep reminded of how to brace. The livestock was provided by the University and most likely was purchased from past county fairs, the State Fair, or the Aksarben Stock Show. Some animals were originally owned by the University as well.

Students with minimal time of showing stock, competed in the novice division. Those with many times in the ring, under their belt, competed for the experienced titles. As the last 18 months have not been “normal,” it was important this year to create excitement and anticipation for the event once again. A new aspect to the evening was a “Celebrity Showmanship.” UNL Faculty and the Block and Bridle president were challenged with the task of showing a steer and entertaining our crowd. This was a popular class and thoroughly enjoyed by all!



We had two judges, Cathy Hervert and Jefferson Keller. Cathy Hervert of Ravenna, Nebraska is a UNL Alum and won Little Aksarben her freshman year, as an Animal Science undergraduate. Jefferson Keller was our second judge from Saint Paul, Nebraska. He is also an UNL Alum and was very successful on the livestock judging team. The event would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors: Aurora Cooperative, Final Drive Show Supply, Gottsch Livestock Feeders, Maykin Bacon Show Pigs and Schmidt Girl's Farm. Thank you to all those who signed up to show, showed up to help make it a smooth and enjoyable evening, and to all spectators that were just as excited about the event as us! It is motivating to see the interest of Little Aksarben continue to grow and the support of the event spread across campus. There is no better time to share education on livestock handling, showing, and why it happens.

It truly takes a team to make anything possible and successful, we are so grateful for all those who joined in on the 93rd Annual Little Aksarben!

- Ralston Ripp



November Beef Meeting

In November members had the opportunity to meet with UNL Alum Cooper Grabenstien of the New Stockyard Group. He described how his job entails taking the new technology system of digital herd identification to farmers and ranchers around the Midwest to ensure future market access. To utilize the program the producer takes facial photos of the animal and the system logs all other inputted information with it from calving to market. The group is working towards creating a program that not only incorporates traceability, but levels up producer to consumer transparency. Members got to ask any questions they had and got a sense of what the program would look like if incorporated into their own operation's.



UNL Meats Judging Team

In the spring of 2021, the UNL Meat Judging team consisted of Harlee Braukmuller, Bryar Gerlach, Izzy McGibbon, Ben Smith and Laura Reiling. The group was coached by Brianna Buseman with graduate student, Joe Sonderman, serving as the assistant. The students traveled to the Mountain West Contest in Laramie, WY, the Lone Star Classic in Ennis, TX, and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Houston, TX. Laura Reiling placed 7th in class placings at both the Lone Star Classic and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo contests.



Harlee Braukmuller and Bryar Gerlach were awarded the Eric Peterson Memorial award at the spring banquet for their time spent on the team. These students showed incredible commitment to the UNL Meat Judging Team and stuck with the team throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and through their final semester at the university.

In the fall, the students did not travel for contests; however, they had multiple opportunities to tour production facilities in Nebraska. Current judging students, students in the Principles of Meat Evaluation, Grading and Judging course and meat science graduate students were able to tour



Livestock Judging Team

The livestock judging team has always been a tradition here at the University of Nebraska, dating all the way back to the early 1900's. Many of you may know R.B. Warren, the legendary livestock judging coach that set the standard for success for competitive teams within the department. I was hired here in the summer of 2019 with the goal of bringing this program back to excellence. We kept things going in the right direction with our team in 2021. Members of this year's team include Tatum Brunkow, Carissa Cline, Payton Flower, Neleigh Gehl, Brady Gittlein, Kathlyn Hauxwell, Malina Lindstrom, Ralston Ripp, Hannah Robertson, and Payden Woodruff.

The year was highlighted by multiple top 5 finishes as a team, top ten performances at all majors, and a variety of individual awards as well. The American Royal was a huge accomplishment for us as the team finished 6th Overall and Malina Lindstrom was named 4th High Individual Overall. We finished the Season in Louisville, KY at the National Championship, where we finished 7th as a team. We had multiple individual accolades that included Ralston Ripp, Malina Lindstrom, and Brady Gittlein. I am truly excited about the upcoming 2022 team and look forward to continuing the building process!



Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars

The Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars (NBIS) program is a unique minor available to all UNL Students. This program is part of a greater effort to improve beef education and research in the state of Nebraska. This NBIS program allows undergraduate students in any major at UNL the opportunity to network with beef industry leaders, attend key industry meetings, tour cutting edge enterprises, and expose students to complex industry problems and allows them to work together to develop plausible solutions. One important focus of the program is to help students develop critical thinking skills and communication skills through a specialized suite of courses centered on industry issues and beef centric policy that enhances the fundamental beef and economic courses required to educate the future leaders of the beef Industry.

A few highlights from this year

This Spring, the sophomore class worked in groups to tour local Beef Industry sectors including Feedlot, Commercial and Seedstock Cow-Calf Operations, Packing or Meats focus, Allied Industry, and Support Agencies.

This Fall, senior students in the Summit course planned and moved their event off campus and hosted roughly 100 attendees in Kearney, Nebraska on November 18, 2021. The agenda focused on current topics around Regenerative Ranch, Adding Value to Nebraska Beef, Maximizing Traceability, Beef in the International Marketplace, and Research at UNL focused on Green House Gas Emissions.

Overall, the year has been filled with a number of beef focused events and the program is looking forward to hosting and attending more events in the coming year.



Beef Merchandising Class

The UNL Bull Sale, held the second Saturday in April, merchandises approximately 45 bulls to commercial producers. In addition to these 45, more bulls are sold to other UNL herds. This event, made possible by the teaching herd resources at ENREEC, supplies reliable genetic resources to commercial producers in Nebraska and surrounding states, provides a unique educational experience for students, and is an opportunity to educate producers about breeding practices and tools for genetic improvement. The Beef Cattle Merchandising class is responsible for all facets of the sale including advertising, preparation of the bulls, putting together the sale catalog and conducting the sale. The class also benefits from multiple invited speakers during the semester representing seedstock producers and allied industry representatives who share their knowledge and experiences with the students.



Nebraska Chapter
of the
NATIONAL BLOCK AND BRIDLE CLUB

EXECUTIVE  COUNCIL

BE IT KNOWN: That, the Executive Council of the Block and Bridle Club by virtue of power invested in them by a National Convention upon application of the undersigned has granted this charter unto them and their successors constituting and establishing them as the

Nebraska
Chapter of the National Block and Bridle Club at
University of Nebraska
and is hereby invested with all the powers and privileges of a collegiate club duly and lawfully established.

FURTHERMORE, it is agreed by the undersigned petitioners and their successors that the regulations to be hereafter made by them shall be in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of this Club and members of said

Nebraska
Chapter by the acceptance of this Charter pledge themselves to honor and keep inviolate at all times the good name of the National Block and Bridle Club, in default of which this Charter may be revoked, suspended or taken away by the Executive Council.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF WE, the National President and National Secretary have subscribed our names and affixed the seal of the Club.

GRANTED: *December 2, 1919*

J. W. Morris National President
J. R. Mills National Secretary

R. E. Fortna Chapter President
Ed. Robinson Chapter Secretary



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