



Ron Dowding

CONTACT:
402.441.6545

Ron has been an active member of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society for over 20 years. He currently serves as Vice President. Ron has been actively involved in several committees throughout the years including JPA, building, executive & county fair.

For the past 42+ years Ron has served as an instrumental oar of the Lancaster County 4-H program. He has been in roles such as: superintendent, club leader, member recruiter, council member, extension board & parent.

Ron retired after 44 1/2 years at the Goodyear / Veyance Technology / Continental Plant. Ron and his wife, Arlene live on an acreage near Bennet. They have 2 married children, Jana and Nathan, as well as 7 grandchildren. His kids were active 4-H members in the Happy Go Lucky 4-H Club and participated in many state-wide 4-H events including State Fair, Ak-Sar-Ben and National shorthorn shows. Currently 3 of his grandchildren are active in livestock and other 4-H events. The other 4 have aged out. Along with his son, he continues to raise show cattle and helps grandchildren begin livestock projects.

During the Fair, Ron is active as an Ag Society Board Director in the livestock shows as well as wherever he is needed on grounds with vendor/attraction relations. Ron has also been active on the Fund Development Committee to create SGEC's first fund development plan.

Ron serves an active part in his community and serves as a trustee, member and usher for Country Bible Church.

Ron would love to continue his involvement with the Lancaster County Agricultural Society and Lancaster County Super Fair. He wants to continue supporting the strong relationship between 4-H, 4-H extension staff, community groups and the Ag Society. Your vote would be greatly appreciated.



John Cooper

CONTACT:
402.441.6545

My family and I have enjoyed participating in the Lancaster County Fair for a number of years. I think it is an important tradition that helps make a connection between the past and the present. I also feel that the fair can be a valuable tool to educate urban citizens about agriculture and the production of foods that feed the world. I look forward to working to provide the facilities and events that can promote those conversations.

My family and I are crop and livestock producers north of Waverly. I graduated from UNL with a BS in Mechanized Systems Management. My background includes, industrial sales, manufacturing management, purchasing, and civil construction. We have been very involved in 4-H and FFA. Our girls have shown livestock, horses, and static exhibits at the county and state fair.

I have volunteered in several capacities at the fair, as well as serving as a show superintendent and on the grievance committee for the horse show. I have also participated in other shows and events at the Sandhills Global Event Center. I feel it is a valuable facility whose role grows more important to the community each year.

I am proud to have completed three 3-year terms on the Lancaster County Agricultural Society Board, where I have served as Secretary and have been active in securing donations, consulting on the SGEC's construction projects and on our fund development committee creating SGEC's first fund development plan.

At the fair, I've focused on Livestock shows, the watermelon feed, head of the Ag Society Grievance Committee and ensuring a smooth 4-H/FFA livestock move-out.

I would greatly appreciate your vote.



Laura Hardesty

CONTACT:
402.441.6545

I am passionate about the Lancaster County Super Fair—a true celebration where city and country come together to honor learning and tradition. This event provides a stage for youth to shine, grow, and embrace life lessons that shape their future. Since 2004, I have been deeply involved with Lancaster 4-H as a parent, club leader, and volunteer. Over the years, I've proudly served as superintendent of various horse shows and stepped in wherever needed to support the fair. I was honored to receive the Heart of 4-H Award, recognizing my commitment to youth development and community service.

More about me: I've lived on my family farm in northwest Lancaster County since 1994, where I take great pride in producing certified weed-free hay and caring for my horses and other animals. I've been a licensed Grade 1 Water Operator since 2001, qualified to operate Nebraska's largest water treatment plants. I hold a bachelor's degree in Business and Public Administration and have completed 15 credit hours in Environmental Planning at UNL. Recently, I retired from the Nebraska Army National Guard after 41 years of dedicated service.

The Sandhills Global Event Center is a premier facility that hosts an impressive variety of events—from swap meets and agricultural shows to equine competitions and trade exhibitions. It is truly a treasure for Lincoln, Lancaster County, and the surrounding region. Beyond events, SGEC partners with organizations such as Nebraska Emergency Management, the Blood Bank, and other agencies to serve the community. SGEC's economic impact on our area is significant and far-reaching.

I look forward to serving Lancaster County, supporting Lancaster County 4-H, and welcoming the many guests who visit the Sandhills Global Event Center and Lancaster County Fairgrounds. Your vote and support would mean so much—thank you!