

## **Nemaha County Development Foundation Fund Receives \$2,500 Through Monsanto Ag Program**

**By Darrell Wellman**

The Nemaha County Development Foundation (NCDF) Fund received a \$2,500 contribution from the Monsanto Fund March 7 during the Foundation's wine and cheese gathering at Arbor Manor in Auburn.

Pete Eggers of Auburn was selected as a winner in America's Farmers Grow Communities program, which gives producers an opportunity to win \$2,500 for their favorite local nonprofit organizations. Eggers designated the NCDF Fund to benefit from the financial award. Fred McGuire of Bellevue, representing Monsanto and Channel Seed, presented the check to Pat Castle, Foundation President, on Eggers' behalf.

McGuire said the 'America's Farmers Grow Communities' program "allows farmers in the Heartland of America, like Nemaha County, who feed, fuel and clothe our country and the world, to nominate a non-profit organization (4-H, FFA, fire departments, hospitals, civic organizations) for this \$2,500 award."

The program was conducted in 1204 counties in 38 states. In Nebraska, there are 76 counties which will each receive this \$2,500 award.

America's Farmers Grow Commu-

nities is part of a broad commitment by the Monsanto Fund to highlight the important contributions farmers make every day to our society by helping them grow their local communities. To date, more than 60,000 farmers have participated in the program.

Castle told the gathering that the \$2,500 donation raises the Fund's endowment to over \$40,000, about twice as much as it held a year ago. He credited the 41 current Cornerstone members as playing a role in the financial growth. Cornerstone members are individuals/couples who commit to making a \$100 annual contribution to the foundation. Anyone making a one-time contribution of at least \$25 is recognized with membership in the Founders Club.

The food was donated by the Nemaha County Development Alliance, the wine by Whisky Run Creek Vineyard & Winery and the floral arrangement by Nancy Eggers.

"We always want more and welcome new members," Castle said.

Last year, the Nemaha County Development Foundation Fund awarded about \$1,000 in grants and this year it was able to raise that amount to around \$2,000 distributed to worthwhile projects.

All gifts to the NCDF are tax deductible and will be used for community betterment projects in Nemaha County. The NCDF intends to support cultural, recreational, civic, health, educational and other projects to enhance the quality of life in Nemaha County. Donors may choose to give towards a specific project or make an unrestricted gift.

The NCDF is dedicated to the improvement and long-term viability of the county. The fund is governed by an elected advisory board which decides how donations and earnings are distributed to local projects.

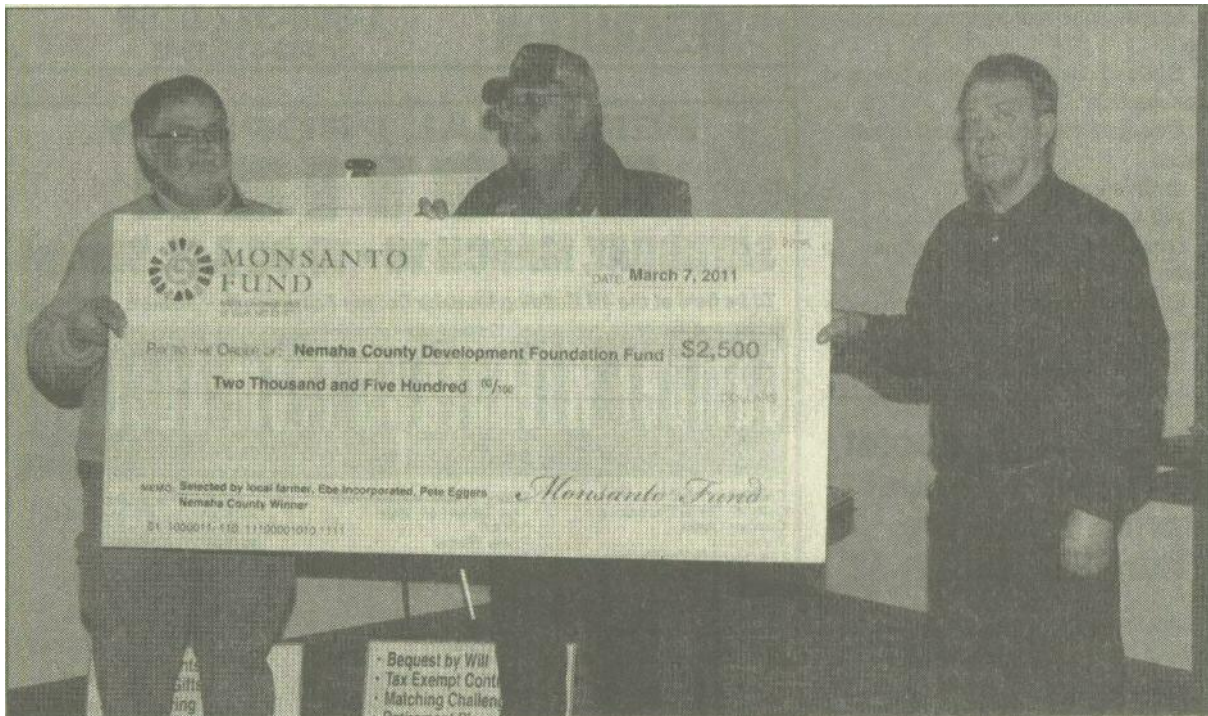
### **Advisory Board Members**

County residents serving on the advisory board who may be contacted for more information include Castle, Eston Clarke, Nancy Eggers, Bobette Guenther, Sharon Hessler, Kellie Kennedy, Stephen Kennedy, Linda Kinghorn, Mary Kruger, David Pease and Denice Rathbone.

The NCDF is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, which provides affiliated fund status to more than 150 communities, organizations and donors statewide. This allows communities and organizations to achieve nonprofit status without forming their own nonprofit organization.



**NEMAHA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION** Advisory Board members present for the March 7 reception in Auburn were (from left) Linda Kinghorn, Nancy Eggers, Eston Clarke, Mary Kruger, Dave Pease, Denice Rathbone, Pat Castle, Sharon Hassler, Janice Boden and Bobette Guenther. Board members Kellie Kennedy and Stephen Kennedy were unable to attend the activity.



**LOCAL FARMER** Pete Eggers (right) selected the Nemaha County Development Foundation Fund to receive a \$2,500 America's Farmers Grow Communities Award. Pat Castle (left), NCDF President, accepts a ceremonial check from Eggers and Fred McGuire with Monsanto and Channel Seed.