

THE VOICE

OF THE NEBRASKA GROCERY INDUSTRY



LEFT TO RIGHT: NGIA MEMBERS ATTEND GROCERS DAY AT THE CAPITOL; SEN. JANE RAYBOULD OF LINCOLN RECEIVED THE NGA SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD; U.S. SEN. PETE RICKETTS TOURS THE WEST OMAHA FAREWAY.

PMI | U.S.

WE'RE DELIVERING A SMOKE-FREE FUTURE, FASTER.

At PMI U.S., our mission is clear: to reduce smoking by replacing cigarettes with better, smoke-free alternatives for adult smokers—such as nicotine pouches and heated tobacco products.

Our ambition is to have over two-thirds of our total net revenues come from smoke-free products by 2030. All to provide better options for the world's 1 billion+ adult smokers.



PMI.COM/US

PMI U.S. refers to Philip Morris International's U.S. affiliates.

LINDSAY
U.S.

Switched to a better alternative

J & J Gaming

Easily Boost Your Revenue with J&J Gaming!



Make an Additional
\$223,000

in Annual Revenue with J&J's Regulated Skill Gaming Machines!

*Data from live J&J accounts in Nebraska through December 2025

Join Nebraska's Trusted Skill Gaming Leader and start earning today!

**CALL US NOW at
855-800-0197**



(855) 800-0197 | | jjgaming.com

Must be 21. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537).

J & J Gaming

CONTENTS

SPRING 2026

- 8 UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- 10 SAVE THE DATE: GOLF OUTING
- 12 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
- 19 GROCERS DAY AT THE CAPITOL
- 22 LEGISLATIVE DINNER & AWARDS
- 24 SAVE THE DATE: GROCERY INDUSTRY SUMMIT
- 27 SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: FEDERATED INSURANCE
- 31 SNAP RESOURCES
- 33 NGIA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
- 34 MEMBER NEWS

NGIA STAFF

ANSLEY FELLERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AFELLERS@NEBGROCERY.COM

RICH OTTO, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
RICH@NEBGROCERY.COM

STACY MUEHLING, OFFICE MANAGER
STACY@NEBGROCERY.COM

Nebraska Grocery Industry Association, Inc.
635 South 14th Street, Suite #305
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 423-5533 • NEBGROCERY.COM

Owned and published by Nebraska Grocery Industry Association, Inc. We retain the right to refuse any advertisement or copy content deemed inappropriate or inconsistent with our goals and objectives to serve our members.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
SHANNON MCCORD, IDEAL MARKET

VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
MARK SOLTES, BAKERS/DILLON STORES

SECRETARY/TREASURER
ANGIE FITZGERALD, FAREWAY STORES, INC.

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN
FRANK WOODWARD, HY-VEE, INC.

DIRECTORS
PETER CLARKE, CRETE FOODMART, IGA MKTPLACE

MICHAEL PETERSON, FRESH SEASONS MARKET

PAT RAYBOULD, B&R STORES, RUSS'S MARKET, SUPER SAVER

KILEY WHITE, GROCERY KART, INC.

DE LONE WILSON, CUBBY'S, PHIL'S FOODWAY

ASSOCIATES

KRISTIN FREI, REPUBLIC NATIONAL DISTRIBUTING

THOM BRITTENHAM, LAND O'FROST/WIMMERS

KATHY GUNLOCK, CORE-MARK

DAVE KEITGES, KEMPS DAIRY

KEVIN LAMBERT, LINPEPCO PEPSI

WHOLESALERS

MIKE HERROD, ASSOCIATED WHOLESALE GROCERS

CORTNEY KALLENBACH, SPARTANNASH WAREHOUSE

NEBRASKA GROCERY INDUSTRY FOUNDATION BOARD

NATHAN BRTEK, LOU'S THRIFTY WAY

MIKE HERROD, ASSOCIATED WHOLESALE GROCERS

JORDAN RAYBOULD, B&R STORES, INC.

NEBRASKA MONEY ORDER ASSOCIATES BOARD

NATHAN BRTEK, LOU'S THRIFTY WAY

PETER CLARKE, CRETE FOODMART, IGA MKTPLACE

SUSAN IRVIN, B&R STORES, INC.

SHANNON MCCORD, BAKERS/DILLON STORES

The one that you want!



FAREWAY
MEAT & GROCERY

17070 Audrey St., Omaha
1325 Jersey St., Papillion
1738 11th St. Nebraska City

FAREWAY
MEAT MARKET

13150 Fort St., Omaha
604 S. Highway 6, Gretna
Coming Soon Valley, NE
8900 W. Center Rd., Suite 106, Omaha
3033 S. 84th St., Lincoln

THE LONG-STANDING
LEADER



Designed to Grow your OTP Category.

701 SOUTH BATTLEGROUND AVENUE, GROVER, NORTH CAROLINA 28073
T +1.704.937.7200 | sales@cheyenneintl.com | www.cheyenneintl.com
For business purposes only. Not to be displayed or distributed to consumers.

Uber Eats expands access to food, groceries, and everyday essentials. Flexible delivery built for the way you do business. Get listed on **Uber Eats**.



merchants.ubereats.com

Scan for more info

Uber

PAN-O-GOLD

Baking Company



13247 Cary Circle La Vista, NE 68138 • 402-339-4803



We Do That!

Partnering with Nebraska Grocers Since 1950

Retail technology solutions to improve store operations and the customer experience.



Mike VerWey
mverwey@rdspos.com

Scott Worthington
sworthington@rdspos.com

800.564.4737

www.rdspos.com/grocery

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS CRYSTAL FARMS 1914-2014

DAVID'S DELI

NEW BUFF BAGELS FTW

POWER YOUR GO-GO-GO LIFESTYLE WITH THE NEW PROTEIN-PACKED BAGELS THAT ARE SO SOFT, YET SO STRONG.

16g PROTEIN

NO GRAINS, NO GAINS

PROTEIN BAGELS: PLAIN, CINNAMON, EVERYTHING

Keurig Dr Pepper

Dr Pepper 23, Snapple peach tea, 7up LEMON LIME, Sunkist Orange, A&W ROOT BEER

FAMILY FARMED. COW approved.

Crafted Collection, Select Heavy Whipping Cream, Select Ultra-Pasteurized Whole Milk, Select Half & Half, Kempswich Cores Chocolate Fudge Cookie Sandwiches, Cottage Cheese

CRAVING MORE? LET'S TALK!

Kemps Rochester Ice Cream
406 N. Broadway Avenue
Rochester, MN 55906
800-555-7301

Kemps Le Mars Dairy
1188 Lincoln Street SW
Le Mars, IA 51031
866-926-5773

OVER 100 YEARS OF QUALITY DAIRY



IT'S THE COWS.

PROUDLY SERVING COCA-COLA SINCE 1904.

CHESTERMAN CO.

EST. 1872

Coca-Cola

ORIGINAL TASTE

UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF THE NEBRASKA GROCERY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION'S MAGAZINE

The food retail environment continues to evolve quickly, due not only to state and federal policy changes, but also cost pressures and consumer behavior. All of this is reshaping how our members compete and serve customers.

In addition to continued member engagement and work to deliver helpful resources, most of our spring is spent on advocacy. From our Legislative Dinner in February (Page 22) to the National Grocers Association's (NGA) "Fly-in for Fair Competition" in May, we continue to engage state leaders and our federal delegation to bring some much-needed sense to our legislative and regulatory environment.

The Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA) was reintroduced in January with significant bipartisan support and an endorsement from President Trump. The federal bill, which would require banks with more than \$100 billion in assets to offer at least two unaffiliated networks for routing transactions, could save retailers billions. There are a variety of efforts by NGA and others to attach the CCCA to a larger "must-pass" legislative package this spring. In the meantime, we're working at the state level to explore payment alternatives and introduce competition to an otherwise pretty consolidated industry.

Additionally, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is undergoing its most significant structural shift in decades. Nebraska was first out of the gate to pilot a SNAP "waiver" or restrictions on eligible products. Here, those restrictions were limited to soda and energy drinks, but that's not the case everywhere, creating a patchwork of compliance requirements. This, combined with expanded work requirements and revised eligibility criteria, has impacted SNAP participants and retailers alike.

We're working to gauge the impact of SNAP cuts, waivers, and theft through a very brief members survey and have included in this issue a "SNAP Best Practices" guide to help you and your customers navigate ongoing challenges on Page 31. Please take a quick second to follow the survey QR code at the end of this column and help us better advocate for you and your customers.

On a related note, 2026 is an election year. In addition to following candidates, we are keeping a close eye on petition initiatives, which is how paid sick leave and minimum wage mandates have passed. A handful of out-of-state (and in one case, out-of-country), union-backed interests funded those petitions, and now they're seeking to pass a constitutional amendment to keep the legislature from ever amending



such laws. This would essentially neuter the elected legislature in favor of a system where laws pass by popular vote, leaving rural Nebraskans and small businesses with no representation or recourse. See Page 12 for a state legislative rundown and link to candidates and initiative petitions.

We so appreciate your participation. From our Legislative Dinner and golf outing, to testifying at the capitol and traveling to D.C., our members showing up is what helps move the needle. We also welcome your feedback on coverage here and how we can be most helpful. If you aren't receiving regular updates or need additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at afellers@nebgrocery.com. Thank you for being the most valuable part of NGIA.

Ashley Fellers

Executive Director,
Nebraska Grocery Industry Association



SNAP Member Survey

Advantage Solutions.
We keep commerce and life moving™

Get your brand into the hands & hearts of shoppers everywhere.

From insight to activation, we connect brands, retailers, and people across the entire path to purchase — turning shoppers into buyers.

Contact our team today, and let's drive marketplace momentum together.

YourADV.com

Anheuser-Busch
Proud Supporters of the
Nebraska Grocery Industry Association

BUD LIGHT *Budweiser*

Michelob **ULTRA** **BUSCH LIGHT**

Local Roots. Proven Performance.

For more than 85 years, Hiland Dairy has partnered with retailers to deliver the dairy shoppers know and trust. With products made close to home, consistent quality, and dependable service, Hiland helps keep shelves stocked and customers coming back.

Hiland DAIRY FOODS FARMER OWNED

Locally Made. Naturally Delicious.™

Explore how Hiland supports retail growth at HilandDairy.com/Retailers

YOU'RE INVITED!

"SAND BAGGERS" GOLF OUTING & NGIA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 23 AT IRON HORSE GOLF CLUB, ASHLAND, NE



REGISTER NOW!

SCHEDULE



- 10 a.m. Shotgun Start
- Boxed Lunch on the Course
- 3:30 p.m. Meal at Clubhouse
- 3:45 p.m. Membership Meeting
- 4 p.m. Pin Prizes and Raffle Prizes Awarded

Sponsorships are still available! Contact rich@nebgrocery.com or 402-423-5533 for details.

The Iron Horse Golf Club is 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.



Every Budget, Every Belly.

Experience Restaurant-Inspired Pizzas Crafted for Your Kitchen

Bernatello's Foods brings the joy of delicious pizza right to your home kitchen. Everything from time-honored classics to innovative varieties like brunch pizzas and deep-dish creations. Crafted with care in the heart of the Midwest, our family-owned-and-operated company ensures every bite is a taste of our dedication. Our brand portfolio, featuring Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza, Bellatoria, Orv's, Roma, and Pizza Corner, offers something for every pizza lover. Craving an exceptional pizza experience? Visit bernattellos.com.



BETTER WITH



NGIA 2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As the premier trade association representing the food industry in Nebraska, the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association (NGIA) strives to be a valuable resource to help members become more organized, efficient, and profitable. One key benefit we deliver members is our legislative work.

NGIA monitors legislation introduced at the state and federal levels and maintains open lines of communication with elected officials in Lincoln and in Washington, D.C. We actively support reform which could have a positive effect on our industry, and lobby against harmful changes. NGIA members have a number of opportunities to connect with elected leaders and are kept up to date through proactive reports.



NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE UPDATE*

In January, the Nebraska Legislature opened its 60 day session facing a \$470 million budget shortfall which ballooned even further as the session progressed. Lawmakers have approved the final adjustments to the budget after weeks of negotiation and procedural delays. The budget package relies on a mix of spending cuts, cash-reserve transfers, tax and fee increases, and other adjustments.

NGIA flagged nearly 50 bills which impacted taxes, regulation, and labor policies like workers compensation, paid sick leave, and minimum wage.

Please note, even legislation signed into law may not take effect immediately. Many policies, including the minimum wage changes, will take effect in July. Keep an eye peeled in coming weeks for additional guidance.

Minimum Wage

LB 258, introduced by Sen. Jane Raybould of Lincoln and prioritized by Sen. Paul Strommen of Sidney, was signed into law. The bill places a 1.75% cap on future automatic minimum wage increases and establishes a youth and training wage.

Defeated Attacks on Grocery Technology

LB 1006 and LB 1078 would have, among other things, banned grocery stores larger than 10,000 square feet from using electronic shelving labels. The bills were heard in Committee and will be held there, thanks in part to testimony from Nathan Brtek with Lou's Thrifty Way in Norfolk.

Penny Shortage

The legislature advanced legislation establishing rules for rounding cash transactions, allowing businesses to round cash payments to the nearest five cents when exact change cannot be made. Under the policy, totals ending in 1, 2, 6, or 7 cents round down, while 3, 4, 8, or 9 cents round up to the nearest nickel.

Pharmacy Efficiency

The legislature advanced legislation to provide for practice agreements between pharmacists and physician assistants and authorize, license, and regulate automated pharmacy pickup kiosks.

Lottery Vending Machines

Last year, Sen. Dan Quick from Grand Island introduced LB 60, authorizing lottery vending machines. The bill passed and was signed into law and will take effect in July.

Taxes

At this time of this writing, we were able to thwart several attempts to increase tobacco taxes, implement a delivery tax, as well as a tax on candy and soda. However, LB 901, which includes new, higher fees and more restrictive advertising for Mechanical Amusement Devices (skill games) was advanced. The tax and fee increases in the bill, combined with the elimination of several sales tax exemptions, are slated to generate around \$26 million of revenue (e.g. tax increases) primarily to cover gaps in the state budget.

ELECTIONS & INITIATIVES

This year is an election year. You can view a slate of statewide candidates who have filed for office, but note the NGIA PAC is strictly limited to state-level legislative candidates.

We're also following a variety of initiative petitions, most notably the "Protect Nebraskans' Initiative and Referendum Powers" Constitutional Amendment, which would virtually eliminate the legislature's power to modify law that are amended via the initiative petition process.

To learn more about NGIA's legislative and elections work, and to give to the PAC, visit nebgrocery.com.

Primary election: May 12, 2026

General election: Nov. 3, 2026



SCAN FOR THE 2026 SLATE

**This is a summary of where each of these issues stands at time of print. A final summary of state legislative actions and changes will be included in the summer edition of The Voice.*

2026 NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE ROSTER



1
Bob
Hallstrom
Syracuse
402-471-2733



2
Robert
Clements
Elmwood
402-471-2613



3
Victor
Rountree
Bellevue
402-471-2627



4
R. Brad von
Gillern
Elkhorn
402-471-2621



5
Margo Juarez
Omaha
402-471-2710



6
Machaela
Cavanaugh
Omaha
402-471-2714



7
Dunixi Guereca
Omaha
402-471-2721



8
Megan Hunt
Omaha
402-471-2722



9
John Cavanaugh
Omaha
402-471-2723



10
Wendy DeBoer
Bennington
402-471-2718



11
Terrell
McKinney
Omaha
402-471-2612



12
Merv Riepe
Ralston
402-471-2623



13
Ashlei Spivey
Omaha
402-471-2727



14
John Arch
La Vista
402-471-2730



15
Dave
Wordekemper
Fremont
402-471-2625



16
Ben Hansen
Blair
402-471-2728



17
Glen Meyer
Pender
402-471-2716



18
Christy
Armendariz
Omaha
402-471-2618



19
Robert Dover
Norfolk
402-471-2929



20
John
Fredrickson
Omaha
402-471-2622



21
Beau Ballard
Lincoln
402-471-2673



22
Mike Moser
Columbus
402-471-2715



23
Jared Storm
David City
402-471-2719



24
Jana Hughes
Seward
402-471-2756



25
Carolyn Bosn
Lincoln
402-471-2731



26
George Dungan
Lincoln
402-471-2610



27
Jason Prokop
Lincoln
402-471-2632



28
Jane Raybould
Lincoln
402-471-2633



29
Eliot Bostar
Lincoln
402-471-2734



30
Myron Dorn
Adams
402-471-2620



31
Kathleen Kauth
Omaha
402-471-2327



32
Tom Brandt
Plymouth
402-471-2711



33
Dan Lonowski
Hastings
402-471-2712



34
Loren Lippincott
Central City
402-471-2630



35
Dan Quick
Grand Island
402-471-2617



36
Rick Holdcroft
Bellevue
402-471-2642

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.

2026 NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE ROSTER (CONT.)



37
Stan Clouse
Kearney
402-471-2726



38
Dave Murman
Glenvil
402-471-2732



39
Tony Sorrentino
Elkhorn
402-471-2885



40
Barry DeKay
Niobrara
402-471-2801



41
Fred Meyer
St. Paul
402-471-2631



42
Mike Jacobson
North Platte
402-471-2729



43
Tanya Storey
Whitman
402-471-2628



44
Teresa Ibach
Sumner
402-471-2805



45
Rita Sanders
Bellevue
402-471-2615



46
Danielle Conrad
Lincoln
402-471-2720



47
Paul Strommen
Sidney
402-471-2616



48
Brian Hardin
Gering
402-471-2802



49
Bob Andersen
La Vista
402-471-2725



WE DELIVER FOR INDEPENDENT GROCERS.

SpartanNash is a food solutions company that combines decades of retail experience with a global supply chain network. And now, as part of the C&S Wholesale Grocers family of companies, we serve even more communities, delivering end-to-end grocery solutions to independent retail customers across the U.S.

We're experts in wholesale distribution, offering affordable, turnkey solutions, market-leading products and best-in-class support services — all provided by team members committed to keeping you informed, efficient and profitable.



SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF PARTNERING WITH SPARTANNASH



GET INVOLVED! Join NGIA in advocating for the industry by engaging with your legislators on issues that impact your business and community.

Contact NGIA Executive Director Ansley Fellers with any questions or feedback at afellers@nebgrocers.com or 308-631-2165. 📞

A Better Tomorrow.™

It starts now.

Reynolds is proud to have served our customers for more than 150 years. We look forward to those continued partnerships into the future.



GROCERS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

A big thank you to the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association (NGIA) members who joined us in Lincoln on Feb. 17. We gathered at the state capitol to discuss the state of policy and politics, and meet with state senators. We heard from Sidney Sen. Paul Strommen over lunch, who discussed the state of the budget, competing visions on taxes, and how the legislature can help reduce costs on business by lowering the regulatory and tax burden.

Together we shared a united message about labor policy, taxes, and other issues impacting the state and the ability of our grocers to compete. ➡



Pictured from left: Doug Beech, Casey's General Stores; Eden Pearson, Casey's General Stores; Angie Fitzgerald, Fareway Meat & Grocery; Mary Szarmach, Smoker Friendly; Kyle May, Reynolds American; Michael Peterson, Fresh Seasons Market, Gothenburg.



Sen. Paul Strommen speaks to grocers over lunch.



Peter Clarke with Crete Foodmart testifies in opposition to a proposed delivery tax.



Hy-Vee leaders at the Grocers Day at the Capitol.



Altria

Supporting Nebraska Grocers

- ▶ Free webinars for Nebraska grocers
- ▶ Grocer peer mentorship
- ▶ Shared learning
- ▶ Multi-store learning cohorts (2027, 2028, 2029)
- ▶ Grocery store tours

Connect with peers,
build new skills,
or plan for the future.
We're here to help.

cfra.org/rural-grocery



Equal opportunity provider and employer.



coupon redemption in the digital age

seamless redemption for
digital, electronic & paper coupons



Proudly Offered through
Nebraska Grocery Industry Association
For more information call ACS at 1-800-260-4642.

*** Swedish Match.

Our ongoing commitment to customer service and consumer satisfaction make Swedish Match your #1 choice for growing your OTP profits.



Please call 1-800-367-3677 or visit swedishmatch.com
©2022 SWEDISH MATCH NORTH AMERICA LLC

FOR TRADE PURPOSES ONLY

©2023 ITG Brands, LLC
3



*YOUR PREMIER
PARTNER FOR GROWTH*

**STRATEGIC. INNOVATIVE.
COLLABORATIVE.**



Winston® and KOOL® are registered trademarks of ITG Brands, LLC.
Backwoods® is a registered trademark of ITG Cigars Inc. blu® is a registered trademark of Fontem Holdings 4 B.V.

NGIA LEGISLATIVE DINNER & AWARDS

Thank you to everyone who made the Legislative Dinner and Awards a huge success! We appreciate the opportunity to gather and celebrate our collective impact and honor the changemakers in our industry.

The evening included a silent auction fundraiser to benefit the NGIA scholarship program. We also enjoyed a keynote from former Husker footballer Adam Carriker and appreciate Fareway Stores for providing the meat for the dinner.

Kudos to our board members, sponsors, grocers, and supporters who made this event possible. We are proud to stand alongside you to advocate, celebrate, engage, and invest in our industry.

SILENT AUCTION DONOR LIST

AMCON	Land O Frost
Associated Wholesale Grocers	LinPepCo
B & R Stores	Lou's Thriftyway
Chesterman Coca Cola	Nebraska Lottery
Crystal Farms	Ord Grocery Kart
Cubby's	Quality Brands
Family Fare	Republic National Distribution
Fareway Stores	Reynolds
Hiland Dairy	Shazam
Hy-Vee	The Brenmar Company
Ideal Market	Tiburon Golf Club
Iron Horse Golf Club	Truno
J & J Gaming	Wells Enterprise Inc.
Jones and Lowe	West Gate Bank
Kemps	WK Kellogg



2026 AWARD HONOREES



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD Marlene Hytrek, The Brenmar Company

The Distinguished Service Award is annually presented to someone from the grocery industry who is an active member of the association, involved in their community, and a role model for others in the industry.

Our 2026 Distinguished Service Award Winner is Marlene Hytrek, the founder of The Brenmar Company, Inc. Established in 1988, Brenmar is a nationally recognized wholesale distributor of food packaging, retail supplies, and general merchandise for grocery and foodservice. Based in La Vista, the company is known for its wide product range and dedication to customer service.

Marlene is also a longtime volunteer and donor to NGIA. A respected member of the grocery community and a leader in her field, Marlene's vision and commitment have helped shape a business that supports retailers and strengthens our economy.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Dan Johnson, AMCON

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual whose career profoundly shaped and strengthened Nebraska's grocery industry. This year's lifetime achievement award goes to Dan Johnson with AMCON.

Dan's entire career has been dedicated to retail and wholesale. He transferred to Nebraska from Iowa for Richmond Gordman in 1983. Dan began working at AMCON in 1985 as a store merchandiser, traveling the Midwest. In 1990, he took a job as a buyer for 7-Eleven in order to reduce traveling when his daughter was born.

He returned to the AMCON corporate office in 1992 as the Director of Marketing, then to VP of Marketing & Purchasing. In 2005, he took the position of Omaha Division Manager. Dan retired after thirty years at AMCON in August 2025.



SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD Sen. Jane Raybould, Nebraska Legislative District 28

Every so often, we present the Spirit of America Award on behalf of the National Grocers Association (NGA). NGA introduced the award in 1982 to honor individuals who have provided leadership and distinction in the areas of community service and government relations on behalf of the food distribution industry.

This year, NGIA is honoring State Senator Jane Raybould with the Spirit of America award. Sen. Raybould has built a career in community service and retail. She represents Nebraska Legislative District 28 in Lincoln, and for the last several years, Sen. Raybould has stuck her neck out for the industry, bringing a bill to soften the blow of the minimum wage increase which just a couple weeks ago was signed into law.

A lifelong Nebraskan, Jane has taken on leadership roles in both the public and private sectors and helped grow B&R Stores into a multi-state operator serving communities across Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri. In March 2025, Jane announced her retirement from an executive role at B&R, marking 22 years of service. 🇺🇸



SAVE THE DATE

GROCERY INDUSTRY SUMMIT

Thursday, August 20

📍 Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

Mark your calendars for this important opportunity to learn about, discuss, and address the many challenges facing the grocery industry.

Contact afellers@nebgrocery.com for more details.



REGISTER NOW →



WILDHORSE DISTRIBUTING

**CIGARETTES, TOBACCOS & ACCESSORIES
DISTRIBUTOR PROUDLY SERVING THE
MIDWEST FOR 30+ YEARS!**

Thank you NGIA and its members!

713 N Frontier Rd, Papillion, NE 68046
888.293.2635

www.wildhosedist.com

Thank You!

for your support

NEBRASKA GROCERY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

from your partners at



WINE

SPIRITS

Brought to you by

RNDC

• DRINK RESPONSIBLY •

Helping Your Employees Stay Safe Behind The Wheel

Every Choice Matters – Choose Federated® DriveSAFE™

Federated DriveSAFE™ Telematics can help your employees improve their daily driving habits. This combination of mobile app, in-vehicle tag, and online portal allows you to measure, rank, and provide feedback on employee driving behaviors so you can help them become safer drivers.

Scan to learn more about Federated DriveSAFE™ Telematics and how you can help your employee drivers stay safe behind the wheel.

Federated Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiaries*

federatedinsurance.com | *Not licensed in all states.
25.08 Ed. 3/26 © 2026 Federated Mutual Insurance Company

STONEBROOK EXTERIOR

PROVEN BY VISION | RECOGNIZED BY RESULTS

- Leak Repairs & Preventative Maintenance
- Roof Replacements with Minimal Disruption
- Exterior Services to Keep Your Store Looking Its Best
- Experienced in Grocery & Retail Facilities

Let's keep your business covered—literally.
Contact us today for a FREE INSPECTION!

402-438-5559 STONEBROOKEXTERIOR.COM

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

It's Our Business to Protect Yours
FEDERATED INSURANCE

GET TO KNOW NEBRASKA GROCERY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (NGIA) SPONSOR FEDERATED INSURANCE IN THIS Q&A.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE READERS A LITTLE HISTORY OF YOUR ORGANIZATION?

A: Federated Insurance was founded in 1904 with a mission to provide superior insurance and risk management services to businesses across America. With over a century of experience, we've grown into a trusted partner for thousands of companies, offering tailored coverage and proactive support. Our foundation is built on relationships, integrity, and a deep understanding of the industries we serve – including the grocery and retail sectors.

Q: WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST VALUABLE ABOUT BEING A PART OF NGIA?

A: Being a member of NGIA allows us to stay closely connected to the grocery community we proudly serve. It gives us the opportunity to listen, learn, and collaborate with grocers across the state. NGIA's advocacy and educational efforts align perfectly with our commitment to helping businesses operate safely and successfully.

Q: WHAT SETS YOUR PRODUCT/SERVICE APART?

A: What truly sets Federated apart is our industry-specific approach. We don't believe in one size-fits-all insurance. Instead, we offer tailored risk management solutions designed specifically for grocery retailers. Our clients benefit from dedicated local representatives, access to risk management resources, and a proactive approach to loss prevention that helps protect both people and property.



State Sen. Loren Lippencott and staff holding Federated Insurance goodie bags courtesy of NGIA, the Retail Federation, and the Nebraska Beverage Association.

Q: WHERE CAN CUSTOMERS FIND YOUR PRODUCTS/SERVICES?

A: Federated Insurance serves clients nationwide, and our representatives are embedded in local communities – including right here in Nebraska. To learn more, visit www.federatedinsurance.com, or reach out to your local marketing representative for a personal consultation.

Q: WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT THE INDUSTRY THIS YEAR?

A: We're excited to see how technology and innovation are reshaping the grocery industry – from automation and supply chain improvements to enhanced customer experiences. As these changes unfold, we're here to help grocers navigate new risks and opportunities with confidence and clarity.

Q: WHO SHOULD GROCERS CONTACT IF THEY'RE INTERESTED IN USING YOUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES?

A: Contact Jake Spaniol, Account Executive-Association Risk Management Services. Jake is your dedicated representative for the association and can get you in contact with your direct marketing representative to provide personalized guidance on coverage options, risk management strategies, and more. **Reach him at jwspaniol@fedins.com or 224-213-6782.**

DOORDASH

Grow your business by accepting grocery orders on DoorDash, and partner with Dashers for delivery on-demand or scheduled in advance.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



Happy 250th Birthday America Carry Out Bag

Call or Visit us
online to Shop
Specialty Foods
Food Packaging
Bags, Labels
and
Store Supplies

Show your patriotic spirit with this bag

Shop Now!

Call or Visit us online



BRENNAR
THE BRENNAR COMPANY, INC.

1-800-783-7759
brenmarco.com

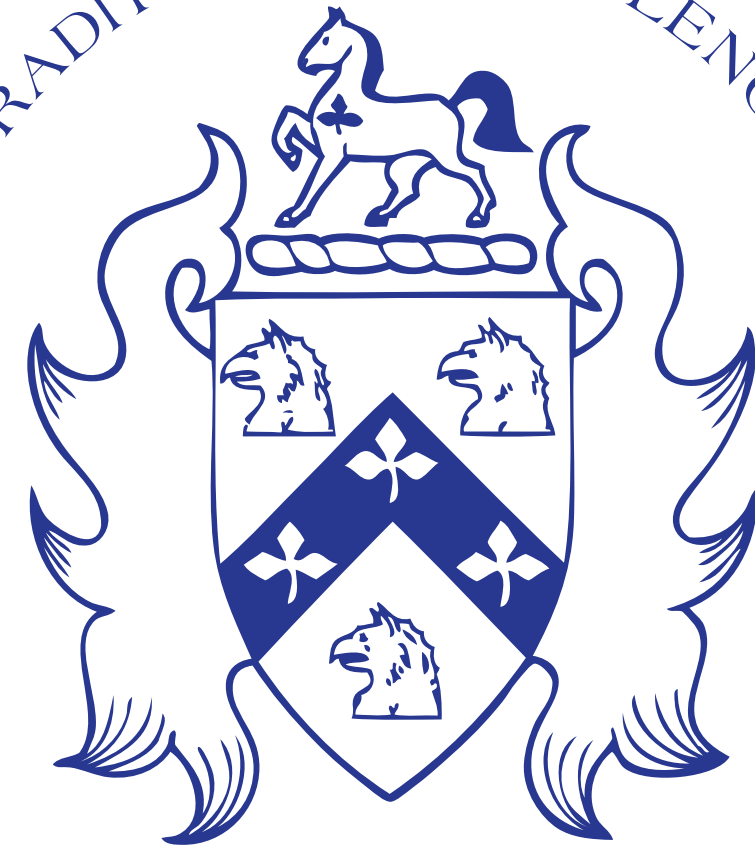
"*SWAGGER, NOT STAGGER.*"

~ TONY SINCLAIR



READY TO *Tanqueray?*
ALWAYS IN MODERATION
TANQUERAY.COM

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



JOHNSON BROTHERS
OF NEBRASKA LLC

High quality, nutritious,
affordable eggs.
WWW.OPAL-FOODS.COM

opalfoods | We feed our families
by feeding yours.

High quality, nutritious,
affordable eggs.
WWW.OPAL-FOODS.COM

opalfoods | We feed our families
by feeding yours.

High quality, nutritious,
affordable eggs.
WWW.OPAL-FOODS.COM

**Supporting the
Convenience and Food
Service Industry**



Core·Mark®

1751 Hwy. 30 East, Carroll, IA 51401
www.core-mark.com

Grow Your Revenue with ACCEL ENTERTAINMENT!

Illinois gaming locations partnered with Accel saw over **\$250,000+ in average annual gaming revenue!***

Looking to get your share?
Call us today at 402-227-8488 or visit us at www.accelentertainment.com



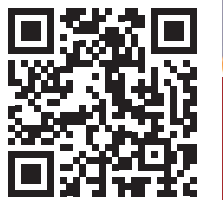
*According to IGB Establishment Data

NEBRASKA SNAP RETAILER BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

Nebraska SNAP retailers play a critical role in ensuring food access. With recent fraud activity and a new SNAP waiver taking effect, stores should consider reviewing best practices.

Please also take the time to take a brief store-level SNAP survey. This does not require you to share your contact information.

SNAP Survey



STATEWIDE SNAP WAIVER

Implementation: Jan. 1, 2026
Enforcement begins: April 1, 2026

As of Jan. 1, soft drinks (soda) and energy drinks are no longer SNAP eligible products, along with alcohol, tobacco, vitamins/supplements, and hot prepared foods (unless specifically authorized). Retailers should visit the SNAP Healthy Choice Waiver Authorized Retailer Website for resources to train staff, post notices, and report compliance issues.

SNAP Resources



SNAP FRAUD & CARD SKIMMING PREVENTION

Since Jan. 1, Nebraska has experienced a surge in SNAP EBT card skimming, particularly in the Lincoln and Omaha areas, with more than 130 cases and \$17,000 in reported theft as of January.

Retailers should inspect payment terminals daily, train staff to report suspicious activity, work with your processor to ensure updated, encrypted terminals. If you suspect a skimmer, do not remove it yourself. Contact law enforcement, notify your payment processor, and document the incident.

If a customer suspects stolen benefits, contact law enforcement to file a report and contact DHHS Special Investigation Unit at 402-595-3789. Download the FIS ebtEDGE app to change PIN immediately.

EBT Card Skimming Protocols



A CENTURY OF PARTNERSHIP A FUTURE OF GROWTH



From humble beginnings to a nationwide network, AWG has supported independent retailers as a member-owned cooperative. Our ongoing vision: to be the partner of choice for grocers across the U.S.



**THE PARTNER OF CHOICE
FOR INDEPENDENT RETAILERS** *Since 1926*

KEITH MARTIN

828-228-4055 | keith.martin@awginc.com

DARRELL LEHMANN

320-333-5099 | darrell.lehmann@awginc.com

Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc., 5000 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66106



APPLICATIONS OPEN UNTIL MAY 15!

NGIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Nebraska Grocery Industry Association's Scholarship Program recognizes and aids deserving students who are related to the food industry. High school seniors, undergraduate college students, and non-traditional students are invited to apply for the \$1,500 scholarship opportunity.



Find more details and application forms at nebgrocery.com/membership/member-programs/scholarship-program/.



Wells Enterprises, Inc. is a Proud Supporter of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association

©2022 Wells Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved.





Sen. Ricketts Visits Fareway

Sen. Pete Ricketts visited the west Omaha Fareway to discuss prices, essential services, economic challenges, and the store's ongoing commitment to giving back to the community. Sen. Ricketts is pictured here visiting with local Fareway employee Clayton Wederquist.

NGIA MEMBER NEWS

Cubby's Convenience Store Round Up Campaign

FEB. 9, 2026

Cubby's Convenience Stores invited customers to round up at the register to benefit local food banks and support those experiencing food insecurity. Together, they raised an incredible \$179,629 for Food Bank for The Heartland in Omaha and \$48,607 for Feeding South Dakota.



Kimball's Main Street Market Remains Open as a Deal is Sought with New Ownership

FEB. 5, 2026

After stating that Kimball's Main Street Market would cease operation under their control on Jan. 31, Legacy Coop has decided to reverse course and keep the store open, pending negotiations with potential local buyers.



Read more at panhandle.newschannelnebraska.com

Austin Kollasch Competes in NGA Best Bagger

FEB. 7, 2026

Congratulations to Austin Kollasch, employee of Fareway Stores Omaha, for his strong showing in the National Grocers Association Best Bagger Competition in Las Vegas. Kollasch is a two-time winner of the Nebraska Best Bagger Contest and represented our state well on the national stage.



AWG and Plum Creek Market Place Provide Community Support

FEB. 18, 2026

AWG Norfolk recently donated \$3,000 to provide food assistance and ongoing support for displaced Tyson employees. Working with Plum Creek Market Place and other local organizations, the donation signifies strength and resilience in the community.

ONE-IN-A-MILLION NEW GAME!



- \$5 per play
- Win \$1 Million a Year for Life
- Drawings every day



Must be 19.
Free problem gambling help for Nebraskans
at problemgambling.nebraska.gov.

Top prize odds 1:22,910,580

Nebraska Grocery Industry Association, Inc.
635 South 14th Street, Suite #305
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Address Service Requested



I CHOOSE A PARTNER THAT PUTS MY SUCCESS FIRST.

Give your customers a secure, seamless payment experience and run your business more efficiently with SHAZAM. We're proud to provide merchants and businesses innovative payments technology, personal service, and a competitive pricing model.



855-314-1212 / SHAZAM.NET /     