

Nebraska Farm Bureau members from across the state have reinforced their desire to have property tax relief be the focal point of any comprehensive tax reform effort. The message was sent as members gathered to discuss issues affecting agriculture at the organization's annual Policy Forum held Nov. 14 in Kearney.

"The conversations last week only reinforced that property tax relief is top of mind and a top priority for our members as we head toward the 2014 legislative session," said Nebraska Farm Bureau President Steve Nelson.

The Farm Bureau conversations occurred among the backdrop of the Nebraska Legislature's Tax Modernization Committee outlining possible pieces of a tax reform package that could serve as the foundation of tax reform talks in the Legislative session starting in January. It's expected the group will finalize recommendations the first week of December.

"We greatly appreciate the time and effort the legislature's Tax Modernization Committee has put into gathering public input related to tax reform in Nebraska. The Committee has identified some additional dollars for the property tax credit program, but we believe additional property tax relief measures are warranted," said Nelson.

The Committee's pending proposal would add \$30 million to the state's \$115 million property tax credit program for one year. It's estimated the increase would add \$15-\$20 to the \$66 dollar credit on a home valued at \$100,000 for tax purposes.

"It has been and will continue to be our hope the Committee will look to provide greater long-term property tax relief as was sought by so many Nebraskans who attended the Committee's public hearings on the subject. Based on what we heard from our members during last week's forum, that sentiment has not changed," said Nelson.