

## Activities and Projects Updates Summary

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Organization/Community: Scottsbluff

### **NETForce Meeting Date: 2/2/18**

11/1/17: The Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce won first place in the small chamber division of GrowthZone's National Innovation Awards for Strengths Finder training conducted with about 25 businesses.

1/8/18: I met with Nancy Johner, newly hired Executive Director of the Farm Services Agency to talk briefly about how SCORE and FSA can collaborate.

PRESS RELEASE: On November 20, 2017, the Trump Administration appointed Nancy as the new State Executive Director for the USDA Nebraska Farm Service Agency. Johner comes to FSA from Pathfinder Support Services, where she has served as CEO since 2014. She previously served on U.S. Senator Mike Johanns' staff as deputy chief of staff and state director. From 2006 to 2009, Johner served as Under Secretary for USDA's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. She holds a BS degree in social work from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The Farm Service Agency serves farmers, ranchers and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs. The agency offers farmers a strong safety net through the administration of farm commodity and disaster programs. FSA continues to conserve natural resources and also provides credit to agricultural producers who are unable to receive private, commercial credit, including special emphasis on beginning, underserved and women farmers and ranchers.

Under the direction of Secretary Sonny Perdue, the USDA will always be facts-based and data-driven, with a decision-making mindset that is customer-focused. Secretary Perdue leads the USDA with four guiding principles: to maximize the ability of American agriculture to create jobs, sell food and fiber, and feed and clothe the world; to prioritize customer service for the taxpayers; to ensure that our food supply is safe and secure; and to maintain good stewardship of the natural resources that provide us with our miraculous bounty. And understanding that we live in a global economy where trade is of top importance, Secretary Perdue has pledged to be an unapologetic advocate for American agriculture. As SED, Johner will use her leadership experience to oversee FSA programs in a customer-focused manner to ensure a safe, affordable, abundant and nutritious food supply for consumers.