



June 2016 | Member Newsletter

Phil Kozera

Letter from the Executive Director



Phil Kozera
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Summer brings engaging meetings and planning for a bright future

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Bio Nebraska Fourth Annual Golf Scramble at Iron Horse on June 1. We had a diverse group of attendees and a terrific day to enjoy the camaraderie of other life-science professionals. I want to give a special thank you to our sponsors, PhRMA, Fisher Scientific, Streck, GeneSeek and Novozymes for their support. I'd also like to thank Dr. Kelly Lechtenberg and his team at Midwest Veterinary Services/Central States Research Centre for their sponsorship and support of the beverages.

"Also, I'm very excited about the conference that Bio Nebraska is bringing to Omaha July 20. *Biotechnology's Role in Emergency Preparedness* is a collaboration with Iowa Bio and offers the opportunity to discuss past, current and future innovative methods of animal disease and outbreak management."

In June, we also had the opportunity to lead the Nebraska delegation at the BIO International Convention in San Francisco. BIO International is the largest gathering of life-sciences professionals in the world. We enjoyed this excellent venue to engage a global audience on the significance of the biosciences in our state. Also, during BIO 2016, we participated in the release of the latest economic-impact study, which you can find here: <https://www.bio.org/value-bioscience-innovation-growing-jobs-and-improving-quality-life-2016>.

On the legislative front, the bioscience steering committee met and discussed Nebraska's life-sciences community. The committee consists of Senators Morfeld, Mello, Kuehn, Johnson and Schumacher. In recognition of biotech being a high-wage and high-growth sector, the goal of the committee is to look at ways to grow the industry in Nebraska. On the federal front, a thank you to Senator Fischer for signing Senator Grassley and Klobuchar's letter to the EPA requesting that they set ethanol-blending targets

where Congress intended and that they remove the distribution waiver.

Also, I'm very excited about the conference that Bio Nebraska is bringing to Omaha July 20. [Biotechnology's Role in Emergency Preparedness](#) is a collaboration with Iowa Bio and offers the opportunity to discuss past, current and future innovative methods of animal disease and outbreak management. For more information and to register, please go to the upcoming events section at www.bionebraska.org.

Finally, I hope that everyone has a safe and patriotic Fourth of July holiday.

Best regards,



P.S. Thanks to those of you who are adding colleagues in your organization to the newsletter distribution. Now they can see the great things our members are doing. For others, feel free to send us a list of new recipients who would like to get life-science news and event notices.

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Upcoming Events



[SBIR Road Tour](#)

June 29
Omaha, NE



[Governor's Summit on Econ. Development](#)

July 12
Lincoln, NE



[Biotechnology's Role in Emergency Preparedness](#)

July 20th
Sorrell Center, Omaha



[I2SL Conference](#)

September 25-28
Kansas City, MO

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Bioscience Leader Spotlight



Meet Vish Reddi, principal of engineering firm Reddi Incorporated in Lincoln

"We have six broad categories to cover an entire "bring my vision to life" process. We provide a one-stop shop if you want to build/grow your business and it involves a factory or warehouse environment."

Q: Welcome to Bio Nebraska! Please tell us a little bit about yourself and your background.

A: Thank you! I was born in Chennai, India. I grew up splitting my time between India and England. I chose engineering in college and moved to the US to pursue a master's degree at UW - Madison. I have worked in an engineering role at US and international companies for the last 12 years and started at Reddi Incorporated in January this year. My wife was born and raised in Nebraska and we welcomed our first child in November last year. We are honored to call Nebraska our home!

Q: Your company is Reddi Incorporated. What services do you provide?

A: If you were starting up a factory, or a new process in an existing factory, we believe that you need a seamless process from planning through construction to operational excellence. We have six broad categories to cover an entire "bring my vision to life" process. We provide a one-stop shop if you want to build/grow your business and it involves a factory or warehouse environment.

Q: What would you like us to know about your interest in life sciences?

A: The industries we currently work in are food (cereal, snacks, meat processing) and life sciences (pharmaceutical manufacturing/packaging and pet care). From an early age, I have had exposure to life sciences in various settings. Some regions don't have the infrastructure that some other regions do and they would benefit from more infrastructure. Some regions have infrastructure that evolved over the years and needs to be optimized to reduce costs and improve service levels. Gaining exposure to various life-science infrastructures from an early age has given me a unique perspective and helps us solve problems.

Q: Life science manufacturing requires precision and hygiene. How do you design for that?

A: It depends. Here is an example. If a facility is required to adhere to CFR Title 9, it would be inefficient to design solutions to meet CFR Title 21. So we do research up front and design the most effective solution. We start with the end goal in mind. We build in user requirements that are unique to the business processes in that facility.

Q: What projects have you done that we may be familiar with?

A: We have suppliers in other states but our clients are in Nebraska. We draw from national resources to deliver regional results. This year, we've been involved with projects at Zoetis and Smithfield in Lincoln. We are currently performing work at Smithfield and CCI in Crete.

Q: When you sit down with a new client, how do you address their most critical challenges?

A: I take a very standard problem-solving approach. Get the facts, state the issues correctly and succinctly, ask the right questions, engage in unrestricted but efficient debate, listen very carefully to all arguments, decide on a course of action based on relevancy, act promptly, deliver a reliable solution and follow up to ensure sustainability. The method is a very customized and hands-on.

Q: Buildings are getting “smart” as enterprises automate and integrate IT into environmental controls, energy, workflow, etc. Is this playing out in life science-related construction?

A: Yes. As technology gets easier to integrate into systems, I believe that one day buildings will run themselves. Having said that, we are decades away from that becoming an everyday occurrence.

Q: You also offer business consulting. How do the planning, engineering and construction match up with strategic planning?

A: Traditionally, a business owner who is improving an existing factory would hire a firm to analyze where improvements need to be made, then he would decipher what the results from the analysis mean, decide on what is relevant and feasible, then hire engineers, implement an improvement, hire operators, systematize the process and sustain superior results.

In my twelve years of working for various national brands, I have seen a lot get “lost in translation.” The end result is not nearly as good as the initial vision. A holistic approach from the start helps alleviate many issues that might later disrupt business.

Engineering in its most basic definition is to create a repeatable and reliable experience. Business processes exist to create a repeatable and reliable customer experience. There are similar aims between the two, and they provide the best outcome when coupled together.

Q: What would be an ideal project where construction, engineering and business consulting would be delivered in a synergistic fashion?

A: Regulatory agencies are going to get more stringent. Future generations will demand higher quality products. In a consumer-driven market, more efficient integration of business processes and manufacturing systems will be required. An ideal project would be one where a brand is trying to scale up to meet market demand or one where a brand has fallen from grace and needs to re-tool itself to be of service once again.

Q: Thanks for joining Bio Nebraska. What are your hopes from associating with our members?

A: I hope to contribute to the business community and generate new opportunities for growth and progress. I would like to establish strong and lasting relationships with members of Bio Nebraska and I look forward to being of service.

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State News

[Vaccine gets nod for FMD](#)

Benchmark BioLabs has been granted a conditional license to produce a bio-engineered vaccine for one of the world’s most devastating diseases in cattle, sheep and swine. Benchmark President Tim Miller told the Lincoln Journal-Star his company’s latest laboratory success ranks “right at the top” of its accomplishments in its 15-year history. “The whole concept here is a safe way to make foot-and-mouth vaccines without ever having to use the virus,” he said. “So this vaccine technology platform is capable of doing that as a counter measure against bio-terrorism.” FMD outbreaks are an economic catastrophe. The live virus is not allowed in the continental U.S.

[Federal legislative summit Aug. 4](#)

The Nebraska Chamber encourages members to attend the eighth annual Federal Legislative Summit on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016, at SAC Museum near Ashland. To register, call (402) 474-4422 or register online.

Exports important for Nebraska corn

With more than 95% of the world's population living outside the United States and representing 75% of the world's purchasing power, there is huge potential for Nebraska corn around the world. From raw grain—to meat—to ethanol, exports support prices for corn farmers. And each value-added product plays a big role in global demand.

International trade mission set for Asia this fall

Governor Pete Ricketts will lead a trade mission, Nov. 9-15, 2016, to meet with investors and host events in Xi'an, Shanghai and Hong Kong to strengthen Nebraska's relationships with the state's fourth largest trading partner. Joining are Director of Economic Development Courtney Dentlinger and Nebraska Director of Agriculture Greg Ibach, along with business leaders. Space is limited. Contact Cobus Block at 402-480-5806 or cobus.block@nebraska.gov or Stan Garbacz at 402-471-2341 or stan.garbacz@nebraska.gov.

\$20 million grant gets to the root of crop health

UNL garnered a \$20 million 5-year NSF EPSCoR grant to improve crop productivity. The project draws expertise at UNL, NU Med Center, UNK and Doane. The research will study root and soil microbe interactions and develop new biological tools to enhance crop performance. The award funds three new faculty positions, two at UNL and one at UNK.

HealthChart to develop new lymphoma diagnostic

UNeMed announced a licensing deal with HealthChart, a diagnostics and medical device company in Memphis, Tenn. The firm will further develop a new test that for rare blood cancers—peripheral T-cell lymphoma. HealthChart will work with UNMC researchers to refine the test into a companion diagnostic as new treatment strategies enter clinical trials.

MotoMetrix joins Straight Shot class of '16

UNeMed expanded its approach to commercializing its portfolio of inventions, announcing a relationship with Straight Shot. The Omaha accelerator helps technology startups. UNeMed technologies will run through Straight Shot's rigorous 90-day program. The first technology to use the process is a concussion-detection platform developed at UNO's world-class biomechanics lab. The inventor, Nick Stergiou, developed a device that measures barely perceptible adjustments in a person's standing balance, which is altered after a brain injury such as a concussion.

California chemical company building new plant in Columbus

Greenyug, a privately owned company based in Santa Barbara, California, plans to build a plant in Columbus to make ethyl acetate, a solvent with many industrial uses. Building is set to start late this year adjacent to an ADM corn-ethanol plant. Production will begin a year later. Greenyug Vice President Luca Zullo said the plant would employ 20 full-time people.

Native American kids go to Omaha science camp

The annual SEPA (Science Education Partnership Award) health and science fun camp held June 5-8 in Omaha hosted over 50 youths from seven Native American tribes in Nebraska and South Dakota. The five-year, \$1.3 million National Institutes of Health SEPA grant aims to improve math and science skills of American Indian youths. Maurice Godfrey, Munroe-Meyer Institute at UNMC, is the principal investigator. "This camp really opens your eyes to the possibilities in life," said Moses Renville, a tribal-school senior from South Dakota. "Even though a lot of bad stuff happens on the reservation, not everything is bad, and if you stay in school and work hard you can do some pretty great things."

Omaha in 'sweet spot' of jobs, lifestyle and housing costs

A new analysis of the nation's largest 100 metropolitan areas shows that Omaha ranked 16th-best in housing affordability, 24th in jobs or economic strength and 30th in quality of life — which won the city a fourth-place rank overall, the Omaha World-Herald reported. "Omaha comes closer to being able to still have housing affordability when having a strong economy and high quality of life than about anywhere in the U.S.," said UNO demographer David Drozd, who delved deeper into the stats behind the study.

State a magnet for bio-based partnerships

When it comes to fostering the development and growth of biotechnology and bioscience companies, Nebraska is all in. Bioscience companies employ more than 16,000 people in the state, and growth is outpacing the national average. "Nebraska is well-suited to capitalize on the next wave of scientific breakthroughs in the biosciences," said Phil Kozera, executive director of Bio Nebraska. "There are many opportunities for next-generation companies to evolve in Nebraska, which leads to job creation and

strengthening the state's global leadership in value-added agriculture.”

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National News



Left to right - Merck staff: Rick Sibbel, executive director, technical services for Merck Animal Health's U.S. Food Animal Team; Allison Flinn, senior specialist, public policy and government relations; Berend Koops, associate director, state government affairs; Darin Tompkins, general manager, Merck Elkhorn Facility; Scott Bormann, vice president, Merck North America

[Sibbel heads Merck's food animal tech services](#)

Rick Sibbel was named executive director of technical services for Merck Animal Health's recently formed U.S. Food Animal Team. Sibbel will oversee tech service and pharmacovigilance for Merck's ruminants, swine and poultry businesses. He has a bachelor's degree in pre-veterinary science from UNL and a DVM from Iowa State and is well-known in our state.

[Zoetis brings new focus to global alliances](#)

Zoetis is pursuing research alliances with companies and institutions across the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, animal health and agribusiness industries with a new strategic focus. It currently has about 100 research alliances around the world. Scott Brown, vice president of external innovation, veterinary medicine research and development, tells Animal Pharm Asia the firm aims to attract and nurture partners in a competitive environment.

[Novozymes exec honored by the UN](#)

The United Nations Global Compact has recognized Novozymes' head of corporate sustainability, Claus Stig Pedersen, for aligning business efforts with the UN's [Sustainable Development Goals](#). The global goals to end poverty, protect the planet and grow prosperity have guided Novozymes' aim to better lives. Among the targets is an ambition to reach six billion people with the company's biological solutions, deliver ten transformative innovations, catalyze five global partnerships for change and save 100 million tons of CO2 through use of the company's products - all by 2020.

[New federal trade secrets act expands employers' rights and obligations](#)

The federal Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 has created the first federal civil cause of action for the misappropriation of trade secrets, reports the Cline Williams law firm. By providing civil jurisdiction in federal courts, the DTSA provides another tool to prevent or remedy the disclosure or theft of trade secrets. However, the DTSA also imposes new obligations on employers in order to pursue remedies.

[Transgenomic speeds cancer product rollout](#)

Transgenomic plans to expand its ICE COLD-PCR-powered cancer assays ten-fold over the next 18 months, targeting a portfolio of more than 200 exons/mutations, available to partners, cancer researchers, drug developers and clinicians by 2018.

[Celerion recognized as CRO leader](#)

Celerion was highlighted as an industry leader by global biopharmaceutical executives in Life Science Leader's 2016 CRO Leadership Awards, and was recognized by 65 peers across 27 performance metrics. "It

is an honor to be recognized by our clients with these awards," said Susan Thornton, president and CEO.

[Monsanto featured in CNBC's Where the Jobs Are](#)

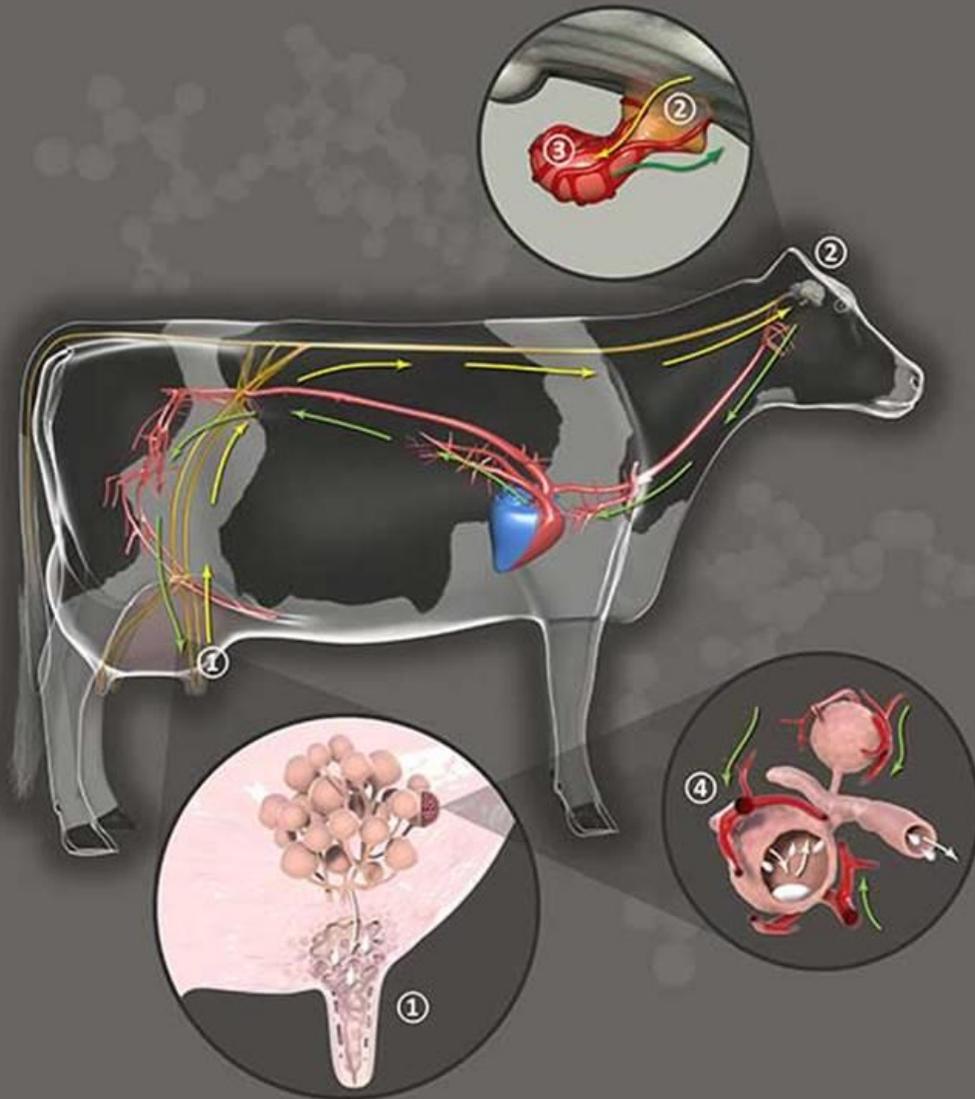
According to Purdue University, only 61% of 58,000 job openings are filled each year in ag-related companies. Demand for high-skilled jobs in agribusiness is driven partly by the need to feed an increasing population with less water and land, plus growth of new technology in agriculture. CNBC's looks into Monsanto's approach to enticing recruits.

[Retaking the Field calls for more ag research](#)

Thirteen prominent research institutions in the United States, including UNL, called for more federal support of food and agricultural science. Retaking the Field illustrates how US ag production is losing ground to China and other competitors. The report says ag and food supports one in 10 jobs and adds \$835 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product. Every public dollar invested in ag research delivers \$20 in economic returns.

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Milk Let-Down Neural–Circulatory Pathways



① Teat suckling sends nerve impulses to the brain's hypothalamus ② and on to the pituitary ③. The pituitary secretes oxytocin into the blood stream where it is carried to udder alveoli ④. The alveoli contract to let down milk.

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This illustration by Albrecht GFX shows a key neural feedback system within the lactating dairy cow.

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