

The Voice

of the Nebraska Grocery Industry
Spring 2024



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Mike Herrod
Distinguished Service Award



Kevin Lambert - LinPepCo Pepsi
Vendor of the Year



Bob & Sherry Maline
Lifetime Achievement Award

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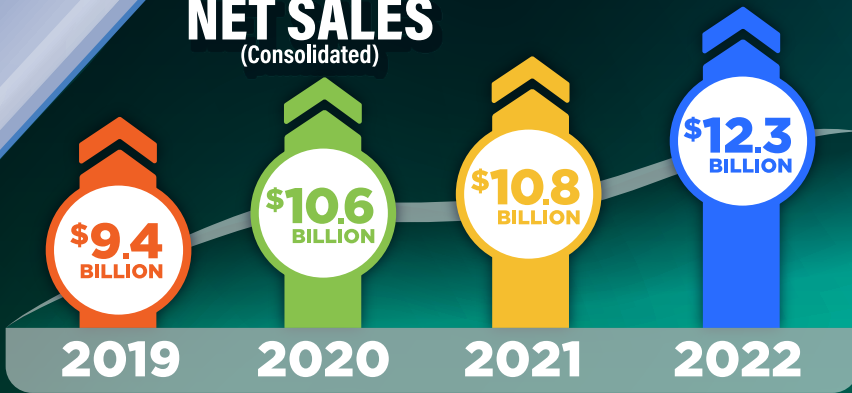
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Nebraska - 2024 Calendar of Events

June 18, 2024	NGIA "SAND BAGGERS" Golf Outing, Iron Horse, Ashland
August 22, 2024	.....	Grocery Industry Summit (Kearney)
October 8, 2024	.....	Hackers & Snackers Annual Golf Extravaganza (Tiburon, Omaha)
October 8, 2024	.....	Best Bagger Competition (Tiburon, Omaha)

National - 2024 Calendar of Events

May 21-22, 2024	.....	Fly-In for Fair Competition, Washington, D.C.
June 2-6, 2024	.....	Executive Leadership Development Program, Cornell University
June 17-19, 2024	.....	NGA Store Operations Summit: Focus on Fresh, New Orleans, LA
Sept 8-12, 2024	.....	FMI Annual Business Conference (ABC), Arlington, TX
Oct. 27-30, 2024	.....	Executive Conference and Public Policy Summit, Washington, D.C.
Feb. 23-25, 2025	.....	NGA Show, Caesars Forum Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV

(If you would like to have your event listed on the calendar, please contact the NGIA office)

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Update from the Executive Director



Ansley Fellers
Executive Director

Welcome to the latest edition of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association's quarterly magazine. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for your engagement and support throughout the season. Your active participation and advocacy are crucial to our success in shaping a business-friendly environment throughout Nebraska.

As we look ahead, NGIA remains committed to representing your interests and working tirelessly to advance the grocery industry. We continue to see opportunities to support you in navigating the evolving landscape of things like supply chains, technology, customer support, and community service.

For that reason, in January, NGIA Launched the Nebraska Grocery Industry Foundation, a nonprofit started by NGIA to run the scholarship program, distribute microloans to independent operators, and incentivize investment in existing food deserts or areas at risk of becoming food deserts. Visit negroceryfoundation.org to donate and learn more.

In February, we hosted our annual Grocers Day at the Capitol, then honored several industry notables at our Legislative Dinner (P. 14-15), with remarks from U.S. Congressman Adrian Smith and an appearance from Governor Pillen. The same month, we joined the Governor in the Warner Chamber of the State Capitol, where he signed a proclamation declaring February 22, 2024, "Supermarket Employee Day."

The 2024 legislative session ended mid-April, with LB 388, a bill which would have increased certain sales taxes in an effort to "front load" property tax relief, failed to garner enough support to cross the finish line.

NGIA spearheaded opposition against LB 388, in part because the bill would have taxed advertising and marketing, which businesses regularly use and need, and included the perennial "candy and soda" tax, which are arbitrarily defined as products which contain no flour, milk, or less than fifty percent juice. This means retailers would actually have to pay comply with the law, and your customers would not pay sales tax on Kit Kat®, Twix®, and Twizzlers®, but they would pay sales tax on trail mix, breath mints, honey roasted peanuts, various cereals and protein bites, as well as sports drinks like Gatorade® and many new, popular energy drinks.

For the many businesses who could not afford to eat these costs, such taxes would be passed on to Nebraska's consumers, hurting families and our workforce.

Additionally, the final text of LB 388, a \$230 million tax shift, was released only an hour before state senators voted on the bill. Without time for input from the business community, we were concerned many changes and provisions in this bill would have far-reaching impacts not thoroughly discussed.

After LB 388 stalled, Governor Pillen announced the same day he'll be bringing Senators back for work this summer, calling for a special session to "deal with" property taxes. So work on tax reform isn't over. See P. 20 for details about the misnamed "candy and soda" tax and stay tuned for details about the summer session.

We often get calls about age verification employee training. Please visit nebgrocery.com/regulatory-issues for reminders about age-sensitive products and resources such as a downloadable age-of-purchase sign. And feel free to reach out to NGIA for information about additional training material from We Card.

We will continue doing our best to keep you well-informed, and give you the tools you need to continue doing business. If we can do anything to be helpful, moving forward, please don't hesitate to reach out: afellers@nebgrocery.com or 308-631-2165.

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Terrell McKinney
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Fremont
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Christy Armendariz
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Robert Dover
Norfolk
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Mike Moser
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Jana Hughes
Seward
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Carolyn Bosn
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George Dungan
Lincoln
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Anna Wishart
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Jane Raybould
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Eliot Bostar
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Myron Dom
Adams
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Kathleen Kauth
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Tom Brandt
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Steve Halloran
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Loren Lippincott
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Raymond Aguilar
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Rita Sanders
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Brian Hardin
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49

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REYNOLDS 
A BETTER TOMORROW



Ansley Fellers, NGIA Executive Director, and Rich Otto, NGIA Communications Director, pose with Herbie Husker and Lil' Red in the Capitol Rotunda.

NGIA 2024 Legislative Summary

In 2024, NGIA:

Defeated LB 388, a bill which included the misnamed “candy and soda tax,” a vape and tobacco tax increase, as well as a new tax on lottery tickets, certain services, and advertising. Instead of reducing property taxes, the bill would have increased the overall burden for most taxpayers.

Secured a State Unemployment Tax holiday through 2029, meaning employers will not have to pay to fund the state portion of our unemployment fund. NGIA will continue working to make this reprieve permanent.

Opposed a retail gift card mandate which would have mandated retailers install signage alerting consumers to gift card scams or face hefty fines.

Stopped (once again) a whopping 20% tax increase on mechanical amusement devices.

Proposed commonsense changes to a bill related to stocking “co-branded” alcohol products.

Helped fuel retailers access federal dollars for electrical charging stations, with language to thwart unfair and undue competition from public power.

Established dollars for a nonrefundable state income tax credit equal to 50% of the value of food donated, up to \$2,500, by grocers, restaurants, and ag producers to food banks, pantries, or rescues.

Supported regulatory relief for retail pharmacies, including allowing for remote prescription verification and lowering the minimum age for pharmacy internships from 19 to 17 years-old.

Fought a state-level “Restaurant Meals Program,” which would have allowed certain individuals to use SNAP benefits at restaurants.

NGIA continues to:

- Monitor implementation of data privacy rules to ensure industry compliance and fight undue liability.
- Support the Pillen Administration in its implementation of Summer EBT.
- Work to establish a youth wage and cap the minimum wage CPI increase.
- Seek funding for independent grocers and food security initiatives.
- Support federal passage of the Credit Card Competition Act to reduce swipe fees.
- Fight food choice restrictions in SNAP and fees for EBT card processing in the Farm Bill.
- Address problems with EPA’s reckless phasedown of HFCs (refrigerants).
- Fight unlawful trade practices, primarily from dollar stores.
- Work with our federal delegation on transparency in the WIC program, specifically infant formula.
- Tackle ongoing workforce and supply chain challenges.

Scan below for the full list of bills NGIA worked in 2024



NGIA Day at the Capitol



Senator Bostar with representatives from Hy-Vee, Fareway, Reynolds American, and Ideal Market in Superior, NE.

NGIA was pleased to have several grocery and associate members in Lincoln for the 2024 Grocers Day at the Capitol. Attendees (pictured) arrived Tuesday for a short briefing at the capitol, and spent the remainder of the morning in the Capitol Rotunda, lobbying senators. After a number of great conversations, members enjoyed a casual networking lunch followed by a meeting with the Speaker of the Legislature. We adjourned early-afternoon so folks could choose between legislative hearings and seeing the sights and sounds of Lincoln before walking over to the NGIA Legislative Dinner, which was held at the Scottish Rite Center, just a short walk from the Capitol.



Day at the Capitol attendees hear from Speaker of the Legislature, John Arch, of Papillion-La Vista

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NGIA Legislative Dinner Another Enjoyable Evening

Across the street from the Capitol, members of the food industry filled the Scottish Rite Ballroom to enjoy an evening of networking and chat with the Governor, State Senators, and other state leaders. Attendees heard from Third District Congressman Adrian Smith and enjoyed a keynote presentation from HuskerOnline publisher, Sean Callahan. We so appreciate the donations to and purchases from our Scholarship Silent Auction, which continues to be a key fundraising tool for the NGIA scholarship program. The scholarship program is now being run through the Nebraska Grocery Industry Foundation. To learn more or donate, visit negroceryfoundation.org. And see details about our 2024 industry award winners on page 17!







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NGIA Presents Awards to Industry Leaders During NGIA Legislative Dinner

Mike Herrod Distinguished Service Award



Mike started his career in grocery in 1981, working at Sixth Street Foods in North Platte as a carryout for his father, the Store Manager. In 2002, Mike joined Affiliated Foods Midwest as a Retailer Counselor and since 2016, Mike has been a District Manager for AWG, working out of the Nebraska Division in Norfolk.

Mike joined the NGIA Board of Directors in 2020 and has worn a variety of hats since. He's an advocate for NGIA, encouraging independent grocers to join NGIA as he traverses the state.

Mike and his wife of 32 years, Brenda, enjoy weightlifting, hiking, biking and snow skiing. They have two grown children who both live in Boulder, CO, and two White English labs.

Kevin Lambert, LinPepCo Vendor of the Year



Kevin has been in the Direct-Store-Delivery beverage business for 25 years, starting his career with Pepsi Beverages Company out of Greeley, CO in 1999. He spent three years in frontline selling and delivery until transferring to Omaha Pepsi in 2002. Kevin accepted the role as GM of the Omaha facility in early 2017.

Since 2018, Kevin has been serving as General Manager of the Lincoln and Hastings, Nebraska, franchises for LinPepCo. Kevin joined the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association Board of Directors in 2022. In 2023, LinPepCo sponsored the NGIA Best Bagger competition, helping secure items needed for the event and send our Best Bagger winner to the NGA show in Las Vegas. Kevin and his wife, Corianne, have been married for 23 years. They have 2 children, Alexis and Max still in the Omaha metro area.

Bob and Sherry Maline Lifetime Achievement Award



Bob and Sherry Maline bought the Sutherland Grocery Store in 1990, which they owned and operated as Maline's Super Foods until their retirement in 2023. Always striving to be service-oriented, Bob and Sherry served numerous roles in the community of Sutherland and Bob served several years on the NGIA Board of Directors.



Alex Byrnes, Hy-vee; Sean Juett, Cubby's; Pat Raybould, B&R; Governor Jil Pillen; Phil Savidge, Hy-Vee; Abby Washburn, Hy-Vee.

Supermarket Employee Day



Use this link to view full size document:

<https://nebgrocery.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/supermarket-employee-day-proclamation.pdf>

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SOME OF OUR GREAT PARTNERS



Governor Pillen announced Nebraska would be opting into Summer EBT

In February, Governor Pillen announced Nebraska would be opting into Summer EBT, and \$18 million SNAP-like program for families with kids eligible for free and reduced school lunch, to help buy food in summer months. The Governor announced the program will be implemented the “Nebraska Way,” and committed to working with advocates, retailers, and families to ensure access to affordable, nutritious food.

NGIA committed to helping the Administration roll out the program efficiently and effectively, and commissioned the creation of the following image which will be disbursed to retailers and stakeholders across the state. Stay up-to-date about the program and issuance dates by making sure NGIA updates are hitting your inbox.

If you aren’t currently receiving updates, check your junk folder and email afellers@nebgrocery for more information.

SUMMER EBT

FOUR FOR

\$40

1. Burgers with tomato, onion skillet sweet potatoes
2. Beef tacos with salsa, shredded cheddar, black beans
3. Pork loin with brown rice and steamed broccoli
4. Chicken drumsticks with steam-in-bag potatoes & green beans

GRAINS

- Hamburger buns (8 count)
- Tortillas
- BBQ sauce
- Brown rice
- Black beans (2 cans)
- Salsa

DAIRY

- Cheddar Cheese Block
- Cheese Singles

MEATS

- 2 lbs ground beef
- Pork tenderloin
- Chicken drumsticks

PRODUCE

- Tomatoes
- Onion
- Mustard
- Ketchup
- Steam bag broccoli
- Sweet potatoes frozen
- Steam bag potatoes and green beans

Summer EBT provides \$40/month for SNAP-eligible children when schools are closed for the summer.

Visit dohs.ne.gov/SummerEBT for more information, and find approved retailers at fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator.



Nebraska Grocery Industry Foundation

Scan Here for more recipes from the University of Nebraska Extension Food Website










www.olddutchfoods.com



What is a “Candy” and “Pop” Tax Anyway?

Leading up to a vote on LB 388, the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association (NGIA) sponsored newspaper and digital ads against the bill. Ads which properly and accurately stated the bill represented the largest middle-class tax increases in state history. It also happened to be the second largest overall tax increase in state history.

In addition to taxing “candy” and “soda,” the bill would have taxed veterinary services, dry cleaning services, lottery tickets (which would actually be a “fee,” given laws governing lottery sales), CBD/hemp, and even digital advertising, meaning a tax on paid ads on Facebook, Google, or radio or television.

The NGIA-sponsored ads listed products to be taxed under LB 388, including sports drinks and groceries. This word choice was publicly and aggressively criticized, calling the notion that this is a “food” or “grocery” tax a “flat lie.”

NGIA for years has told proponents of the “candy and soda/pop” tax that, while the terminology is convenient politically, it distorts reality. Like most things, it’s not that simple. What this actually (and literally) is, is a tax on products that contain sugar, sugar alternatives, or honey, with no flour, and beverages that contain less than 50% fruit or vegetable juice.

Since November 2002, Nebraska has been a Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA) state. Fourteen years ago, the SSUTA committee was tasked with developing definitions for “candy” and “soda,” and providing a way for states to distinguish between a cookie and candy, and “flour” is where they landed.

In adopting this definition, the SSUTA commented that states will have to “come to terms with the fact that certain products such as “Kit Kat®, Twix®, Reese’s Sticks®, and some licorice would no longer be candy...” because these products ingredient labels contained a specific listing for flour.

On the other hand, states need to be aware many “granola bars, Slim-Fast® Bars and similar breakfast bars and nutrition bars would be considered candy” when the product ingredient labeling did not contain a specific listing for flour because they are sold in the form of bars and do not require refrigeration.

Beverages are in a similar position: Gatorade, Powerade, drinks with much less sugar or sugar alternatives, and many popular energy drinks will be taxed because they do not contain more than 50% juice or milk.

In January, at the start of the 2024 legislative session, the NGIA Board of Directors had very clear instructions: watch tax reform proposals closely and stay open-minded. If we can we give a little, along with others, to lessen the overall tax burden, we should do it. We want tax policy that makes sense for businesses, our employees, and our customers.

Taxable as “Candy” and “Soda”



But LB 388 was not a net win. Not only did it pick a very small number of winners and losers, it created a more complicated tax structure and was almost certainly a net tax increase for the 60% of property owners who currently claim the income tax credit for property taxes paid. *

There is no one in the state who knows or understands the will of Nebraskans better than the Governor, and there is no doubt this is a personal issue for many. But NGIA and others had been telling policymakers for months they were oversimplifying the effects of LB 388, and that the bill amounted to a net tax increase on many businesses and consumers.

Grocers, veterinarians, dry cleaners, and businesses who advertise are not “special interests.” These are business owners, individuals, families, and, most importantly, Nebraskans.

Nebraska property taxes are certainly high. Whether or not everyone agrees a tax “shift” is necessary, most agree an overall tax increase is unwise and entirely avoidable.

**Proponents of LB 388 acknowledge “front-loading” the 1107 property tax credit, which is what they did under LB 388, was a wash in terms of property tax relief for the 60% of Nebraskans currently claiming the credit. Assuming that 60% utilizes any of the goods or services subject to the new tax, they will only see a tax increase.*

2024 Nebraska Grocery Industry Association Legislative Report

ALCOHOL

LB836	Lowe	Support	Amended into LB 685, Signed Into Law
2,500 sq ft stores or more must not display co-branded products adjacent to non- alcoholic version; smaller than 2,500 feet either must not display adjacent to non- alcoholic product or equip product with signage indicating the product has alcohol.			
LB875	Hughes	Oppose	Did Not Pass
Prohibit sales of alcohol or beer for consumption off the premises at less than cost.			

BUSINESS PRACTICES

LB466	DeBoer	Support	Did Not Pass
Change provisions relating to service of garnishment summons, continuing liens, and notices upon corporate garnishees.			
LB954	Kauth	Oppose	Did Not Pass
Adopt the Biometric Autonomy Liberty Law.			
LB955	Bostar	Oppose	Did Not Pass
Require businesses provide notice on payment screen or signage to purchasers of gift certificates and gift cards; enforced by the AG, fines up to \$1,000.			
LB1294	Bostar	Watch	Amended into LB 1074, Signed Into Law
Adopt the Data Privacy Act, change provisions relating to certain certificates and information relating to vital records, and provide for certain records from which to be exempt.			
LB1332	Dungan	Oppose	Did Not Pass
Applies new requirements and restrictions on prepaid cards, including prohibiting fees and mandating clear expiration dates.			
LB1382	Hansen	Support	Did Not Pass
Prohibit paying petition circulators based on the number of signatures and prohibit certain contributions to ballot question committees.			

ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT/TRANSPORTATION

LB900	Brandt	Support	Did Not Pass
Allow straight trucks of 45 ft, vs. 40 ft, to conform Nebraska to surrounding states.			
LB1002	Brandt	Support	Amended into LB937, Signed Into Law
Increase the biodiesel tax credit limit from \$1 million to \$5 million starting in 2025.			
LB1095		Oppose	Signed Into Law
Updates provisions of the E-15 Access Standard Act to clarify 80% substantial construction provision is cumulative and that only the biodiesel portion of biodiesel/standard diesel sale qualifies for the biodiesel tax credit.			
LB1218	Bostar	Support	Amended into LB1317, Signed Into Law
Proposes a 3 cent per kWh excise tax on electric energy used by commercial electric vehicle charging stations and exempt such charging stations from sales and use taxes if subject to the excise tax. Importantly provides restrictions on public power installing fast charging stations.			
LB1413	Arch	Oppose	Signed Into Law
Transfer and provide for the transfer of funds.			

FOOD

LB88	Hunt	Watch	Did Not Pass
Restores SNAP eligibility for persons with felony convictions under certain circumstances.			

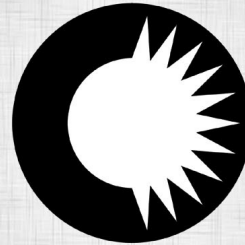
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The Nebraska Grocery Industry Association
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NGIA General Membership Meeting & “Sand Baggers” Golf Outing

Tuesday June 18, 2024 at Iron Horse Golf Club

The Iron Horse Golf Club is located in Ashland, Nebraska, just minutes from Omaha and Lincoln. This unique golf course is built around an old rock quarry and features incredible views and exceptional course conditions.

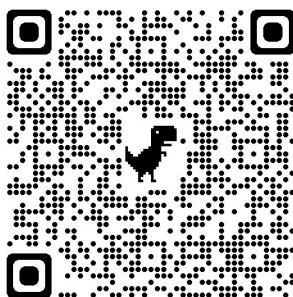
- 10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start**
- Boxed Lunch on the Course**
- 3:45 p.m. Meal at Clubhouse**
- 4:00 p.m. Membership Meeting**
- 4:15 p.m. Pin Prizes, and Raffle Prizes Awarded**

This event is a **10:00 a.m.** shotgun start, scramble format. Two flights will be established after scores are turned in. Each team sets their own foursome; those players without a full group will be combined with others. Flag and flight winner prizes include \$50 gift cards to the pro shop. Fees include the driving range, green fees, cart fees, 2 beverage tickets, a boxed lunch, and dinner.

This tournament is included in the annual sponsorship package.

Sponsorships are still available:

- Pre-event publicity, 1 entry fee, hole signage, and recognition in *The Voice* - \$500
- Raffle prizes & goodie bag donations (at least 144 of each item) are needed and appreciated!



Scan Code to Register Now!

For more information, please reach out to 402-423-5533 or rich@nebgrocery.com.

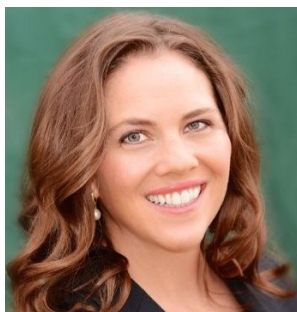


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Sponsor Spotlight



1. Can you give readers a little history of your brand/organization?

Originating from family-owned enterprises dating back to 1888, operating across California, Texas, Florida, Georgia, and beyond, RNDC has undergone a transformative journey through expansions, acquisitions, and mergers. Today, RNDC stands as the second-largest distributor of Wine & Spirits in the United States. Our expansive portfolio offers a rich variety of Wine, Spirits, Beer, and Non-Alcoholic beverages, reaching across 40 states. With annual revenues approaching 12 billion dollars, we are a dominant force in the industry.

2. What do you find most valuable about being part of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association?

The pandemic unequivocally highlighted the pivotal role of the grocery industry. Despite often flying under the radar, the industry bears an unparalleled responsibility, making discussions about protection and legislation crucial. I feel privileged to contribute to an organization that holds such significance in our society.

3. What sets your product apart?

As a family-owned company, our core values prioritize putting Family first. We uphold the well-being of our associates, ensuring their needs are met during both prosperous and challenging times.

4. Where can customers find your products?

Pick up a bottle anywhere and you may be trying my product.

5. What excites you most about the industry this year?

The dynamics of this industry are constantly evolving, driven by trends, shifts in demand, product constraints, and more. Its perpetual motion keeps us on our toes and presents ongoing opportunities for improvement and growth.

6. Who should grocers contact if they're interested in carrying your product?

WWW.RNDC-USA.COM

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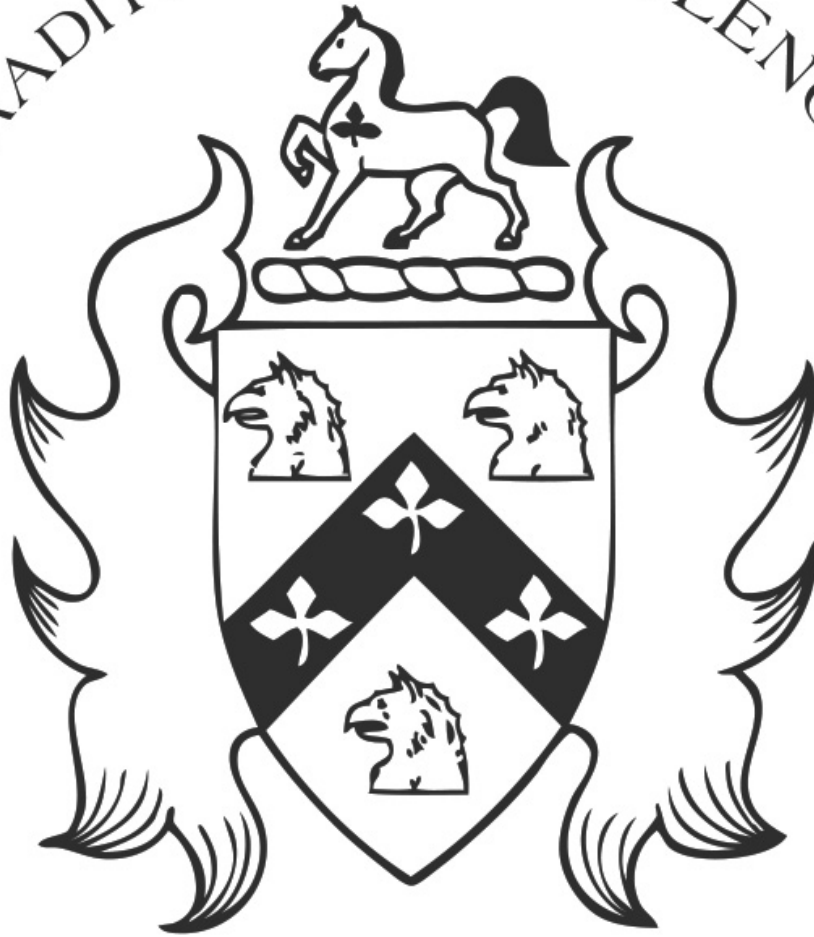


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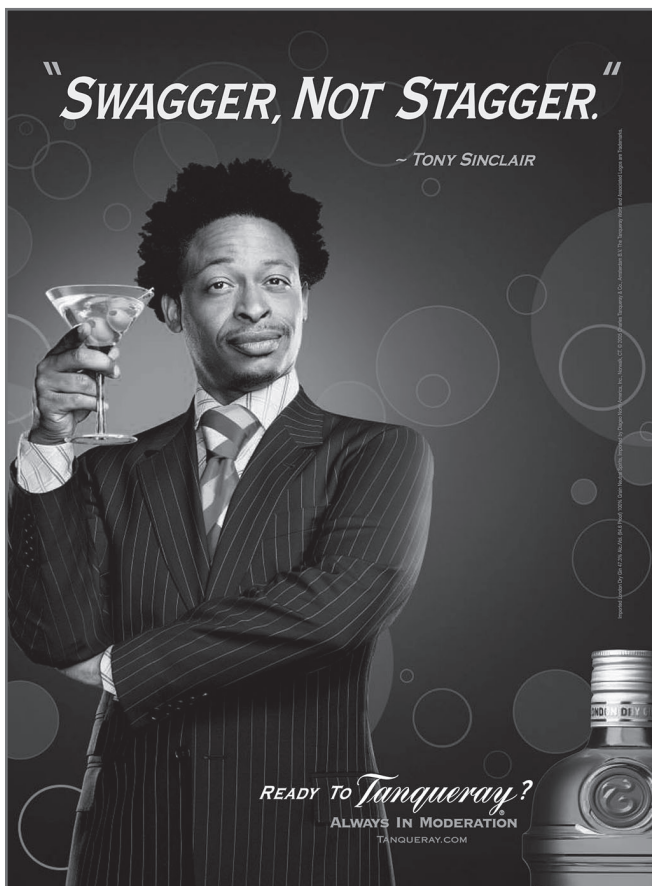
Nolan McGregor with Fareway Stores represented Nebraska at the National Grocers Association Best Bagger event at the NGA Show in Las Vegas.

Nolan has been with Fareway since October 2016 and is currently full-time at the Papillion location. He graduated from Western Tech Community College and would like to become a Fareway Grocery Manager in the future. In his spare time, Nolan enjoys cooking, golfing, and spending time with friends and family.

Thanks to Nolan and his family for making the trek to Las Vegas and representing Nebraska so well. And thank you to LinPepCo for their state sponsorship as well as PepsiCo for their continued support of the national event.



Best Bagger 2024 with Nolan McGregor with Fareway Stores



workstream

Applicants

Applications - 37 Interviews - 25 Offers and Hires - 19

Name	Applied On	Stage	Position	Score	Hiring	Onboarding
Erin Stevens	Applied via poster					
Josh Parr	Excited! Thanks for the time!					
Kimberly Rodgers	Perfect! See you soon!					
Mitch Jenkins	I can do this any time if that...					
Erin Stevens						
John Martin Smith						
Blake Perez						

Company documents

- Employee agreement Mitch completed Mar 6 View
- Safety manual Mitch completed Mar 8 View
- Manager agreement Assigned to you Sign

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FOOD CONT.

LB321	Brandt	Oppose	Signed Into Law
Would broaden the type of food allowed to be sold directly to consumers without a food permit, with different rules for products that are time/temperature controlled for safety. The bill also limits any misdemeanor fine based on a violation of the cottage food requirements to \$75.			
LB1116	Ibach	Support	Did Not Pass
Adopts a \$2m loan program for food retailers to expand food access in in low- and moderate-income census tracts, with priority given to projects with a 50/50 match in underserved communities (USDA LILA data).			
LB262	Neutral	Agriculture	Signed Into Law
Committee package to update Pure Food Act, establish liability for restaurant food inside retail establishment, ease requirements to onboard inspectors.			
LB952	Day	Support	Governor Pillen Opted In
Require the Department of Health and Human Services to implement the federal Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (Summer EBT).			

LABOR

LB15	Briese	Support	Did Not Pass
An amendment negotiated with Sen. Kauth would establish a youth wage of \$12 per hour for 14-15 year olds, and a separate 3-month training wage for 16-17 year old workers of \$12 per hour until 2027, when the training wage would be 75% of the minimum wage.			
LB327	Raybould	Support	Did Not Pass
Caps the minimum wage CPI increase at the lesser of the midwest CPI or 1.5%; includes a cmte amendment to incorporate youth/training wage.			
LB906	Riepe	Oppose	Signed Into Law
Increases penalties for child labor law violations and broadens the Department of Labor's ability to investigate; NGIA asked Sen. Hansen to clarify for the record his bill is aimed at truly bad actors, not legit businesses already hesitant to hire young workers.			
LB1017	Bosn	Support	Signed Into Law
Change the schedule of compensation for certain injuries resulting in disability under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act.			

PHARMACY

LB204	Riepe	Cond. Oppose	Signed Into Law
Requires DHHS to establish a fee-for-service pharmacy dispensing fee reimbursement of \$10.38 per prescription until a cost of dispensing survey is completed; Committee amendment limits increase to independent pharmacies owning six or less pharmacies.			
LB595	Hardin	Support	Did Not Pass
Change supervision requirements under the Pharmacy Practice Act to allow a pharmacist to supervise up to 4 technicians instead of 3.			
LB778	Bostar	Support	Did Not Pass
Would take steps to limit actions for pharmacy benefit managers. Multiple items addressed including Spread pricing, maximum allowable cost prices, pharmacy reimbursement minimums, and other items.			
LB1171	Hardin	Support	Amended into LB1215, Signed Into Law
Allows for remote prescription verification in specific instances; still requires final physical verification at dispensing.			
LB1181	Ballard	Internal Watch	Amended into LB1215, Signed Into Law
Several changes including: conform phrm inventory requirements to federal (every two years vs one); authorize changes on Schedule II controlled subst prescriptions after prescriber consult; mandate single PQAR for all pharms; min age for pharmacy interns from 19 to 17.			
LB1232	Wayne	Support	Did Not Pass
Prohibits a PBM from reimbursing any pharmacist or pharmacy for any drug at a rate lower than the cost required to dispense the drug.			

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LOTTERY/KENO

LB493 Dungan Support Did Not Pass
Remove the prohibition that a lottery ticket cannot be sold through a vending or dispensing device under the State Lottery Act.

TAX

LB58 Cavanaugh, J. Watch Amended to LB937, Signed Into Law
Eliminates the sales tax on diapers.

LB79 Erdman Oppose Did Not Pass
Adopt the Nebraska EPIC Option Consumption Tax Act.

LB1040 Support Signed Into Law
Provides \$1m in total funds for credits for food donations passed last year.

LB1248 Kauth Oppose Did Not Pass
Eliminate the sales and use exemption on candy, soda.

LB1310 Albrecht Oppose Did Not Pass
Establishes digital advertising tax; eliminates sales tax exemption for lottery and cash devices.

LB1315 Linehan Watch Did Not Pass
Increase the state sales tax rate by 1 cent to 6.5 cents.

LB1349 Murman Watch Did Not Pass
Eliminate the sales tax exemption on drycleaning and clothing repair.

LB1354 Albrecht Oppose Did Not Pass
Adopt the Advertising Services Tax Act for companies with advertising revenue of \$1b or more.

LB388 Linehan Oppose Did Not Pass
Amended to include \$730 million in tax increases including Candy, Soda, lottery, digital ads, and a 1 cent sales tax increase trigger.

LB685 Briese Support Signed Into Law
AM 2329 keeps the mechanical amusement device tax act under DOR, establishes an annual licensing fee of \$100 per device, up to \$5k, requires background checks for licensees, and levies an annual 5% tax on net operating revenue of each device.

LB937 Bostar Watch Signed Into Law
Adopt the Caregiver Tax Credit Act; Amended to include elimination of sales tax on diapers on July 1, 2027 and provides up to \$1m for food donations per LB 1040.

LB1059 Support Did Not Pass
Change provisions relating to income taxes imposed on pass-through entities and notices of deficiency.

LB1067 Support Did Not Pass
Eliminate the inheritance tax, adopt the State Prisoner Reimbursement Act, and change the authorized uses of certain county funds.

LB1317 Linehan Watch Signed Into Law
Amended to include a variety of Revenue bills including an amended version of LB 1218, which NGIA supported, to provide for access to federal funds for retailers to install electric vehicle charging stations.

LB1393 Hansen Support Signed Into Law
Change provisions of the Nebraska Student-Athlete NIL; Amended to include state unemployment tax "holiday."

TOBACCO

LB1299 Hughes Oppose Did No Pass
Change the tax on sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems.

LB1204 Cavanaugh, J. Support Signed Into Law
Committee priority bill amended to define a rickhouse, make changes to small lotteries/raffle, provide for anonymity of lottery winners, and includes LB 1296, establishing a vape directory.

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Grocers Respond to Tornado Outbreak on Arbor Day Gov. Pillen Emergency Declaration & Federal Disaster Declaration



Hy-Vee & SpartanNash were among several retailers bringing supplies to those affected by devastating storms that hit eastern Nebraska.

Hy-Vee sent semis filled with bottled water and snacks, and also used its specially-equipped trailers to serve

hot meals to those displaced by the storm and to responders. Additionally, Hy-Vee activated a donation campaign in local stores to support people in the affected communities and provided hot meals to volunteers during cleanup.

SpartanNash rallied its crews to stock and send out four and a half truckloads of supplies, including bottled water, snacks and cleaning products, to those affected by the storms.

Casey's General Stores launched a round up campaign supporting the American Red Cross. Shoppers were able

to round up their purchase at Casey's convenience stores across Nebraska.

Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen issued an emergency declaration for three counties in response to the severe weather. At the request of Governor Jim Pillen, President Joe Biden granted a major disaster declaration for the state, triggering the release of federal funds to help Nebraska residents and communities recover from severe storms & tornadoes that occurred April 25-27.

"This approval will allow Nebraskans affected by the Arbor Day tornadoes to get back on their feet as quickly as possible," said Gov. Pillen. "We know that the road to recovery will be a long one, but this declaration will help expedite processes and funding provided through FEMA, to help people take care of both immediate and long-term needs."





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