



# THE LANDSCAPE

## 2024 IMPACT REPORT

Conserving Our Agricultural, Historical, and  
Natural Resources





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## *note from the* **Executive Director**

As I reflect on my first year as Executive Director of the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT), I am filled with gratitude for the incredible work being done to preserve Nebraska's natural landscapes. It has been an honor to step into this leadership role and work alongside our dedicated team, landowners, and partners to continue the mission of conserving our state's most valuable resources.

This year has been marked by significant successes, challenges, and organizational changes. Land conservation in Nebraska is experiencing remarkable momentum, with both interest and active projects reaching record levels. Conservation easements have become increasingly recognized as a powerful tool not only for protecting land from development but also for transitioning properties to the next generation. They offer a means for landowners to alleviate financial pressures, preserve wildlife habitats, and protect the agricultural legacy in Nebraska. It is inspiring to witness the growing demand for conservation easements as landowners seek ways to protect their properties for future generations.

Through our partnerships with landowners, we have successfully completed two additional voluntary land agreements on Nebraska's most important landscapes this year. This has driven our total conserved acres to almost 50,000 over the past 23 years. Our work continues to be guided by the vision of creating a future where working lands and wildlife habitats thrive alongside responsible development and stewardship.

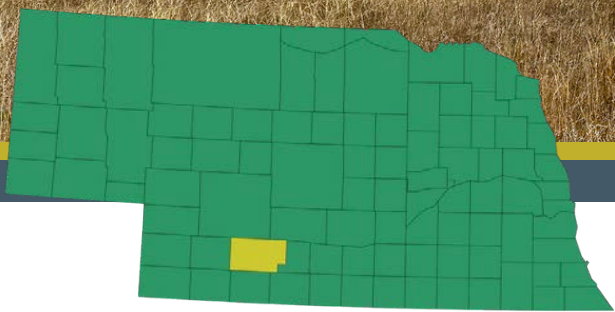
As we look ahead, Nebraska Land Trust remains dedicated to meeting the growing demand for land conservation. NLT is committed to conserving an additional 50,000 acres in the next 10 years, surpassing a total of 100,000 acres to make our world better today and tomorrow. We are excited about our ability to help landowners address challenges such as economic pressures, development threats, and environmental concerns while ensuring the long-term protection of Nebraska's agricultural lands and natural habitats. With strengthened relationships with partners and a focus on creating lasting opportunities for future generations, we are preparing for another year of impactful conservation work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacob Alishouse".

Jacob Alishouse  
Executive Director



# WAITE GRASSLAND



## 473 Acres | Frontier County

Nebraska Land Trust is honored to continue its partnership with Terry and Karen Waite to protect their grassland in Frontier County. The Waite family first worked with NLT to place an easement on one of their properties in 2014. A decade later, we are thrilled to announce the completion of a second easement.



“We have worked with NLT for 10 years, and it’s truly been a pleasure.” Terry said. “We like working with an organization that preserves fragile landscapes for the generations to come.”

The Waite family’s Loess Canyon pasture is not only an important piece of their cattle grazing operation, but also a haven for wildlife. The previous owner worked with Pheasants Forever to create a “buffer habitat” around the property for a variety of wildlife. During a spring visit, NLT staff observed a diverse array of species thriving on the property, including ring-necked pheasant, prairie dog, American robin, western meadowlark, mule deer, coyote, pocket gopher, American badger, wild turkey, and bobwhite quail. This rich biodiversity underscores the ecological value of protecting working lands like the Waites’ grassland.

We are grateful for Terry and Karen’s commitment to conservation and their trust in NLT to help fulfill their vision. Their efforts exemplify how agricultural stewardship and conservation go hand in hand.

This Easement was made possible by the following funders:

- Terry and Karen Waite
- Cottonwood Wind Project, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC



# Community and Conservation

On October 1st, Nebraska Land Trust hosted a reception at the Happy Hollow Club in Omaha, bringing together landowners, donors, friends, and key conservation partners. The event provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate shared successes and explore the future of land conservation. Staff and board members discussed conservation easements, highlighting their critical role in preserving Nebraska's natural and agricultural landscapes.



## NLT Annual Meeting

In June, we gathered at Fort Robinson for our annual meeting, bringing together staff, board members, donors, landowners, and other conservation partners. The group visited the Northern Cheyenne monument, located on land protected by an NLT conservation easement. It commemorates the 1879 Northern Cheyenne Breakout, honoring the Northern Cheyenne who were killed as they attempted to flee imprisonment at Fort Robinson and return to their homeland in Montana. Northern Cheyenne representatives shared plans for a new healing trail project, emphasizing the importance of remembering history while creating spaces for reflection and renewal.



Taylor and Tamara Wohlers, who placed an easement on their pine ridge ranch in 2018, graciously hosted a steak fry, offering a memorable evening of camaraderie under the wide Nebraska skies. The visit reinforced the importance of connecting staff, board members, donors and neighbors with the extraordinary places we are working to conserve.



The meeting also marked a bittersweet milestone for NLT as we celebrated the retirement of our founding Executive Director, Dave Sands. A trailblazer in land conservation, Dave's leadership and passion have left an indelible mark on the land trust, landowners, and the landscapes we protect through easements. The event was made unforgettable thanks to the Northern Cheyenne, Fort Robinson staff, and the Wohlers family, whose hospitality and contributions brought the gathering to life. It was a fitting tribute to the legacy of conservation and collaboration that embodied Dave's work at NLT.







# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

**By: Harleigh Morgan | Stewardship Coordinator**

Since starting in June with the NLT team, I have jumped both feet into our annual monitoring. This is the primary part of my role here, especially during the spring through fall months. Many of my family, friends, and new acquaintances have asked what this monitoring consists of. So, to be a little bit

clearer about what monitoring is, we decided to share it with all of you. To be an accredited land trust and as part of each easement agreement, we need to show that we have checked on all our easement properties. This needs done each year either by remote monitoring, such as satellite imagery, and in person at least every 5 years, which is our preferred method. By doing this monitoring it allows us to check for any changes to the property, either manmade or of natural causes. This monitoring also develops a rapport with the landowners who are dedicated stewards of their land. Visiting with them each year provides a connection to people and resources to help them reach their stewardship goals.

The landowners we work with each have a story and a connection to the land. Those stories have been graciously shared with me during my visits. Whether the land has been passed down through the family, they began hunting there as a kid, or they found a home here in Nebraska, they all have a reason for preserving and protecting what they cherish for future generations. As a 5th generation farm kid myself, I share many of their sentiments and passions for preserving this beautiful land. Just graduating from the University of Nebraska Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife, I was fortunate to include conservation photography and storytelling in my studies. Thankfully, I will get to use some of those skills here to tell the stories of the land, wildlife, and the people who care so much that they chose to preserve it.

I have already begun capturing unique and special moments, like my first look at a fledgling turkey vulture at the Hosford Farm where they nest each year. Or quiet moments watching birds and butterflies flitting through prairies. And then there's the ride along with the ranchers, farmers, and land managers that I cherish, jumping in a UTV or farm truck to get a good look at the land. I am looking forward to seeing them again next year, checking up on the weather in the area, opening a few gates, and listening to the stories of Nebraska.



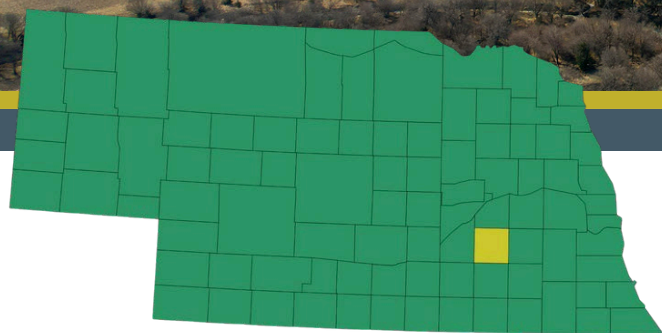








# KRUEGER FARM II



**74 Acres | York County**

## SMALL FARM, BIG IMPACT

George Krueger, a dedicated farmer from Seward County, held a deep connection to the land he worked. In 2009, he reached out to the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) with a vision for the future of his 440-acre farm. George wanted to ensure that the farmland he cherished would be protected forever, leading him to establish a conservation easement with NLT. Conservation easements are voluntary agreements that preserve the natural and agricultural value of the land while allowing it to remain privately owned. As part of this process, landowners typically contribute a stewardship donation to support the long-term monitoring and defense of their easements.

George, however, took a unique and forward-thinking approach. In lieu of a financial donation, he gifted NLT a smaller farm he owned in York County through a life estate agreement. This arrangement allowed George and his long-time friend Jo Jean Prueit to retain ownership of the property during their lifetimes. Upon their passing, the property came into NLT's stewardship, fulfilling George's vision for his gift.

NLT sold the York County farm, placing a conservation easement on it during the closing process to protect it permanently. The proceeds from the sale were then added to NLT's stewardship endowment, ensuring the funding needed to monitor and safeguard conservation easements for years to come. Through his thoughtful planning, George created a legacy that extends beyond his own land, supporting farmers and ranchers across Nebraska who share his commitment to preserving the land for future generations.





# THE KRUEGER LEGACY

Gifts like George's demonstrate the powerful impact of planned giving. A life estate is just one of many ways to leave a lasting contribution to land conservation. For those inspired by George's story, we invite you to explore legacy giving opportunities on our website. You will also find more stories about other Nebraska landowners who left their own legacies through a planned gift. By partnering with NLT, you can help protect Nebraska's agricultural, historical, and natural resources while creating your own enduring legacy.

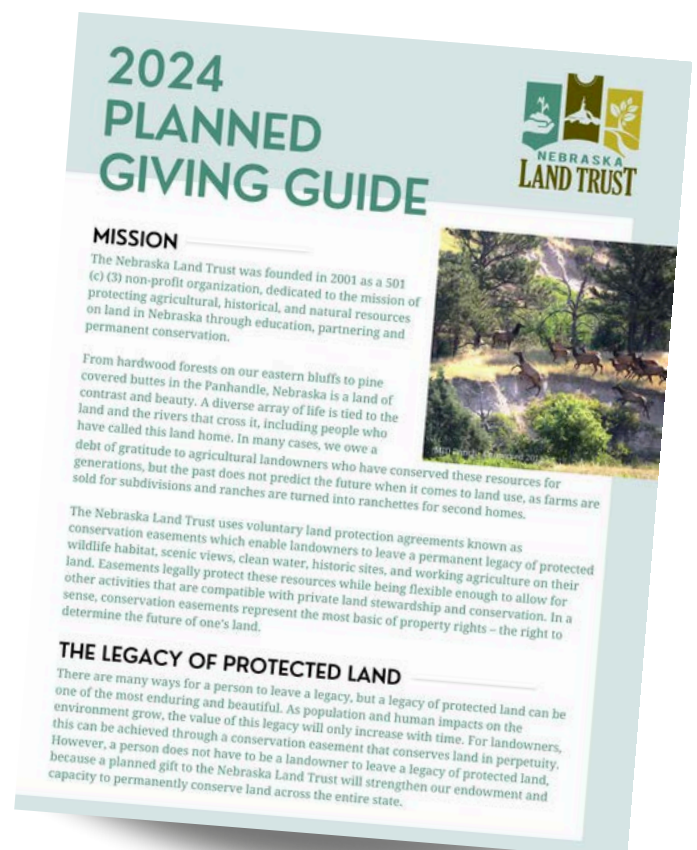
Visit our website to access our planned giving guide and to learn more about how you can make a difference:  
[nelandtrust.org/planned-giving/](https://nelandtrust.org/planned-giving/)

You can also contact:

Hannah Sidel  
 Communications Director  
[hsidel@nelandtrust.org](mailto:hsidel@nelandtrust.org)  
 (402) 438-5263

\*Please note, the information in our planned giving guide provides examples of different giving options. Nebraska Land Trust is not a tax advisor. You should consult your tax attorney to help determine how planned gifts or other types of gifts apply to your specific situation.

Scan the QR Code to download our planned giving guide!







# Partnership of Rangeland Trusts Celebrates 20 Years of Impact

The Partnership of Rangeland Trusts (PORT) is an alliance of agriculture-focused conservation organizations dedicated to preserving working farms and ranches and conserving productive agricultural lands.

For the past two decades, agriculture has faced an increasingly uncertain future. Industrialization and urbanization have posed a threat to the nations' vast and unique private farmlands, rangelands, and grasslands. Since 2004, PORT members, each with an affiliation to their state's livestock trade association, have banded together to help keep working lands in working hands.

Collectively, PORT member organizations, have helped more than 2,000 families voluntarily conserve more than three million acres of vibrant working lands across 12 states. PORT members include:

California Rangeland Trust  
Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust  
Montana Land Reliance  
Nebraska Land Trust  
Northwest Rangeland Trust

Ranchland Trust of Kansas  
South Dakota Agricultural Land Trust  
Texas Agricultural Land Trust  
Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Since its humble beginnings, PORT has grown into a driving force for conservation that supports agriculture, the environment, rural communities and the hardworking families who want to ensure their lands stay healthy and productive in perpetuity.

**To learn more about PORT, visit: [rangelandtrusts.org](http://rangelandtrusts.org)**





# You can be a Partner in Permanence!

Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) supporters are partners in achieving permanence for agricultural, historical and natural resources. Whether it is an annual donation that supports ongoing projects or an Endowment Gift that supports future projects, please consider the NLT in your charitable giving. For more information, contact Hannah Sidel at [hsidel@nelandtrust.org](mailto:hsidel@nelandtrust.org) or call 402-438-5263.

We are deeply grateful for the following partners who helped to create permanence for land in a changing world during the past 12 months:

## **Foundations**

Claire M. Hubbard Foundation  
Cooper Foundation  
Ethel S. Abbott Charitable Foundation  
John and Jane Ellsworth Family Foundation  
J.A. Woollam Foundation  
Julie Morsman Schroeder Foundation  
Lincoln Community Foundation  
Lienemann Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Pape Family Foundation

## **Stewards (\$1,000 +)**

Ty and Teresa Cox  
Matt & Lizzy Darling  
John and Jane Ellsworth  
Jim Hruska  
Hod & Willa Kosman  
Daniel McKinney  
Thomas and Evelyn McKnight  
Jon Oberg  
Ron and Judy Parks  
Jennifer and Bill Pospichal  
Neal and Deb Ratzlaff  
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John and Nancy Webster  
Gail and Michael Yanney  
Katie and Walker Zulkoski

## **Sustainers (\$500 to \$999)**

Jacob and Sara Alishouse  
Judy and Jeff Greenwald  
Mike and Denise Linder  
Doug and Kris Pauley  
Glenn Pollock  
Carol Schmid and Gerald Toll

## **Friends (\$100 to \$499)**

Kim and Douglas Alvine  
Warren and Sue Arganbright  
Britton and Barbara Bailey  
Lynne Baldwin  
Mark Brodkey  
Bill Brush  
Ron and Karen Case  
Jim and Jeanette Commers  
Douglas and Misty Cook  
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Marv and Vickie Ehly  
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Marlea and Barry Gruver  
Linda Hillegass and Jim McKee  
Doug and Brenda Hummel  
Shirley Johannes  
Glenn and Elaine Johnson  
Tim Kalkowski  
Marilyn McNabb  
Kent and Barbara Meridith  
Lillian and William Mesner  
Nancy and Alan Meyer

## **Friends (continued)**

John and Vicki Miles  
John Miyoshi  
Greg and Linda Prorok  
Sara and Gary Radil  
Katie Sands  
Steven Schafer  
Dan and Nancy Schulz  
Kathleen and Duane Schwery  
Ross and Bess Scott  
Lawrence and Diane Shackman  
Richard and Carolyn Sieling  
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Jim & Linda Swenson  
Rosemary Thornton  
Nichole Turgeon  
Anne Vidaver  
Kirby and Mary Zicafoose

## **Businesses and Organizations**

American Farmland Trust  
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District  
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

## **Conservation Easement and/or Stewardship Fund Donors**

Terry & Karen Waite

## **Legacy Donors**

George Krueger  
Jennifer and Bill Pospichal  
Pamela Sprenkle





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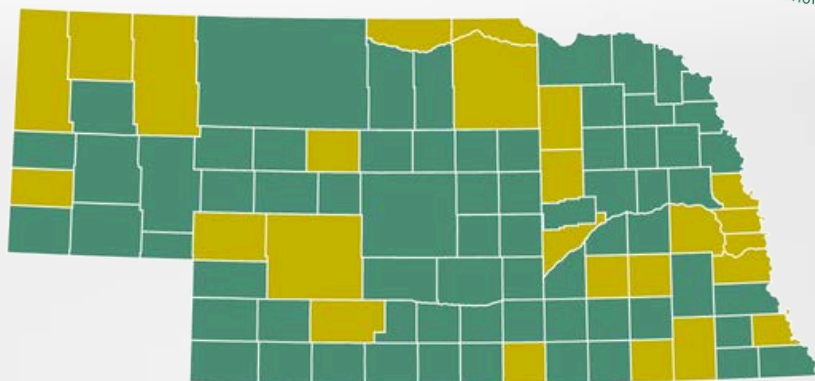
# SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

47,920  
ACRES

Conserved  
for  
future  
generations



50 FAMILIES



25 COUNTIES

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