

## **Steve Wellman, Director Nebraska Department of Agriculture Biography**

Steve Wellman became the 27<sup>th</sup> Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in December 2017, after being appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts. Wellman brings a broad range of experience to the position having farmed in Nebraska for more than 30 years and also serving on various agricultural organizations and advisory committees at the federal, state and local level.

Wellman owns and operates a fourth generation family farm near Syracuse, Nebraska. His diversified family farm produces soybeans, corn, wheat, alfalfa and cattle.

As Director, Wellman oversees all programs of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. His efforts include work on agriculture policy issues at both the state and national levels.

Wellman has been a leader in the Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) and the American Soybean Association (ASA). He served on the ASA Board of Directors from 2006-2015 and was elected ASA President in 2012 and Chairman in 2013. He served on the NSA Board of Directors from 1998-2006 and was elected NSA president 2002-2003 and NSA chairman 2004-2005.

Wellman has also served on the USDA/USTR Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Grains, Feeds, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds from 2011-2015, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission Agricultural Advisory Committee from 2013-2015 and the CME Group Agricultural Markets Advisory Council from 2013-2015. He has been involved with agriculture advisory committees for Gov. Ricketts and President Donald Trump.

Wellman has been active in promoting Nebraska agriculture products domestically and internationally, accompanying the Governor on a trade mission to Europe in 2015. Trade missions have been a key component of the governor's efforts to expand markets for and grow Nebraska agriculture.

An alumnus of the University of Nebraska's College of Technical Agriculture, Wellman received a degree in production agriculture in 1981. He is a member of the American Farm Bureau, Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Ag Builders of Nebraska and Outstanding Farmers of America. Wellman and his wife, Susan, have two adult children.