**Farmers, ranchers should think outside the checkbook for charitable giving**

Before charitable farmers and ranchers open their checkbooks this year, FUND NAME encourages thinking beyond cash and opting to instead donate gifts of grain or livestock.

Grain futures are higher than they’ve been since 2013, and giving a portion of your harvest is a great way to share the bounty with the causes closest to your heart. By contributing commodities like corn or cattle, farmers and ranchers can save significantly on taxes while strengthening the mission of their local community fund.

***Note: We recommend using an example from your community, but we’ve included this quote from Shickley if you are unable to find a local anecdote.***

Dan and Sarah Miller made a five-year pledge of gifts of grain to the Shickley Community Foundation Fund.

“Giving bushels of corn instead of dollars allows us to make a larger gift to our community fund, because we can still deduct all our production costs on our income taxes. It’s a really smart way to give back,” Dan said.

Instead of selling the ag commodity, the producer transfers ownership of the livestock or grain directly to Nebraska Community Foundation for the benefit of the FUND NAME. The producer can then claim all their production costs as deductible expenses for income tax purposes. When a producer transfers legal ownership to a charity before it is sold, the producer will not have taxable income from a sale, thus minimizing taxes. Tax savings may be realized on federal income tax, state income tax and self-employment tax, depending on the producer’s specific circumstances.

It is important to first check with your professional advisor to determine whether a contribution of grain or livestock is appropriate for your tax situation. It is also important that you notify Nebraska Community Foundation in advance of making your gift of commodities as there are specific (but simple) procedures that must be followed. Gift of Grain and Livestock forms are available through members of the Fund Advisory Committee.

You can also visit Nebraska Community Foundation’s Gift Planning website – [www.ncfgift.org](http://www.ncfgift.org) – to download the necessary forms. You can also find details on the benefits and process of making a charitable gift of grain or livestock, as well as other out-of-the-box giving methods beyond cash. Nebraska Community Foundation is also always available to point you in the right direction at (402) 323-7330 or info@nebcommfound.org.

**About FUND NAME**

Insert brief paragraph about your fund. FUND NAME is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.

**About Nebraska Community Foundation**

Nebraska Community Foundation unleashes abundant local assets, inspires charitable giving and connects ambitious people to build stronger communities and a Greater Nebraska.

Headquartered in Lincoln, the Foundation serves communities, donors and organizations by providing financial management, strategic development, education and training to a statewide network of 1,500 volunteers serving 270 communities.

In the last five years, 45,313 contributions have been made to Nebraska Community Foundation and its affiliated funds. Since 1994, Nebraska Community Foundation has reinvested $393.1 million in Nebraska’s people and places. For information, visit NebraskaHometown.org.

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