

The Update

"LEAD by Example"

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

SUMMER 2026

2026 March International Travel Study Seminar

The 2026 March International Travel Study Seminar to Vietnam with a 3-day Add-On to Cambodia was a great success. We enjoyed 10 days traveling in Vietnam, visiting Hanoi, Halong Bay (one of the new 7 wonders of the world, UNESCO Heritage site), Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong River Delta Region. Followed by 3 days in Cambodia, seeing Siem Riep and the temples of Angkor Wat. We traveled from March 9 – 23, 2026.

Vietnam: We spent time in Hanoi, the oldest Southeast Asian capital city, seeing original architecture without the influence of modern skyscrapers. We visited temples and pagodas, the John McCain Memorial and Hoa Lo Prison, better known as the "Hanoi Hilton". We then flew to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). We saw the modern influence with skyscrapers alongside ancient buildings. We toured Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and the French Quarter. We did a walking tour of Ho Chi Minh City, visiting the wet markets, Independence Palace, the War Remnants Museum and Bn Thinh Market. We toured the Cu Chi tunnels of the Vietnam war and even crawled inside of them. We took a rowboat excursion through the rural Mekong Delta region.



Agricultural visits included the local fresh markets, the wholesale fruit & vegetable market, Quang Ba Wholesale Flower Market, the village of Song Phuong to meet with growers and farmers of the local communal farms. We visited the Agricultural Management Center, Vietnam's first high-tech agricultural park. We saw rubber trees being harvested, and red worm farms. We traveled to the Than Cuu Nghia Vegetable Cooperative and Cong Ty Trihh MTV Mai Tu Hoanh rice storage facility and refining factory. We took a boat ride on the Mekong to see the Cai Rang Floating Markets.

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Cambodia: We arrived in Siem Reap Cambodia and began our time touring Tonle Sap Lake & the Floating Village of Chong Khneas. Tonle Sap belongs to the Mekong River system. Tonle Sap Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia and one of the most diverse and productive ecosystems in the world. It was designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1997. We visited Artisans Angkor Silk Farm, seeing the silk products being made by hand.



Our time at Angkor Wat, UNESCO World Heritage Site, was breathtaking. Angkor Wat is the largest religious monument in the world. We participated in a cooking class by a local chef, purchasing our items from the local market and then being coached on cooking them.

We ended our travels with a day in Bangkok, Thailand before flying back home. We toured the Grand Palace, and the Temple of

the Emerald Buddha. Then took Tuk tuk rides through the streets Bangkok.

This was a wonderful place to travel to, and we had such a great group of travelers.





Tami Clausen
LEAD Executive Secretary

How can you get more involved in your Alumni Association? One way is to serve on a committee. Most of the alumni committees are composed mainly by the Board of Director members. These individuals are very involved in the success of the association. However, the association would be greatly enhanced by the talents of its members. As you journeyed through the Nebraska LEAD Program many skills were enhanced and recognized. I would encourage you to utilize those gifts and talents to further the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association's motto "LEAD by Example" by volunteering for a committee.

Current LEAD Alumni Committees

Ag Adventure Tour	Annual Conference Advisory Committee	Audit Committee
Constitution and by-laws	Friend of LEAD Committee	Investment Committee
Nominations Committee	National/International Study Travel	Strategic Planning Committee
	Outstanding Alum Award Committee	

If you have an interest in giving your time to enhance any of these committees, please reach out to Kerry Glandt, President or myself and we will be happy to get you in touch with the committee chair and get you added.

Why is it important to notify the LEAD Alumni Association of a change in contact information?

Your contact information is used in many different ways. This contact information is used to mail newsletters and other correspondence, to make email and phone contact, and to update the directory information. Last year the association made the decision to do voting for board members electronically, having up to date email addresses became a vital step in making that change.

As the Executive Secretary, I maintain the contact information of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association members. The Nebraska LEAD Program staff and I strive to share information in order to keep all information up to date. The association does not share your information with anyone who is not an association member or a member of the Nebraska LEAD Program staff. Please add the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association to the list of those you notify when there is a change in any of your contact information.

Condolences: To Mark Jagels LEAD 11, and his family at the death of his father.

Ag Adventure Tour ~

With great sadness the decision was made to cancel the 2026 "Surf & Turf" Ag Adventure Tour. Tim Graff and his committee had arranged a very informative and fun tour. However, the low registrations numbers made it financially unfeasible to hold the event.

The Ag Adventure Tour has been a way for the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association to showcase and communicate with its members and also with those not directly involved with agriculture, everything our state has to offer in regards to the agricultural diversity. The past 3 years an effort has been made to, once again, reach that goal by offering Ag Adventure Tours. The Board of Directors is looking at options to continue with the Ag Adventure Tour and possible partnerships with other organizations to facilitate the tours.

If you are aware of an organization that would be a good fit to partner with, please contact a member of the Board of Directors. If you would like to be part of the planning of such an event your input would be very welcomed. Nebraska agriculture has so much to offer and showcasing every part of our great state furthers the promotion of the agriculture worldwide.

Nomination Committee



Jesse Mohnike
Nomination Committee Chair

Between swatting mosquitoes and wiping the sweat off our brow, it's time to start thinking about our next election for the Board of Directors.

This year's positions that are up for election are:

- **Northwest District** - Currently held by Judy Trent

(County of residence: Arthur, Blaine, Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Cheyenne, Custer, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Garfield, Grant, Greeley, Holt, Hooker, Howard, Keya Paha, Kimball, Logan, Loop, McPherson, Morrill, Rock, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Thomas, Valley, Wheeler)

- **Southwest District** - Currently held by David Grimes

(County of residence: Adams, Buffalo, Chase, Dawson, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Hall, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Kearney, Keith, Lincoln, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Webster)

Our current representatives, along with Executive Secretary Tami Clausen are hoping to get a jump on this year's election and fill the ballot with many good candidates. If you are interested in serving on the LEAD Alumni board of directors, or know someone who would be a good candidate, reach out to either Tami or I and we can point them in the right direction. The application form is currently available on the LEAD Alumni website. Deadline for applications/nominations is October 31.

Last year's election had a great slate of candidates and a decent voter turnout for the first year. I'm confident that this time around will be another successful election.

Thank you from your Past President and current chairman of the nomination committee,
Jesse Mohnike
LEAD 39

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## *Up Coming Travels ~*

### ***2026 National Travel Study to the Finger Lakes Region of New York State, plus Niagara Falls***

August 13-20th, 2026, we will be traveling to Syracuse NY to visit the Finger Lakes region. We will spend time in Ithaca, Pen Yann, Rochester, Batavia, ending at Niagara Falls. We have many agricultural visits scheduled as well as State Parks and Canal Rides.



*Pat Heyen*  
*LEAD Alumni National & International Travel Study Coordinator*

### ***2027 International Travel Study – Announcement to be made soon***

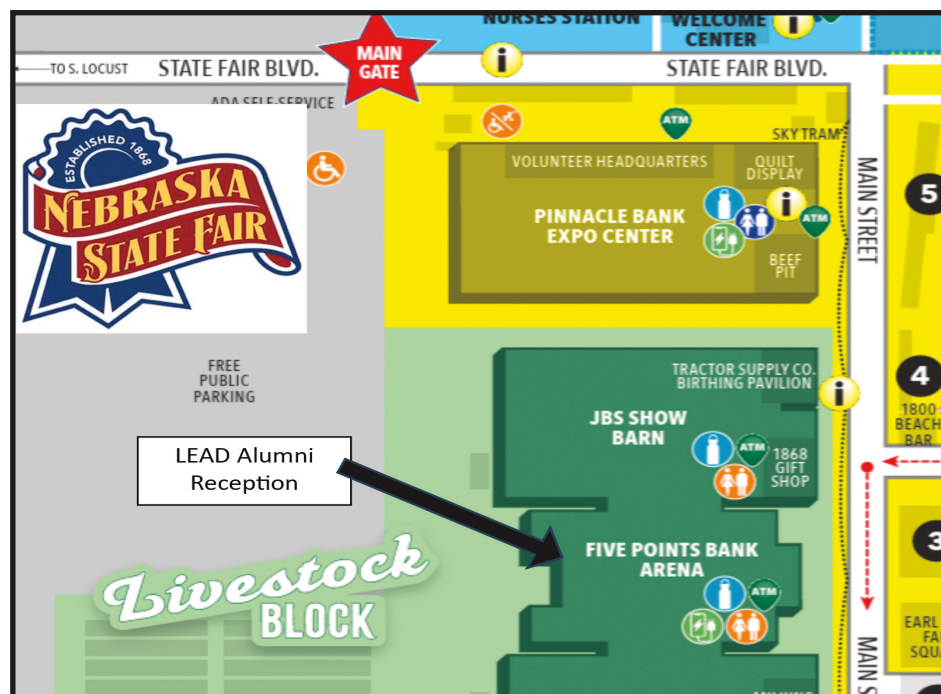
August 2027. Please watch for this announcement on the Alumni website as well as the Alumni Facebook page.

I hope, in the near future, you will be able to join us on one of the Alumni Travel Study Seminars, be it National or International. What a great group of people to travel with.

## Up Coming Events ~

# State Fair Reception

Tuesday, September 1st at the Loft in the 5 Points Arena, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Appetizers curtesy of Kurtis Harms, LEAD Program Director. Cash bar available. Gate fee is \$2.50 per person for the day.





# NEBRASKA

## FOOTBALL TAILGATE

Annual Husker Season Opener Tailgate

**Saturday, September 5, 2026**

**8:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

**Pier House at Capitol Beach**  
535 Pier 2, Lincoln, NE

**11:00 AM Game: Nebraska vs. Ohio**  
Memorial Stadium – Lincoln, NE



Food & Drinks • Live Music on the Dock • Great Company • Husker Spirit

*Wear your Husker red and join us!*

# GO BIG RED!

Mark Suhr: 402-643-8165 | Matt Dolch: 402-405-2064



# The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
Tami Clausen  
201 S Pine Street  
Hooper, NE 68031  
contact@neleadalumni.com

Address Service Requested

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U.S. Postage  
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## **The 2026 LEAD Alumni Board of Directors**

Southeast District – Austin Benes, Adam Howard, Jesse Mohnike  
Northeast District – Joe Ruskamp, Brian Schwartz, Larry Heyen  
Southwest District – Stephanie Hartmann, David Grimes, Jarid Childears  
Northwest District – Brett Heiting, Judy Trent, Jake Tollman  
At Large – Mitch Oswald, Kerry Glandt  
Class 43 Representative – Anthony Finke

## **2026 LEAD Alumni Officers**

President – Kerry Glandt  
1st Vice President – Joe Ruskamp  
2nd Vice President – Jake Tollman  
Past President – Jesse Mohnike  
Secretary/Treasurer – Stephanie Hartmann

## **NE LEAD Alumni Staff**

Executive Secretary – Tami Clausen  
Executive Treasurer – Hannah Swink  
Study Tavel Coordinator – Pat Heyen  
Social Media Coordinator - Mark Suhr

## **Mission Statement**

Our Mission is to encourage our members to continue as agricultural leaders by using their skills, insight, knowledge and network to LEAD by their example.

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Connect with us through our website at <http://www.neleadalumni.com>  
our Facebook page at Nebraska Lead Alumni Group Page, [contact@neleadalumni.com](mailto:contact@neleadalumni.com)

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*Please remember to submit important  
Nebraska LEAD Alumni news to:*

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
Tami Clausen  
201 S Pine Street  
Hooper, NE 68031  
[contact@neleadalumni.com](mailto:contact@neleadalumni.com)

## **NETWORK!**

Keep the spirit of the  
Nebraska LEAD  
Program ALIVE!

Update is the official newsletter  
of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni  
Association. The purpose of the  
publication is to keep you, a vital  
part of the LEAD network, linked  
with fellow alumni!