

Delegates to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention will discuss and form policy positions on a number of key issues that affect the well-being of Nebraska farm and ranch families. Delegates will gather Dec. 8-10 at Kearney's Younes Convention Center to establish policy for the organization on state issues and recommend policy on national issues to the American Farm Bureau, which holds its national meeting in January.

This year's convention theme is "Grounded in the Past...Focused on the Future," a reflection of the organization's reverence for the people and values of past generations in agriculture, while moving the organization forward in leading on key issues affecting today's families.

"Our annual meeting is about serving members, and our policy development process is critical to bringing together the collective voice of our members to help shape the public policies that directly affect their livelihood and our ability to raise food for a growing population," said Steve Nelson, Nebraska Farm Bureau president.

Key discussion issues are tax reform, management of Nebraska's water resources and proprietary farm data.

The Nebraska Legislature is expected to continue conversations about state tax reform when it reconvenes in January.

Delegates will also consider resolutions on water issues.

"Water is the lifeblood of agriculture in Nebraska, and our delegates will consider a number of resolutions that examine the way in which we manage water resources and fund the projects and programs that aid us in doing so," said Nelson.

Members are also expected to discuss proprietary information as it relates to farm data as vast amounts of farm production data is being collected as part of the expansion of ag technology.

"More and more questions are being raised about who owns farm data and how that information is being used," said Nelson.

Other issues include Nebraska's brand laws and brand inspection areas, ways in which the state can maintain a healthy livestock industry as well as discussion about revisions to the federal endangered species act, among other topics.

Attendees to the convention can attend breakout sessions designed to help farm and ranch families address operational needs; passing the farm or ranch from one generation to the next; identifying how farmers and ranchers can tell the story of agriculture to a non-farm audience.