



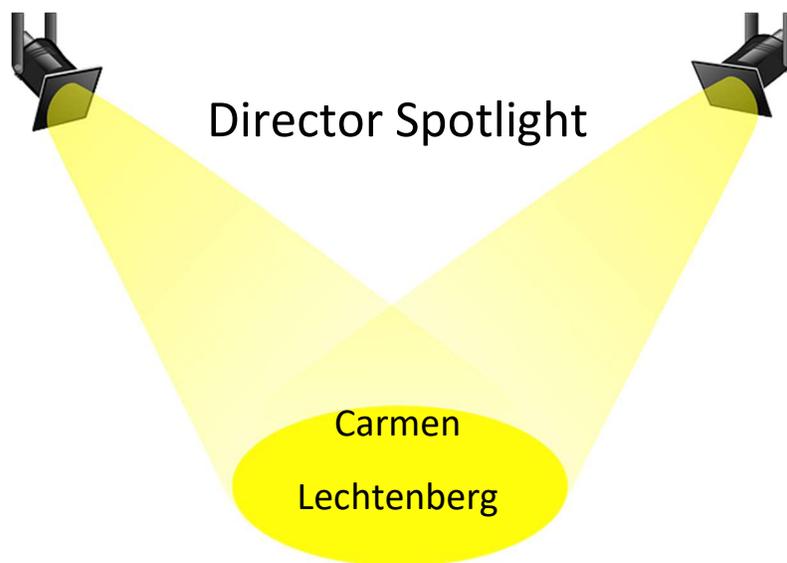
April 2021 Newsletter

NACEB ADVOCATING FOR EXTENSION

Written by: Jo Bek

NACEB has a very simple mission; to support Nebraska Extension. Seems simple, however, as with most things, on closer examination the word support can take on a myriad of meanings. It is very much like the words, sustainable and nurture. Ask ten people the meaning of these words and you will receive a different definition from each. To some people, support is when the directors load up once a year and go to the legislature to meet with senators of the unicameral. For others, it is going to the local meetings in the different zones to report and listen to the members of the local boards. All members of local boards are members of NACEB and are welcome at our summer and annual meetings. In order to support Nebraska Extension we need to hear about all the work being done across the state by Extension. We need to tell the stories to anyone that will listen. Nebraska Extension is the face of the University of Nebraska that people statewide see at work in their communities. NACEB members tell the story of how Extension takes the research done at the University of Nebraska and become the conduits of that information to the entire state. Nebraska

Extension shows how that information effects the bottom line of those that put the information to use as well as how other information impacts the health and welfare of the state's citizens. NACEB tells the story of how Nebraska Extension personnel wear many hats. They do their jobs as well as take on any emergency thrown at them at a moment's notice. Flexibility is their middle name, whether they are involved in a devastating disease and are still able to carry on programing, or they come to the aid of their stakeholders after a devastating natural disaster. NACEB supports Nebraska Extension at every turn and strives to be on the front lines when they need us to spread the word or lend a hand.



Carmen Lechtenberg has been part of NACEB as a director since 2019. She represents Zone 2, which consists of Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Garfield, Grant, Holt, Hooker, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, Thomas and Wheeler counties.

Carmen grew up on a diversified farm in southcentral Nebraska. She earned her Bachelor of Science from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln majoring in Animal Science and her Masters of Science from Kansas State University in Animal Science - Ruminant Nutrition.

Carmen lives in O'Neill with her husband, Bill. They have 3 children, Parker (18), Claire (14), and Danica (3). Carmen is an Agriculture and Commercial Lender for The Tri-County Bank. When she is not at work, she is chasing her kids at school, FFA or 4-H events or helping her husband on their farm/ranch in Boyd County. She is involved in her community serving in several organizations and in her church.

My Extension Story:

I am a product of Extension. When I was really young, my mom was the Club Leader for our local 4-H club so I joined 4-H when I was 7 years old. Later in grade school, my mom became the Extension Educator for the University of Nebraska in Thayer & Nuckolls county. I was a 4-H member until I turned 19 years old. I participated in numerous local, district and state events. After I graduated from graduate school, I became an Ag & Natural Resource Extension Educator for Kansas State University, a position I held for 14 years.

I worked in a small two agent county so I shared the 4-H & Youth Development and the Economic & Community Development responsibilities with the FCS Educator. After moving to Holt county in 2012, I became involved in the local extension program first as a 4-H parent then being elected to the Holt County 4-H Council in 2013. I served on the council from 2013-2020 as president. I have served on the Holt County Extension Board beginning in 2013 and was elected Treasurer in 2020, a position I still hold. In 2019 I was asked to fill a director vacancy for our area for NACEB and was named as a Zone 2 Director. I joke that I have ended up the President or Chairman of every committee and board I have ever served on because of 4-H. I cannot image where I would be without my experiences with 4-H or Extension. The connections I have made and the life skills I developed have carried on with me as I have gone on to other career opportunities. Now as a 4-H parent, I get to see my kids learn by doing so they can become well rounded members or society. I truly believe 4-H and Extension make the best better!