

Steve Nelson of Axtell was elected as the new president of Nebraska Farm Bureau Dec. 6 in Kearney at the Farm Bureau state convention. He succeeds Keith Olsen of Grant, who did not seek re-election after serving nine years as president. Mark McHargue of Central City was elected as first vice president.



“Being elected the next president of the state’s largest farm organization is just a great honor and an exciting opportunity to speak up for farm and ranch families across Nebraska,” Nelson said. “Nebraska Farm Bureau is a grassroots, member-driven organization and it’s my goal to increase our membership, to increase our efforts to find consensus in agriculture, and to increase our influence in the public policy arena.”

Nelson and his wife Elma raise corn, soybeans and seed corn. He currently serves as first vice president of Nebraska Farm Bureau and chairs the State Legislative Policy Committee. He is a past president of the Kearney-Franklin County Farm Bureau.

Nelson chaired the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Feed Grains Advisory Committee and has served on its Water Quality Task Force and Information and Technology Committee.

In 2003 he was appointed to the American Farm Bureau’s Making American Agriculture Productive and Profitable Committee to study the future of American agriculture.

Nelson was elected to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Board of Directors in 1997 to represent District 5 and was re-elected in 2000. In 2002 he was elected as first vice president and was re-elected in 2003 and 2006.

McHargue and his wife Judi raise irrigated corn and popcorn and own a farrow-to-finish hog operation. He was second vice president of Nebraska Farm Bureau before being elected as first vice president and is a former Merrick County Farm Bureau president. McHargue is a member of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association and serves on the National Pork Board’s Speakers Bureau, and is chairman of Nebraska Christian Schools.

Three members of the Farm Bureau Board of Directors also were re-elected: District 3 Director Jason Kvols of Laurel, District 8 Director Andy DeVries of Ogallala, and At Large Director Sherry Vinton of Whitman. Don Benner of Central City was elected as District 2 Director from nominations received from the delegate floor to fill the vacancy created by McHargue’s election as first vice president.