

Nebraska Cooperative Council Director/Manager Workshop 2024



Smart Agricultural Cooperatives: AI Innovations, Ethical Leadership & Economic Resilience

AGENDA

- 7:30 am Registration check-in opens
- 8:00 am Unbiased: How to Manage Risk in the Gray Zone.....Andrew Fastow
- 9:00 am Break
- 9:10 am The Rise of AI: Understanding the Accelerating Impact of AI on Agri-Food..... Brett Sciotto
- 10:40 am Break
- 10:50 am How Digital and AI are Transforming Cooperatives Teddy Bekele
- 11:45 am Lunch
- 12:30 pm Tax Relief Incentives: Agriculture Industry..... Tim Taschner & Braden Ford
- 1:00 pm Ag Economic Update from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City..... Ty Kreitman
- 2:00 pm Adjourn

DATE:

Thur, Nov 21, 2024

LOCATION:

Younes Conference
enter-North, Kearney

PRE-REGISTRATION

DEADLINE:

Nov 6, 2024

*Let your cooperative know
you'd like to attend - they have
the registration form*

FACILITATORS



ANDREW FASTOW ... Mr. Fastow was the Chief Financial Officer of Enron Corp. from 1998 - 2001. In 2004, he pled guilty to two counts of securities fraud, and was sentenced to six years in federal prison. He completed his sentence in 2011, and now lives with his family in Houston, Texas. Mr. Fastow currently consults with Management, Directors, Attorneys, and Hedge Funds on how best to identify potentially critical finance, accounting, compensation, and cultural issues.

His training sessions focus on risk in the “gray area”, where decisions that may technically be allowed give rise to risks that are not being properly considered. He helps attendees to better understand the limited role of auditors and attorneys, how technically correct but ethically-challenged decisions may be interpreted by the “market”, and the steps that they can take to become more “self-aware”, so that attendees can better identify, price, and manage these risks.

Mr. Fastow is the only Enron executive that has taken full responsibility for his actions, and he has repeatedly and publicly expressed remorse. In addition to serving his prison sentence, Mr. Fastow forfeited far more money than he ever earned at Enron. He is credited with being the individual most responsible for helping to recover \$6 billion for Enron shareholders.

BRETT SCIOTTO ... Brett Sciotto is the founder and CEO of Aimpoint Research, a global, strategic intelligence firm specializing in agri-food that was named to the 2021 Inc. 5000 list of fastest-growing companies in the U.S. Brett leads a team of former military intelligence officers, agricultural experts, and market research professionals as they work to empower intelligence-driven organizations.



A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and a former Army Intelligence Officer, Brett Sciotto brings a practical, results-oriented approach to the civilian business world. His training in, and emphasis on, mission-critical information-gathering and targeted research methodology make him unique in his approach to problem solving in a corporate environment.

Brett's disciplined, vetted approach to research is coupled with his military precision in detailed analysis and final presentation to his clients. With nearly two decades of research expertise, he has had tremendous success advising corporate leaders, government officials and state and national organizations at all levels.



TEDDY BEKELE ... Teddy Bekele is the Chief Technology Officer at Land O'Lakes, a leading \$20B Fortune 500 farm to fork farmer-owned cooperative. As a seasoned executive, he spearheads digital transformation, information technology, and cybersecurity initiatives through his adept leverage of technology and data. His academic credentials include an MBA from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University.

His insights and leadership in technology have garnered recognition from prestigious publications and media appearances, such as 60 Minutes, Gartner, BBC, Fortune Magazine, and MIT Sloan Management Review. His contributions have not gone unnoticed, earning him accolades like WCCO's "Minnesotan to Meet" in 2017, Twin Cities 2022 Outstanding Directors, the 2022 MinnesotaCIO ORBIE® CIO Leadership Award, and the esteemed 2023 Forbes CIO Next 50.

Teddy's impact isn't limited to the corporate sphere. He dedicates his expertise to the public sector as the Chair of the Minnesota Broadband Task Force and the FCC-USDA Task Force for Precision Agriculture Connectivity and Adoption, shaping the future of technology and agriculture. Teddy has lived across three continents, is fluent in Italian and Amharic, and now calls Minneapolis, MN, home. There, he enjoys life with his wife Michele, their son Teddy Jr., and their daughter, Luna.

BRADEN FORD ... Braden serves as a Senior Associate at alliantgroup, where he combines his economic expertise with a deep-rooted passion for agriculture. A proud Texas A&M University graduate with a degree in Economics, Braden returned to his Houston hometown to make a meaningful impact on small and medium-sized businesses. His enthusiasm for the agricultural sector drives his work in educating business owners about valuable incentives that can bolster their teams and fuel growth. Braden is particularly dedicated to serving the agriculture industry, striving to help farmers and agribusinesses access the resources they need to thrive in an ever-evolving market landscape.



TIM TASCHNER ... Tim serves as alliantgroup's Agricultural Practice Leader and Associate Director. He leads a team of agricultural experts and has completed hundreds of agricultural case studies involving farming, food processing and livestock production. To date, Tim and his team have found an estimated \$150 million in federal and state R&D tax credits.



TY KREITMAN... is an assistant economist in the Regional Affairs Department at the Omaha Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. In this role, he primarily supports the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and the Federal Reserve System efforts surrounding agricultural economics research, analysis and outreach. His responsibilities include co-authoring the Tenth District Survey of Agricultural Credit Conditions and Agricultural Finance Updates.

Ty joined the Bank in 2015 as an assistant bank examiner in the Examinations & Inspections Department at the Omaha Branch and transferred to his current position in 2018. He holds a B.A. degree in Economics and Finance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a M.A. degree in Financial Economics from Youngstown State University.