

**CANCELLED!**

**NEBRASKA STATE  
FAIR ALUMNI  
RECEPTION**

We were hopng to have our annual reception at the Nebraska State Fair on September 1. We were just notified that although parts of the fair will be open, all social and group events will not be possible. Maybe we'll have better luck next year!

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Bradshaw, NE  
Permit No. 6

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association  
c/o Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary  
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**Summer 2020  
Alumni Update**

*Congratulations to the  
Nebraska LEAD  
Program—40 years!!!*



Stay In Touch :

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### Built LEAD Tough

The past several months has been a rough ride through the pasture in the old farm truck. What I appreciate about the farm truck – and our Nebraska LEAD Alums – is that we are reliable and dependable when we are needed most. Sure, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a new “normal” for each of us, but it has also provided opportunities for us to continue developing and employing our leadership potential.

I grew up in a Chevy family, so when I started driving a Ford F-150 about 10 years ago, you can imagine what sort of flack I caught from my family and friends. Found-on-road-dead, fix-or-repair-daily; I have heard it all. All jokes aside, I can’t help but think of a book I recently read, *American Icon*, by Bryce Hoffman. It provides a first-hand view of the leadership of Allan Mullaly, a Kansas farm boy, who helped to save the Ford Motor Company from the edge of bankruptcy and rebound to be one of the greatest comebacks in United States business history. I will save the complete review, but dial-in your focus to a few key points. Mullaly’s historic turn-around of the Ford Motor Company featured several key components, including people first, one team – one plan, find a way attitude, and respect and appreciation for one another. He had plenty of experience after just saving Boeing following 9/11.

Thanks to the leaders before us and commitment to our plan, the Nebraska LEAD Alumni has never been stronger. With over 1,000 LEAD alums across Nebraska and the United States, we are well equipped to help our state and nation find a way through the uncertainty of today. We are built “LEAD Tough”. Since we first learned about COVID-19, I have witnessed LEAD Alumni donate medical supplies to needed community personnel, donate financially to local food banks, or help those unable to leave their home to shop for food and household supplies. All of this has been accomplished while continuing to support and produce the safest, highest quality food in the world.

In reflecting back on my reading of *American Icon*, it draws a solid parallel to what we learned in our Nebraska LEAD Program experience. Respect and appreciation for one another and their opinions. We have all been impacted in different ways over the past several months. This has undoubtedly led to additional personal, professional, or financial pressures. Following a combination model of respect and appreciation for others and employing a can-do attitude are easy ways to re-route or maintain your course toward success.

We don’t always have to agree, but we can show respect. It is these grass-roots values that I am most thankful for. Yes, the old farm truck has seen the odometer roll-over a few times, you may have to hold the passenger door shut with some rope or baling wire, but we do have a mutual respect for each other. Remember to keep your gas tank full (the gauge might not work) with things that you enjoy, people that you enjoy, and the can-do attitude of a Nebraska LEAD Alum.

On behalf of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association, thank you for what you do each day to support agriculture. Schedule permitting, I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Nebraska State Fair LEAD Reception.

Respectfully,

Matt Dolch, President

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**CHALLENGE**—Let’s “pay it forward”. We challenge you to talk to your classmates and encourage them to join the Alumni. We also would ask you to talk to a friend and encourage them to consider applying for the LEAD program.



### POSTPONED - 2020 IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND-



Due to COVID19, the LEAD Alumni have decided to postpone our 2020 International Travel Study to Ireland. It is in the best interest of our travelers that we wait until travel is back open and there is more information about international travel, before we journey over the pond.

We are currently looking at dates in late August 2021 to reschedule this Ireland adventure. We are hoping to add the University of Nebraska vs. Illinois opening football game in Dublin Ireland to our list of sights to see in 2021.

Everyone who is currently registered for the Ireland Travel Study Seminar will automatically be registered for 2021. When the dates are finalized, travelers can then make the decision to stay registered, or be refunded for the trip. We do have a few persons on the wait list, but if you are thinking that you would like to add your name, please give me a call or drop me an email.

Trump Tours, our travel agent for Ireland, has been fantastic to work with under the pandemic. We are grateful for their help and guidance.

We will be determining if we will continue with plans for a 2022 international seminar, or change to a national seminar for 2022. Stay tuned. We do have a lot of interesting ideas brewing.

A big thank you to those of you that have given me ideas for future travels. Wouldn’t it be fantastic to fill every future Study Travel Seminar!

Stay safe and take care of yourselves. Have a Great Summer. We hope the state fair will be as scheduled and hopefully see a lot of Alumni at the state fair reception.

Pat Heyen, National-International Travel Study Coordinator

More sad news: The 2020 LEAD Alumni Ag Adventure Tour is also postponed until next summer. The dates to add to your calendar are July 8-10, 2021. We will be following the same itinerary. All the tour stops in Alliance and beyond are in place, bus is spoken for and we are looking forward to a great tour next year!

**Nancy Eberle, Coordinator**