



**NAMES IN THE NEWS:
AGRICULTURE SECRETARY NOMINEE
MIKE JOHANNIS**

By
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DEC. 8, 2004

President Bush recently tapped Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns to serve in his Cabinet as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Touting Johanns' Midwest agricultural background, many lauded the nomination, including Nebraska's Democratic U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson and Jan Lyons, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Born in Iowa and raised on a dairy farm, Johanns was elected governor of Nebraska in 1998 and was re-elected in 2002, becoming the first Republican to win re-election in more than four decades.¹

But it was not his agricultural allies who provided the bulk of funds for his re-election campaign -- agricultural interests contributed just 5 percent of the \$2.3 million Johanns raised from 1999 through 2002.

However, much of the \$108,127 that agricultural interests gave Johanns from 1999 through 2002 came from some of the biggest names in the industry, including ConAgra Foods, Kraft Foods, Tyson Foods, and Archer Daniels Midland. These businesses are not only key to Nebraska's economic picture, but also are subject to federal regulations and tax policies often overseen by the Agriculture Department that Johanns will be heading, if the U.S. Senate confirms his nomination.

In fact, Johanns was the top state-level recipient nationwide of campaign contributions from ConAgra, an Omaha-based company. Johanns received 39 percent of the \$70,500 that ConAgra Foods gave to state-level candidates across the country from 1999 through 2002.

But other agricultural interests also heavily favored Johanns in their giving.

Johanns and two other gubernatorial candidates — Republican Sonny Perdue and Democrat Roy Barnes, both of Georgia — received the second-largest amount of money that Tyson Foods contributed to state-level candidates, each receiving \$5,000. Tyson gave slightly less than \$108,000 to state-level candidates during the four-year period. California gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon, a Republican, received the largest Tyson contribution, of \$10,000.

Archer Daniels Midland, an Illinois firm, gave its biggest state-level contributions primarily to Illinois candidates. Only two other candidates ranked among the top 12 recipients of the company's funds between 1999 and 2002 — Johanns, who received \$7,500, and Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, a Democrat who received \$11,500. The company gave about \$351,000 to state-level candidates during the four years.

Johanns also ranked fourth among Cargill Inc. contributions; the Minnesota-based firm gave Johanns \$2,500 of the \$32,500 in campaign funds it gave to state candidates. The top three recipients of Cargill funds during this period were from California.

The table on the following page details the contributions Johanns received from businesses in the agriculture sector.

¹ "Neb. Governor Chosen for Agricultural Post," Deb Riechmann, *Associated Press*, Dec. 2, 2004.

AGRICULTURAL INTEREST	TOTAL
ConAgra Foods	\$27,500
Kraft Foods	\$9,500
Archer Daniels Midland/ADM	\$7,500
Ag Processing	\$6,500
Timmerman & Sons Feeding Co.	\$6,000
Nash Finch Co.	\$5,000
Nebraska Machinery Co.	\$5,000
Tyson Foods	\$5,000
Nebraska Farm Bureau	\$3,500
Scoular Co.	\$3,000
Cargill Inc.	\$2,500
Nebraska Equipment Dealers PAC	\$2,500
Nebraska Cattlemen PAC	\$2,000
Kellogg Co.	\$1,000
Monsanto Co.	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$87,500

Overall, Johanns' largest contributor was the Republican National Committee, which gave \$125,000 over the four-year period. In distant second was the B & J Partnership, a real estate firm out of Lincoln, Neb.

The table below lists those non-individual donors giving \$10,000 or more to Johanns' re-election bid from 1999 to 2002.

CONTRIBUTOR	INDUSTRY	TOTAL
Republican National Committee/RNC	Party Committees	\$125,000
B & J Partnership	Real Estate	\$52,936
Solutions for Your Office	Miscellaneous Services	\$28,381
ConAgra Foods	Food Processing & Sales	\$27,500
First National of Nebraska	Commercial Banks	\$20,000
Hawkins Construction Co.	General Contractors	\$20,000
Union Pacific Railroad	Railroads	\$19,751
HDR Engineering	Construction Services	\$15,000
Nebraska Bankers Assoc.	Commercial Banks	\$15,000
Acton Group Ltd.	Recreation/Entertainment	\$14,436
Lyman Richey Corp.	General Contractors	\$12,700
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	Railroads	\$12,500
Mutual of Omaha	Insurance	\$12,500
Valmont Industries	Manufacturing & Distributing	\$12,500
Nebraska State Troopers Association	Public Sector Unions	\$11,026
First Data Corp.	Miscellaneous Finance	\$11,000
Nebco Inc.	Building Materials/Equipment	\$10,500
Werner Enterprises	Trucking	\$10,500
Alltel	Telecom Services/Equipment	\$10,400
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska	Insurance	\$10,200
Blue Grass Shows	Recreation/Entertainment	\$10,000

CONTRIBUTOR	INDUSTRY	TOTAL
Dobson Brothers Construction Co.	General Contractors	\$10,000
Golds Building LLC	Electric Utilities	\$10,000
Nebraska Optometric Association	Health Professionals	\$10,000
Peter Kiewit & Sons	General Contractors	\$10,000
Werner Construction	General Contractors	\$10,000
TOTAL		\$511,829

The bulk of Johanns' campaign war chest came from individual contributors, who gave a combined total of more than \$900,000, or 38 percent of his total. Business interests were a close second, with \$822,195, which accounted for 34 percent of the total. Unitemized contributions — those from undisclosed donors whose contributions were under the reporting threshold of \$250 or less during the election — accounted for 20 percent of Johanns' campaign funds.

Among the individuals who gave to Johanns during his four-year re-election campaign, Randall Thompson of RJ Thompson Holdings, an online brokerage firm, rose to the top with \$40,000. Close behind was Charles Durham of Durham Resources, a privately held financial management company; Durham gave more than \$35,000.

The table below lists those individuals who gave \$10,000 or more to Johanns' re-election campaign.

CONTRIBUTOR	COMPANY	HOMETOWN	TOTAL
Thompson, Randall	RJ Thompson Holdings	Omaha, NE	\$40,000
Durham, Charles W.	Durham Resources	Omaha, NE	\$35,252
Egermayer Jr., George W.	Mutual Protective Insurance Co.	Omaha, NE	\$31,000
Batchelder, Anne	US Checkbook	Omaha, NE	\$29,591
Stinson, Ken	Kiewit Construction Group	Omaha, NE	\$27,560
Stuart III, James	NBC Bank	Lincoln, NE	\$15,230
Acklie, Duane W.	Crete Carrier	Lincoln, NE	\$15,000
Yanney, Michael	American First Companies	Omaha, NE	\$12,500
Morrison, Kenneth	Morrison Enterprises	Hastings, NE	\$11,750
Micek, John	Universal Insurance Agency	Omaha, NE	\$11,000
Grewcock, William	Peter Kiewit & Sons	Omaha, NE	\$10,200
TOTAL			\$239,083