



## Nebraskans First *Benefits of Membership*

1. Strong advocacy group fighting for your irrigation rights.
2. Timely newsletter and immediate updates on state water rights issues.
3. An office and presence close to the Capitol where the action takes place.

### *Facts*

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**FACT:** Throughout the 15 years of Nebraskans First existence, our directors and involved farmer members have actively and aggressively participated in countless government hearings and meetings across the state, standing tall in defense of the rights and freedoms of Nebraska groundwater irrigators.

**FACT:** There are two forces at work now. One side is comprised of certain state and federal government officials and large well-funded environmental groups which, together, seek to force more regulations, restrictions and controls on groundwater pumping. The other side is our grassroots, farmer-directed coalition of groundwater irrigators who know absolutely that farmers, not government officials, are the best stewards of our water resources.

**FACT:** We are dedicated to protecting our rights to wisely use groundwater for irrigation against unwarranted government oversight and control. The record shows that whenever the situation called for it, we did not shirk away, wring our hands and give in. There are basic and fundamental principles that must be defended, not compromised away for the sole purpose of going along with the political process in Lincoln in order to just get along. Nebraska farmers can no longer afford to continue to be soft in defending their interests.

**FACT:** Every Nebraska groundwater irrigator should belong to our no-nonsense coalition. They have too much to lose by not helping us in the fight to protect their, and our, rights.

**FACT:** The strong, active support of our members has allowed our group to become stronger and more effective. Because we are purely grassroots, we need individual farmer members to support and actively participate in our effort.

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### *Testimonials*

"NEBRASKANS FIRST has been the most aware, alert and involved group of rural Nebraska people on the subject of water that I have found. For those who ask, Is it over yet? meaning the threat to Nebraska water, the battle has not even really begun. It is humbling that one group knew this a decade ago, began fighting then, and is still fighting."

– Excerpts from *Grant County News*, March and July 2003

"NEBRASKANS FIRST has been an effective voice for Nebraska farmers. They are sounding a wake-up call to some of Nebraska's leaders about the continuing importance of irrigators in our state."

– Key comments of former Attorney General Don Stenberg

"NEBRASKANS FIRST is an organization that is run from the ground up, and I'm very impressed with the way you do that. This group does a great job of lobbying and presenting themselves well. I'm just impressed with the way you run your organization."

– Key comments of State Senator "Cap" Dierks

"Farmers won't organize. That's why I give NEBRASKANS FIRST 100% credit for what you've accomplished just by getting together, showing up at meetings and getting things done. It's tremendous!"

– Key comments of national radio talk show host Derry Brownfield