



NREDA News Brief | October 2025

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The Future of Rural: Investing in Infrastructure, Innovation, and People Ensures Rural Communities Stay Competitive



As I write this, I just wrapped up our Industry Tours celebrating Manufacturing Day here in York County. This year, we were joined by high school students and educators as we toured Nebraska Public Power District and Bayer's seed-corn processing facility. Seeing these industries through the eyes of our future workforce was a powerful reminder of how essential investments in infrastructure, innovation, and people make a rural community truly competitive.

These tours highlighted the importance of connecting education, workforce, and industry, which also underscores the value NREDA brings as a bridge between policy, practice, and place through sharing our stories, best practices and innovative ideas.

[Click Here to read more about elevating rural voices in national conversations and registering for the NREDA Annual Conference!](#)

Join one of NREDA's Committees

If you have any interest in being a part of an NREDA Committee, please complete the Committee Interest Form below and select one committee from the options listed below, and the committee chairperson will reach out to you for further discussion.

NREDA Committees

- Annual Conference Planning Committee
- Awards Committee
- Membership Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- Publications & Marketing Committee
- Rural Issues Committee
- Sponsorship Committee

To learn more about each committee, please [CLICK HERE](#)

Industry Update: Rural Issues Committee

NREDA Board Member **Brad Ebersole** and **Dan Boysel** from [Consolidated Cooperative](#) presented a donation for the **SourcePoint MealsOnWheels** nutrition program. CoBank matched the Consolidated Cooperative donation through their Sharing Success program.

SourcePoint's Meals on Wheels program serves over 1,200 meals a day to over 600 Delaware County, Ohio older adults and continues to grow.

About SourcePoint

In 1992, [SourcePoint](#) started with one goal—to help local seniors live safely at home and avoid premature nursing home care and long waitlists. Today, they do that and much more.

SourcePoint is the most comprehensive aging services provider in Delaware County, Ohio. They provide adults ages 55 and older with **in-home care services** – such as Meals on Wheels and personal care – to help seniors live independently at home. They also offer hundreds of **community programs** on-site in their **enrichment center** and off-site throughout the county to promote health and wellness for older adults and **caregivers**.

They are truly a unique nonprofit organization, bringing a wide variety of aging services and expertise together under one roof.

Well done, Brad, Dan, and everyone at Consolidated Cooperative.



Pictured: Brad Ebersole and Dan Boysel are joined by SourcePoint CEO Fara Waugh and CAO Alison Yeager.

New Member Spotlight

Learn more about NREDA's new members, and welcome **Frederick A. Van Den Abbeel** to the NREDA community!

Within Montana Department of Commerce, the Business Attraction Team works to stimulate and grow Montana's economy while respecting Montana's values and lifestyle for its citizens by attracting quality international and domestic businesses in targeted, high-value sectors throughout the state. Born near Brussels, Belgium and managing the Silicon Valley satellite office for the Montana Department of



Commerce, Frederick Van Den Abbeel is a senior business attraction advisor who works with companies ranging from SMEs to large international corporations considering the State of Montana for expansion.

Montana is appropriately called "The Treasure State" and it became a state on November 8, 1889. My love and admiration for Montana was best described by the late author, John Steinbeck who famously said "I am in love with Montana. For other states I have admiration, respect, recognition, even some affection, but with Montana it is love."

Register Now for the NREDA 2025 Annual Conference!



Join your rural economic development peers in Nashville to "Kick Up" your skills, knowledge and networking for success! We've put together a great slate of learning opportunities and dynamic speakers for this year's conference. In addition to the always popular site selection panel, we will tackle new challenges and opportunities facing rural developers and their communities including crisis communications, policies and geopolitics, cyber security, applying AI, next generation board development/leadership, future utility needs and issues (e.g. grid security, generation, politics). That's not all! Our mobile classrooms will have opportunities for every interest, from manufacturing to downtown development to entrepreneurship.

Registration is open! Find more information about registration, pricing, and hotel reservations below. Visit the Conference Webpage for partnership opportunities, the conference agenda and additional conference resources.

Register
Here

Hotel
Reservations

2025 Conference
Webpage

Upcoming Webinars

Upcoming Webinars:

Cybersecurity Essentials – Join Scott Bialick and the NRECA team for a timely update on protecting your cooperative from evolving cyber threats and implementing best practices. Registration coming soon.

Webinars are a member-benefit to current NREDA members, and \$25 for non-members.

Job Listings

Did you know you can view and post job listings right to the NREDA website?

- Chief Executive Officer - Lake to River
- Economic Development Director - Wright County Economic Development
- President/CEO - Forge ECI
- Regional Director - Kansas Department of Commerce
- President – Regional Development Association of East Central Kansas

[View NREDA Job Postings](#)

Newsletter Submissions

Call for Newsletter Articles

NREDA would love to share your unique stories, industry trends, best practices, white papers, and - of course - your successes in our bi-monthly e-newsletter!

Guidelines:

- You must be a current NREDA member to submit an article.
- Please email your article to Sydney Spears at sydney@assnoffices.com by the 15th of each e-newsletter month. Please include the subject line **NREDA Newsletter Article Submission**
- Please submit your article in an editable format (Microsoft Word or text in the body of an email preferred). Feel free to include a photo with your article.
- Please send information, educational, and/or newsworthy items. Please no ads or sales/marketing articles. NREDA reserves the right to exclude submitted articles as deemed necessary by the leadership.

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#NREDA Don't forget when posting on social media to use the hashtag #NREDA when sharing your stories! This way we can spread it to all of our members!



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