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## Nebraska Agribusiness Club, The 43rd Annual Honors Banquet: Dayle E. Williamson Presentation

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AWARDS  
Committee

DAYLE - SECRETARY of the Club

KEEP IT A SECRET -

EASY -

A DEMOCRAT

Nebraska Agribusiness Club  
The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Honors Banquet  
Recognizing Public Service to Agriculture  
Thursday, November 5, 2009  
Country Inn and Suites, Beacon Hills  
5353 No. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE  
John Owens, NU Vice President & Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

Supervisor -  
ARMY GENERAL

### Dayle E. Williamson Presentation

A young man who worked 20 hours a week in the Russell Stover Candy factory and spent "most-weekends" helping his father on the farm while attending college, is our "next recipient" of the Nebraska Agribusiness Club's Public Service to Agriculture Award.

He is Dayle E. Williamson, a native of Fillmore County, graduate of Ohioa High School and the University of Nebraska in General Agriculture, who planned to be a farmer. He served in the U.S. Army, joined the Nebraska National Guard, and was employed as a University Extension "agent" in Gage and Jefferson counties. Then Dayle "embarked" on what became his life's profession upon being named Assistant Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission in 1958.

When the Commission's name was changed to Nebraska Natural Resources Commission in 1970, Williamson was named Executive Secretary. He became responsible for negotiations on various proposed amendments to the Natural Resources District Law as well as the implementation of the merger of the 154 existing special purpose districts into 24 Natural Resources Districts. The formation and activation of Natural Resources Districts has been termed the most significant-change in natural resources development and management in the history of Nebraska. When the name of the agency was changed in state law in 1985 to the Nebraska Department of Resources, Dayle was appointed the first Director by Governor Robert Kerry. He subsequently was appointed by Governors Kay Orr and Ben Nelson.

Williamson's military career almost paralleled his professional career. He devoted virtually all of his vacation time and spare time to the National Guard. A graduate of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington D. C., Dayle moved through the ranks to Deputy Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard. He retired in 1985 as Brigadier General, Officer-of-the-Line.

Following retirement as Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in 2000, he served as Special Assistant to the Director until 2001 when he became the Nebraska Agricultural Representative to U.S. Senator Ben Nelson, the position he holds today.

Dayle's leadership qualities are legend. He is especially knowledgeable in the broad and complex field of natural resources and, for a Democrat, has the unusual knack of being able to get along with people. Throughout his career, Dayle has operated in a field in which controversy is far from unknown amidst ever-present political overtones. It's easy to stumble into the cross fire, yet Dayle has thrived while performing a key role by solving complex, controversial problems. Throughout his years of service, Williams has had strong support in his endeavors within the large and diverse clientele he served.

He has worked with numerous state, regional, and federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's former Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. He has served as president of the National Association of State Conservationists as well as our own Nebraska Agribusiness Club.

Williamson has received many honors which include the Distinguished Service

Award from the Nebraska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the William C. Ackerman Medal for Excellence in Water Management from the American Water Resources Association and Honoree, and election to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.

Dayle has two daughters, Sandra Williamson of Memphis, TN and Susan Lockwood of Kimball, NE; and one son, David Williamson of Los Angeles, CA.

Therefore, in recognition of his leadership in developing and protecting Nebraska's natural resources as well as outstanding service to his country and its citizens, it is a great pleasure to present the Nebraska Agribusiness Club's Public Service To Agriculture Award to Dayle E. Williamson.

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