

## Where are they now?

*Glasers, LEAD alums, leading the way in organic and natural-fed crop/livestock production*



*Pictured are Jerry (LEAD XXIII) and Cindy (LEAD XXV) Glaser of rural Spalding. The couple has found success in organic and natural-fed crop/livestock production. They are pictured on a windy day in front of a portion of their operation. Just past the trees in the background is a new crop they are trying this year – garbanzo beans.*

**SPALDING, Neb.** – Jerry (LEAD XXIII) and his wife Cindy (LEAD XXV) Glaser say the Nebraska LEAD Program was a “Great experience that made us consider things differently and that’s a path we have continued on to this day on our farm and livestock operation.”

The Glasers have thrived taking their own path and “thinking differently.” The couple married in 1979 and just celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. At first they lived in Central City for six years.

“Then we moved here because Jerry wanted to farm,” Cindy said.

“Yes, everyone wondered why in the world I was quitting my good job as a diesel mechanic to farm,” Jerry added with a smile. “That was 1985 when the farm economy was at one of its lowest points.”

The diesel mechanic experience proved very valuable to farming, Jerry noted, “As a diesel mechanic you learn to fix things. I was always a troubleshooter. It wasn’t about just putting a part in, it was about learning the reason the part went bad. When it came to the farm, I started asking myself why the soils were lumpy and hard. I started studying why it was that way. At that time, we were using an excessive amount of anhydrous ammonia and lots of pounds of atrazine. We were killing the soil biology and balance of minerals by doing that. In order to fix the problems in the soil we needed to add calcium and rotate crops as well as limit the use of yield-boosting products.”

“Our research found that this is what the organic farmers were doing to maintain production. Because of the changes we were making in our farm practices, we weren’t getting quite the same yields, so at that point we decided to become Certified Organic to get the value-added price for our crops,” he explained.

## Continued from page 1

“It takes three years of using no synthetic fertilizers and chemicals to be certified organic. During those three years, crops must be sold on a conventional market. What we felt was the best way to transition those three years was to plant the fields to grass and legumes to raise value-added, grass-fed beef. The livestock deposit the nutrients back in the soil and the grass will build organic matter in the soil. Then you are ready to plant the organic crops,” Jerry said.

“The inputs we use to build topsoil are calcium, soft-rock, phosphate, gypsum, compost teas, hydrolyzed fish, aged manure, molasses and sugar as well as microbial products. That pulls out the minerals that you have locked up in your soil and helps balance everything out.” Jerry added. “We have been very impressed with the improvement of the soil structure and production.”

The Glasers have delved into organic and grass-finished beef as well as several organic crops including popcorn, food grade corn, food grade soybeans and this year they planted something new – garbanzo beans.

The crops are marketed directly off the farm, Cindy explained, “The organic crops and grass-finished beef are a good compliment to each other. In order to produce organic crops you need a rotation program. Our rotation is three years of grass (the Glasers plant five to six grasses and three to four legumes). The cattle graze on crop residue that also has cover crops of turnips, radishes, rye and an oats/peas mix. The beef is all sold grass-finished or natural and the beef and crops are certified under the label ‘Where Food Comes From’ (previously IMI Global). Now, for example, our beef, garbanzo beans and popcorn can be scanned at any store that carries the ‘Where Food Comes From’ label and is connected directly to us.”

“When I was in South Korea with the LEAD program in 2004, the consumers there really wanted to know where the food comes from,” Jerry added. “They had a computer on the meat counter that would show a picture of the animal, where and when it was processed and who raised it. That’s one of the reasons we started identifying our cattle with EID tags. We still do EID tagging to manage which program the cattle are in. That way if we lose the ear tag, we definitely have proof and don’t have to sell them with our conventional cattle.”

The primary workers on the farm are Cindy, Jerry and a young man who came back to their local area who wanted to own his own cattle herd. He has bought into 25 percent of the herd.

“Having ownership into the herd helps him pay closer attention to the cattle,” Cindy said. “It’s important to reach out to those interested in getting into agriculture if you can, even if it’s not a family member. There are so many opportunities to share.”

“If agriculture has been good to you in the past, then give something back to your community,” Cindy said in closing. “Give someone a start. There’s a whole generation of young people who want to get into farming and ranching and in so many ways they have been priced out. Now, we all need to work together and give them a chance.”



*A beautiful view of the grass-strewn landscape that surrounds the Glaser's home.*



# President's Message

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*Mark Holoubek, LEAD VI*

## **Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity!**

My high school basketball coach had each player choose a saying to model our season by. I chose this one. As it turned out, this was good advice for life as it was good luck for me to have been prepared for the opportunity to join LEAD class VI and travel to France, Switzerland, the Ivory Coast, Ghana and Togo in Africa. The fact of the matter is that we are where we are because of the choices that we have made both personally and as an organization in the past. I know that my life's path changed because of my decision to join the LEAD program in 1986. Another way to say this is success is often a result of proper planning. Let me share a quick story to illustrate my point. On May 11, this past Mother's Day, many residents of south central NE were shaken when 17 different tornados dropped out of the clouds. My brother is a pastor at Sutton, NE and he was in prayer that afternoon unaware of the tornado warnings when two parishioners rushed in to take cover in the basement of the newly built parish hall which had been designed as a storm shelter. One key decision made at the time the structure was built affected the

lives of the townspeople in the days that followed the storm. It was decided to install the proper electrical connections to allow for a generator to be immediately hooked up in case of an emergency. Well, because of that one decision, a portable generator was installed and St. Mary's parish hall became the Sutton command center for the Red Cross and the Salvation Army providing lights and kitchen equipment so that the Red Cross could serve meals to the community. Over 600 were fed the next day as it was about the only source of power, water and facilities available after the storm. We send our prayers to those who lost property and possessions in the storms.

Your LEAD Alumni board is faced with the task of making some key decisions at our strategic planning retreat on July 9th. We must determine the direction of our future concerning the organizational structure and decide if changes should be made in the design of the day to day functions of your association with Nancy's decision to retire as our executive secretary and Kerry's decision to step down as our newsletter editor. I can share that our executive treasurer position is working well and we appreciate the work Tim does in that role.

You will meet our newest board member in this issue and I am excited to report that he comes to us from LEAD class II. I remember visiting him shortly after he survived the destructive tornados as a resident of Grand Island years ago. LEAD class II will graduate to the Legacy Status next January and it is even more gratifying that he has chosen to serve on our board even though the legacy classes are no longer required to serve on the board. Let me take this opportunity to thank each and every LEAD Alumni that has ever served on the Alumni Association Board over the past 32 years!

The LEAD program in NE has truly been built upon a strong foundation like the "wise man who built his house on rock". With the passage of more than 30 years since the beginning of LEAD, lives have been changed and good work has been done. Many of our Alumni might now or in the future consider the possibility of sharing the fruits of their labor over the years to insure the Association's strength and growth for the future. With the decisions to be made on July 9th, we will continue to grow as an association and become the most we can be.



*Nancy Eberle*

Plans are underway for our summer events. If you have not already done so, please consider signing up for the Ag Adventure reverse tour to the Omaha area. Lynda Shafer from the Omaha Chamber and her Leadership Omaha volunteers have put together an awesome tour for us this summer. The dates are July 11 and 12. I have been invited into the planning sessions and it sounds like a wonderful tour. I, for one, wouldn't miss it – would you??? The registration form is included in this newsletter – use it!

We are also making plans for the 2014 LEAD Reception at the Nebraska State Fair. The invitation is included in this newsletter. Clip that out and put it on a bulletin board or someplace where you will remember. This has been a fun event for our Association the last couple of years. It's a time to get together, catch up with those we know and meet some LEAD alumni we don't know very well. I hope you will be able to join us this year.

Plans are also coming together for our International Travel Seminar to China next March. We are in the process of looking at tour destinations and trying to find some dollars to help defray some of the expenses of the tour. We will more than likely have an "add on" this time for an additional 2-3 days in Hong Kong. I have started a list of those who have indicated their interest. Please let me know if you want to be placed on that list – I promise it will be a great tour.

As you probably read in the March newsletter, I have indicated to the Board that I would like them to find a replacement for my position as Executive Secretary. I have loved working with all of the board members over the past 20 years and will definitely miss that connection, but the time is here for someone new to step into the position and make it even better. I would love to talk with anyone that has an interest. You will have the opportunity to work with an awesome board and meet so many new people through the networks provided by the alumni association. Please don't hesitate to give me a call at 402-736-4691 or e-mail me at [neberle@mainstay-comm.net](mailto:neberle@mainstay-comm.net).

That's it for this newsletter . . . . . until next time . . . . . LEAD on!!

**Mark Your Calendars**  
**LEAD XXXI Invites You to the**  
**LEAD Alumni Annual Conference**  
**January 16-17, 2015**  
**Younes Conference Center - Kearney, NE**



# LEAD Alumni Q and A with Steve Henry



*Steve Henry, LEAD II*

## **What LEAD class were you in and what led you to apply for the Nebraska LEAD Program?**

I was in LEAD II. I knew several members in LEAD I. After visiting with them during their first year, I knew I needed to try to get involved in subsequent years.

## **Describe your agricultural operation or agribusiness career.**

I currently am involved full-time as a seed representative for DuPont Pioneer. We are no longer active daily in production agriculture, although we have maintained most of our land base and have merged entities with an active producer. The operation continues to raise corn, wheat and soybeans as primary crops utilizing both irrigated and rain-fed farm land.

## **Talk about your family.**

I was single while in the LEAD program, but married my wife, Jennifer, the following year, with our 29th anniversary coming up in May. Jennifer is in her final year of teaching English at Arapahoe High school. Our son Zach works in Lincoln and our daughter Alexandra will finish at UNL this fall. Sydney, our youngest daughter, is a senior in high school and will be attending UNL this fall.

## **Please include any local, state or national involvements you would like to mention.**

In the initial few years after the LEAD program, I was active as a director of the Nebraska Corn Board, several political and university advisory committees and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Nebraska District director. Activities tapered off as our family grew as I didn't want to be director of the Henry Family in absentia.

As our children have grown, I have re-entered activities serving in various capacities in our local church, rural fire board, Ag Valley Coop, Frenchman/Cambridge Irrigation District, Teammate mentoring program as well as the various fund raisers, scholarship selection committees, booster clubs and serving as the general gopher that goes along with small town life.

## **What moment/moments stand out from your LEAD journey the most?**

I think a watershed moment for me was initiated at a communication seminar in Kearney headed by Professor Dean Curtis. We were supposed to "debate" the then UNK debate team. As we didn't have a clue as to how the debate format structure was to be implemented, we were soundly beaten on style points. However, on substance, because the topic was rural life, we had a decided advantage. I realized then that speaking from the heart, anecdotally, was a powerful medium.

## **How would you encourage other LEAD Alumni to get more involved with the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association?**

As our lives unfold, we write new chapters in our book of life. The final chapters are the most interesting as they were influenced by our training, but seasoned by our experiences. As the LEAD library continues to grow through the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association, be sure to add your unfinished book to the shelf. This collective energy contributes inertia to support the ideals of the Nebraska LEAD program, which is now generational.

## Hello fellow alumni!

This note is to inspire you to take on a very fun, rewarding volunteer role!

Since I have yet to hear from any willing takers of my newsletter duties, I thought I would write an article describing the duties a little more in-depth.

First of all, the newsletter is an extremely fun, gratifying way to stay in touch with all the exciting happenings at the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association. While my role is not a board member, I am able to attend all board meetings, see old friends and make new friends. There, I gain access to the cutting-edge information I need to develop content for the newsletter.

The newsletter goes out four times a year to coincide with the seasons – *Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The months are typically – March, June, September and December.*

Nancy Eberle, myself and other board members write the majority of the articles. I also used to do the layout of the newsletter. This past year or so it has gotten so much easier because Service Press out of Henderson, Neb. now lays out the newsletter entirely. I simply compile all the articles and photos and submit them via email. Service Press lays out the newsletter and emails it back out for proofing. Eagle-eyes, Nancy Eberle and Deb VanMatre, have been my fellow editors. They catch items that I do not see and make sure overall general content looks good.

If you enjoy writing, staying connected, have a knack for taking photos and organizing content, this is the volunteer position for you. Each newsletter would take me three-to-four hours to put together. That does not include the events I would attend to take pictures, etc. However, you would not need to attend everything, simply get some folks to provide content for you in this digital world!

I will miss this role tremendously, but it's time for new talent and a fresh approach to take it to a new level. If you have a passion for the Nebraska LEAD Program and want to share its story with fellow alumni while inspiring them to stay involved – this role is for you.

Please contact me if you are interested as my final month for the newsletter is June and the board is desperately seeking a replacement. Thank you so much. I assure you, it's FUN and REWARDING!

**Kerry Hoffschneider**  
2303 Road U-650  
Waco, NE 68460  
hoffschneiderfarm@outlook.com  
(402) 363-8963



May 30, 2014

Greetings! For 19 years, the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association has welcomed busloads of urban and rural leaders to greater Nebraska on the Ag Adventure Tour. We're toured the state from north to south and east to west, learning about the best of the state from its leaders.

This year, the Leadership Omaha Alumni Association is returning the hospitality, welcoming you to explore the greater Omaha metro area during a "reverse" Ag Tour on July 11 and 12. Together we'll examine those things that contribute to the infrastructure of the community. We'll discuss economic development, workforce development and community development and meet leaders who are creating a vibrant place to live, work and do business.

Highlights of the agenda include a conversation with a state senator, a visit to Metropolitan Community College's Fort Omaha Campus to hear about the small animal husbandry program at the Institute for the Culinary Arts, and a tour of QLI, a local facility working with individuals with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injuries. Friday night will feature a performance by Omaha Street Percussion, a collection of drummers who use only unorthodox forms of percussion.

I hope you'll join us for some "rurban bonding" in the great Ag Adventure Tour tradition. For more information, please give me a call at 402-978-7928 or shoot me an email at [lshafer@omahachamber.org](mailto:lshafer@omahachamber.org). We're looking forward to a jam-packed, information-filled couple of days.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Lynda Shafer'.

Lynda Shafer  
Manager, Leadership Development  
Greater Omaha Chamber

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**LeadershipOmaha.org**

@OmahaChamber • [facebook.com/GreaterOmahaChamber](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterOmahaChamber)  
1301 Harney Street • Omaha, NE 68102  
Phone: 402-346-5000 • Fax: 402-346-7050

## Infrastructure: Building Community

### July 11-12, 2014

### Omaha Metropolitan Area

7:30 a.m. Convene at Embassy Suites La Vista  
12520 Westport Pkwy

Welcome & Introductions

8:00 **Depart Embassy Suites**  
**On bus discussion of economic development**

Randy Thelen, SVP, Economic Development  
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce

Toby Churchill, Executive Director  
Sarpy County Economic Development

8:45 **Innovative Employment**

Outlook Nebraska Inc.  
4125 S. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street

Patrick MacBride, COO, Outlook Nebraska, Inc.

*From [www.OutlookNebraska.org](http://www.OutlookNebraska.org): ONI will be the premier provider of choice for exceptional employment, training, and experiences that allow the blind and visually impaired to realize their personal and career goals. Since its beginning in 2000, ONI, a 501(c)3 organization, has positively impacted the lives of the blind and visually impaired through employment at our tissue converting facility. ONI's successes are many, but none more impressive than its number one ranking for employing the blind. The company is the largest employer of the blind and visually impaired in Nebraska. It helps the blind gain self-confidence and awareness of their capabilities, while empowering its associates to become independent taxpaying citizens. ONI offers additional services to its blind and visually impaired associates, providing them with the technology training that allows them to excel in their professional and personal lives.*

10:00 Depart ONI

10:30 **Workforce Development**  
Heartland Workforce Solutions  
5752 Ames Avenue

Erin Porterfield, Executive Director

Sarah Johnson, Director-Talent & Workforce Initiatives, Greater Omaha Chamber

*From [www.hws-ne.org](http://www.hws-ne.org): "Heartland Workforce Solutions is a non-profit organization made up of agencies from both the private and public sectors, dedicated to expanding employment opportunities for job seekers and employers in Douglas, Washington and Sarpy counties. The organization focuses not only on the individual worker but also the employer, striving to make the process of connecting one to the other not only more efficient, but more accessible and user-friendly." Executive Director Erin Porterfield and Sarah Johnson from the Greater Omaha Chamber will discuss efforts to develop a workforce that meets the needs of employers in the metro area.*

11:15 Depart Heartland Workforce Solutions

11:30 **Metropolitan Community College Fort Omaha Campus**

Small Animal Husbandry Program



1:00	Depart MCC	
1:30	<b>Research &amp; Development at UNMC</b>	
	1:30 – 2:30 PM Aaron Yoder, PhD.	Ag Engineering Safety & Robotics College of Public Health room 3001
	2:45 – 3:30 PM Mandi Constantine	Telemedicine to Rural Regions
	3:40 – 4:30 PM Patti Carstens and John Sample	Simulation Lab Sorrell Center first floor

From [www.unmc.edu](http://www.unmc.edu): "UNMC was founded in 1881 as the Omaha Medical College. It affiliated with the University of Nebraska in 1902. The university and its hospital partner have an annual impact of \$3.2 billion." We will visit several interesting initiatives on the campus, learning about the research being done to improve outcomes in both urban and rural settings.

4:30	Depart UNMC
5:30	Arrive at Embassy Suites
	Embassy Suites reception in lobby for those staying at the hotel Freshen up for dinner

6:15	<b>Dinner &amp; Dialogue</b>
	Sen. Burke Harr, District 8 – invited
	<i>Omaha Street Percussion</i>

*Dinner at the Embassy Suites will be followed by a conversation with a metro area senator as yet to be confirmed. We will wrap up the day with a performance from Omaha Street Percussion, a collection of drummers coming together to create a visually appealing, highly energetic form of drumming, using only unorthodox forms of percussion.*

## Saturday, July 12, 2014

7:30	Breakfast at Embassy Suites for those staying at the hotel
8:15	Depart Embassy Suites
8:45	<b>Farmers National Company</b> 11516 Nicholas Street
	Jim Farrell, President

From [www.farmersnational.com](http://www.farmersnational.com): Farmers National Company is the largest, fastest growing and most successful farm management company in the United States, managing 5,000 farms, ranches and specialty operations across the country. Farmers National Company's core business is still farm management, but the company has grown and expanded its services to include a complete range of agricultural services, including management, real estate sales, appraisals, insurance and commodity marketing. We'll hear from President Jim Farrell and his staff about Farmers National and the work being done both locally and nationally.

9:30	Depart Farmer's National
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10:00      **Rebuilding Lives**  
QLI  
6404 N. 70<sup>th</sup> Plaza

*From [www.qliomaha.com](http://www.qliomaha.com): Good rehabilitation services improve function. Great rehabilitation services rebuild lives. QLI has become one of the nation's premier post-hospital centers for brain and spinal cord injury rehabilitation by embracing the concept that great rehabilitation is more than just the science of physical recovery – it is the art of rebuilding a life. The combination of QLI's proprietary Tri-Dimensional Rehabilitation® program and the unparalleled quality of our staff and culture make QLI's program powerfully effective. QLI uses its extensive resources and expertise to help its clients reach their individual goals (working) tirelessly to restore purpose and pleasure to a life that has been devastated by a catastrophic event. For more than two decades, QLI has set and raised the bar for working with individuals and families whose lives have been affected by brain injury or spinal cord injury.*

11:30      Depart QLI

12:00      **Building Connections (Over Lunch)**  
Big Mama's Kitchen  
3223 N 45th Street

**Greater Omaha Young Professionals**

Sarah Wernimont, Manager-Talent & Workforce Initiatives  
Greater Omaha Chamber

*From [www.omahayp.org](http://www.omahayp.org): The mission of the Greater Omaha Young Professionals is to serve as a catalyst organization to retain and attract young professionals to the Greater Omaha area through engagement, opportunity and advocacy. The vision is to create a dynamic, inclusive and integrated community where diverse young professionals want to live, work and play. Sarah Wernimont will share the work of the group and some of the ways young professionals have reached across the community and the region to work toward the mission and vision.*

1:30      **Rebuilding Communities**

Amanda Brewer, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity

Watie White, Artist

*From [www.habitatomaha.org](http://www.habitatomaha.org): <http://www.habitatomaha.org> "Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope." In 2014 Habitat for Humanity of Omaha will complete up to 50 homes. Homes are built with donor contributions, volunteer labor and donated materials. The families who partner with us are required to work up to 350 hours of Sweat Equity on the homes being built. Their monthly mortgage payments are then used to build more homes. With his "All that ever was, always is" project, Watie White is working in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity to bring attention to the blight and poverty that grip areas of North Omaha. By transforming several condemned homes into massive public works of art, Watie will bring attention to challenges in the neighborhood, change perceptions about blighted areas, and directly engage community members to affect change from within.*

*During this tour of the neighborhood around Emmet Street, Amanda and Watie will talk about how Habitat is working to rebuild the community while supporting the people who live there.*

2:30      Depart North Omaha

3:00      **TD Ameritrade Park**

4:00      **Leave TD Ameritrade to return to the Embassy Suites La Vista**

**Building Community  
A Reverse Ag Adventure Tour  
July 11-12, 2014**



Join us July 11-12 in Omaha to build rural to urban bridges, while enjoying great conversation, great connections and great food on this year's "reverse Ag Adventure Tour." Strong infrastructure and engaged residents make a vibrant community. This year we'll meet leaders who are developing neighborhoods, organizations and systems that strengthen not only Omaha, but also the region and the state.

Sponsored by: Farmers National Company, Gallup, 5 Points Bank, Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association and Leadership Omaha Alumni Association

**When: July 11-12, 2014**

- Gather at 8:00 am Friday morning July 11 at the Embassy Suites La Vista, 12520 Westport Parkway
- Explore the Omaha metro area with urban and rural leaders

**Fill out the registration form below and return to Lynda Shafer, along with a check for \$125 made out to LO – Ag Tour. Contact Lynda Shafer at [Ishafer@omahachamber.org](mailto:Ishafer@omahachamber.org) or at (402) 978-7928 or Nancy at [neberle@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:neberle@mainstaycomm.net) or (402) 736-4691 for more information.**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE \_\_\_\_\_

I'LL NEED A ROOM AT THE EMBASSY SUITES: ☐

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN CHECK & REGISTRATION FORM BY JUNE 30 TO: LYNDA SHAFER, LEADERSHIP OMAHA ALUMNI ASSOC.  
NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 4 1301 HARNEY STREET, OMAHA NE 68102

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
Nancy Eberle  
520 Road 20  
Bradshaw, NE 68319  
neberle@mainstaycomm.net

Address Service Requested

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## You are invited:



### Nebraska State Fair LEAD Reception

If you are planning to come to the Nebraska State Fair this year, consider coming on August 26. We are planning a get together in the VIP room - above the show arena from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. Please join us! Snacks and Cash Bar will be provided.

Hosts: NE LEAD Alumni Board of Directors  
Terry Hejny, Director, Nebraska LEAD Program

If you do plan to be at the Fair, please let Nancy know via e-mail at  
neberle@mainstaycomm.net -- we want to make sure we have enough "snacks" \

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Check out our website at <http://leadalumni.unl.edu/>

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

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
Nancy Eberle  
520 Road 20  
Bradshaw, NE 68319  
neberle@mainstaycomm.net

### NETWORK!

Keep the spirit of the  
Nebraska LEAD  
Program ALIVE!

## Update

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!



# ITINERARY – CHINA March 04 – 14, 2015 - Draft

March 04 – Depart Omaha

March 05 – Arrive Beijing at 3:40pm. Group transfer to Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing. Evening cocktail party and snacks. Meet with Nebraska agriculture representatives from commodity boards and NE Dept. of Agriculture.

March 06 – Free day. OPTIONAL: full day sightseeing tour includes Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and Hutong tour with rickshaw ride and lunch at local family's home.

Evening – Group Welcome - Peking Duck dinner (Meals B, D)

March 07 – Full day sightseeing tour includes Great Wall at Badaling section with cable car and Summer Palace with boat ride if weather permits (Meals B, L)

March 08 – Morning technical visit to Pengcheng Food Processing Factory located in Shunyi County (1.5 hours drive) includes exhibition hall (general information), raw meat processing department, cooked food processing department, product showroom and on-site tour. Afternoon visit to Temple of Heaven. (Meals B, L, D)

March 09 – Morning transfer to train station and the 6 hour high-speed train to Xian. Upon arrival in Xian, we will transfer to the Sofitel Renminsquare, our hotel for two nights. Afternoon meeting with Mark Doyle, Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in Xi'an which is where the University of NE Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources has it's strongest ties with China in the field of agriculture. Mark Doyle is the UNL faculty leader of this program. (Meals B, L)

March 10 – Morning to Terracotta Warriors and ancient city. Afternoon will be an agricultural visit hosted by Mark Doyle to the research areas near NW Agriculture and Forestry University. (Meals B, L)

March 11 – Continue tour of agriculture research and innovation in Xian. Transfer to airport this afternoon for flight to Shanghai. Transfer to Hotel Intercontinental for our 3 night stay. (Meals B, D)

March 12 – Full day sightseeing tour visiting the Bund, Yu Yuan Garden, Old Town and technical visit to Sunqiao Modern Agricultural Zone in Sunqiao County (1.5 hours drive) includes exhibition hall (general information), view Netherland Greenhouse & domestic Greenhouse (inside tour prohibited), Hydroponics Planting Section, Desert House, Lucid Ganoderma House, Melon & Fruits House and on-site tour (Meals B, L)

March 13 – Visit Oxbow Animal Health Distributor in Shanghai.

Remaining day on your own: OPTIONAL: excursion to Zhujiajiao Water Town includes 30-minute boat ride on the tributary of Ancient Grand Canal, Return to Shanghai city visiting Silk Museum and Tianzifang District.

Group Farewell Dim Sum dinner (Meals B, D)

March 14 – Group transfer to airport (Meals B)

## HOTELS

Beijing: Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing  
Xian: Sofitel on Renminsquare

March 05-09

4 Nights

March 09-11

2 Nights



Shanghai: Le Royal Meridien

March 15-18

3 Nights

## LAND COST

Includes 1st class tickets on high-speed train between Beijing and Xian

Includes internal flight from Xian to Shanghai

Minimum 20 – 34 Passengers

Breakfast = B, Lunch = L, Dinner = D (Indicated on itinerary if cost is covered)

\$2,215 Per Person, Double/Twin Occupancy

\$3,192 Per Person, Single Occupancy

Optional items – pricing will be determined for those who wish to partake

## ESTIMATED INTERNATIONAL AIR COST

Economy class fare from Omaha to Beijing and Shanghai to Omaha via United Airlines

\$1,672 Per Person, Subject to change at any time based on availability and classes of services at time of booking. Departures from other cities or on different airlines are possible\*. Please call Deb Covert for more information.

*\*Deviations from group arrival and departures could result in additional fees for non-group transfers.*

## SUGGESTED AIR ITINERARY:

March 04 DP: Omaha United 3669 7:30am  
AR: Chicago 9:03am

DP: Chicago United 851 11:55am  
AR: Beijing 3:40pm

March 14 DP: Shanghai United 83 5:00pm  
AR: Chicago 4:00pm

DP: Chicago 8:30pm  
AR: Omaha 10:01pm

Flight schedules and fares are subject to change.

## TOUR CONCESSION

Land Program: 1 Free in share-basis for 20 full-paying passengers (including internal flight)

Air Cost: Not applicable

**Group Deposit:** \$400 per group at time of booking

**2nd Deposit:** \$400 per person with names no later than 120 days prior to departure

**Final Payment:** 90 days prior to departure

**Nebraska LEAD Alumni  
Association**

**REGISTRATION FOR  
Agricultural Tour  
of**

**China!**

**March 04-14, 2015**



**Travel Arrangements by:**

*Deb Covert Travel*

*7806 Hickory Circle, Omaha NE 68124*

**Phone: 402-393-8477**

**FAX: 402-393-8661**

**E-mail: [deb@debcoverttravel.com](mailto:deb@debcoverttravel.com)**

**REGISTRATION & PASSENGER INFORMATION**

**(Please return this with deposit to Deb Covert at the above address no later than August 01, 2014)**

**Passenger #1 Name** (as it appears on U.S passport.): \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger #2 Name** (as it appears on U.S. passport.): \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Business Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Yes!** We would like to reserve the 2 night extension in **Hong Kong** for an add'l \$575.00 per person, double.

**Hotel Accommodations:** ☐ Single (additional \$975.00) ☐ Double/Twin ☐ Triple

Rooming with (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**AIRLINE SEATING REQUESTED:** ☐ Aisle ☐ Window ☐ Aisles across

**DEPOSIT:**

I would like to make my deposit by: ☐ Enclosed check ☐ Credit card

Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP: \_\_\_\_\_ SEC CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPOSIT OF \$1800.00 PER PESON is required to hold space on this tour. See below for cancellation information.

### **TOTAL COSTS:**

- Land Price: **\$2215.00 per person**, based on 2 per room, plus airfare. Single supplement is and additional **\$977.00**.
- Air fare: Currently **\$1672.00** per person from Omaha, including all taxes and airline fees. This fare is not guaranteed until deposit is received and tickets can be issued.
- Hong Kong Extension: **\$575.00** per person based on 2 per room. Includes 2 nights at 4 star hotel (Mar 14 & 15 returning to the U.S. on March 16<sup>th</sup>) and includes breakfast daily and taxes; air from Shanghai to Hong Kong; airport to hotel to airport transfers; Half day of sightseeing; additional airfare for flight to U.S. from Lisbon. Single supplement is **\$350.00**.

**DEPOSIT REQUIRED:** **\$1800.00** per person by August 01, 2014. *Checks are preferred* but credit cards will be accepted. Please call (402) 393-8477 to supply credit card information. **Final Payment will be due January 10, 2015.**

### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 4 nights at the *Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing* (or similar) in Beijing including taxes
- 2 nights at the *Sofitel Renminsquare* (or similar) in Xian including taxes
- 3 night at the *Hotel Intercontinental* (or similar) in Shanghai including taxes
- All airport to hotel/hotel to train station and vice-versa private transfers
- High speed train with seat assignments between Beijing and Xian
- Flight from Xian to Shanghai
- Breakfast daily
- Cocktail Reception w/snacks on evening of arrival in Beijing
- Four dinners
- Four lunches during full day sightseeing tours
- ½ day and one full day of sightseeing in and around Beijing
- 1 & ½ days of sightseeing in Xian
- 1 & ½ days of sightseeing in Shanghai
- Fully escorted from Omaha

### **CANCELLATIONS:**

- Airline tickets, once issued, are non-refundable. **PLEASE NOTE:** *Your cancelled airline tickets can be used for future travel (less the \$400 airline imposed change fee) if made within a year from original issue date.*
- Cancellations made after Registration and prior to January 10, 2015 will be subject to a \$150 per person Administrative fee plus the cost of the airline ticket (if issued). **PLEASE NOTE:** *Your cancelled airline tickets can be used for future travel (less the \$400 airline imposed change fee) if made within a year from original issue date.*
- Cancellations between January 10, 2015 and February 05, 2015 will result in a \$500 per person cancellation fee plus the cost of the airline ticket.
- Cancellations after February 05, 2015, no refund will be given on either the land program or the airline ticket.
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance is available. Contact Deb Covert for more information.