



# Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation

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## **Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation Urges Nebraskans to Utilize Nebraska Rural Response Hotline Assistance Program**

Lincoln, NE. The Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation wants rural Nebraskans impacted by floods and blizzards to know that \$500 grants are still available from the Nebraska Rural Response Hotline. The grants are funded by Farm Aid, NeFU Foundation, and other donors. For grant applications, call the Hotline at: (800) 464-0258.

If you or someone you know got hurt by the flood or blizzard and could use a little help, call the Nebraska Rural Response Hotline. Their experienced and professional staff will help callers find the kind of assistance they need. The \$500 grants are simple to apply for. The application can be filled out over the phone, and the assistance is provided in confidence.

“First established in 1984, the Hotline is the longest continuously operating farm crisis hotline in the nation. It is staffed by Legal Aid of Nebraska, administered by Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, and partners with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to provide a wide range of services from mental health counseling, bookkeeping, financial counseling, legal services, and food assistance. The Council that oversees the Hotline is made up of members of the farm and faith community,” said John Hansen, who serves as NeFU Foundation Secretary and also secretary for the Rural Response Council.

“Our NeFU Foundation continues to receive donations from around the nation intended to help Nebraska farm and ranch families hurt by the late blizzard and unprecedented spring flooding. For example, the Midwest Insurance Agency agents stepped up and donated \$10,000 in supplies and cash. The Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska donated \$2,500 to help families in their time of need. We received over \$2,000 from a church in Alabama, and \$900 from a tattoo parlor in Omaha. The diversity of the response is truly amazing. We absorb the administrative costs so that every dollar received is used to support flood and blizzard relief efforts. For folks wanting to support our relief efforts, they can visit our website at [www.nebraskafarmersunion.org](http://www.nebraskafarmersunion.org) or send checks to NeFU Foundation at 1305 Plum Street, Lincoln, NE 68502. We are asking folks to help spread the word about this program for farmers and ranchers who got clobbered by either the late blizzard or the floods,” Hansen said.

Hansen noted that in addition to the assistance available at the Hotline, the Nebraska Farm Bureau has established a Disaster Relief Fund to help support cleanup and rebuilding efforts and is available at: [www.nefb.org/disaster](http://www.nefb.org/disaster). The Nebraska Cattlemen assistance program just closed applications. All three programs do not require memberships in their organization to receive assistance. “Everyone is pitching in and helping everyone, which is the way it should be in a time of natural disaster. For people wanting the most recent updates on rural flood relief services, programs, and activities call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Hotline at 800-831-0550 or go to their website at: <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/>” Hansen concluded.

*The Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation (NeFU Foundation) is a 501 C-3 tax deductible non-profit organization that provides a wide range of educational services to family farmers, ranchers, and their rural communities. NeFU Foundation partners with Nebraska Farmers Union who is a general farm organization with 3,500 farm and ranch family members dedicated to protecting and enhancing the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers and ranchers, and their rural communities. Since 1913, Nebraska Farmers Union has helped organize over 445 cooperatives.*

***Fighting for Nebraska’s family farmers and ranchers since 1913.***