

# NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE



This six day farm and ranch adventure gives you an up close and personal view of the state's thriving agricultural industry. You'll experience life on a modern day farm, step back in time to see how agriculture has played a major role in the shaping and development of Nebraska, and learn where your food actually comes from before arriving at the grocery store.

## DAY 1

Omaha • Gretna

### AFTERNOON

Start your tour in Omaha cruising down the Missouri River as you enjoy a tasty buffet lunch aboard the **River City Star Riverboat** (allow 1.5 hours). Afterward, have a backstage experience at **Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium** (allow 1.5 hours) or explore the zoo's many other exciting activities, including the world's largest indoor rainforest and the Desert Dome. Depart for Gretna and your next stop, **Aksarben Aquarium Outdoor Education Center** (allow 1 hour) before continuing to Lincoln for dinner and your hotel.

## DAY 2

Lincoln • Nebraska City • Amish Country

### MORNING

Day two starts with a tour of the **Nebraska State Capitol Building** (allow 1 hour) home to the nation's only Unicameral Legislature. Next stop is the University of Nebraska East Campus and a tour of the **Larson Tractor Test and Power Museum** (allow 1 hour) where you'll learn about the tractor's importance to Nebraska's history and agriculture. Afterward, take a fun tour of the **UNL Dairy Store** (allow 30 minutes) and learn how cheese is made and discover what makes ice cream flavors so tasty.

Then splurge on a sweet treat before departing for Waverly and a tour of **Lakehouse Farm** (allow 1 hour) a family owned certified organic produce farm. Lunch is at farm's **Prairie Plate Restaurant** (allow 1 hour) a farm-to-table restaurant that specializes in seasonal dishes using locally grown products.

After lunch, you'll head south to Nebraska City and an exciting tour of **Arbor Day Farm** (allow 2 hours) a working farm orchard and forest. All visitors receive a tree seedling at

the Lied Greenhouse. Dinner that evening is an authentic Amish meal and a buggy ride through **Amish Country** near Pawnee City. Afterward, enjoy an informative presentation on the Amish way-of-life and shop for homemade Amish goods (allow 1.5 hours). Now it's off to Beatrice and your lodging for the evening.

## DAY 3

Beatrice • Lincoln • York • Grand Island

### MORNING

The day starts with a step back into time when this land was first settled by early pioneers. The grounds of **Homestead National Monument of America** (allow 1.5 hours) include the Homestead Heritage Center, hiking trails through virgin prairie grasses, and living history demonstrations. Now it's time to head to Firth, south of Lincoln, for a tour of a sustainable and environmentally friendly dairy farm, **Prairieland Dairy** (allow 1 hour). Lunch will be in Lincoln before you leave the Star City and head west to York and central Nebraska.



### AFTERNOON

York is home to **Wessels Living History Farm** (allow 1.5 hours) where you can experience first-hand farm life from the 1920s until modern times. Then it's off to Alda and a visit to **Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center**

(allow 1 hour) where each spring more than half-a-million Sandhill cranes migrate through central Nebraska. Return to Grand Island for dinner at one of the city's many fine restaurants and your lodging for the evening.

## DAY 4

Grand Island • Kearney

### MORNING

The morning's fun starts at the **Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer** (allow 1.5 hours) where you will be transported back to the days of the early settlers. Next, visit **Hall County Family Farms** (allow 2 hours), actual working farms to learn how Nebraska plays a major role in feeding the world at After a delicious lunch in Grand Island, you'll head further west to Kearney, home to a unique Nebraska attraction.

### AFTERNOON

Your first Kearney stop is **The Archway** (allow 1.5 hours). This impressive, three-story, interactive museum commemorates the nation's westward expansion and is the only tourist attraction in the country to span a federal interstate highway. Next stop on your Nebraska agriculture tour is a short drive south to Minden, home of **CSS Farms** (allow 1 hour), a nationwide producer of vegetable crops, row crops, and small grains. The Kearney plant raises potatoes for Frito Lay.

Afterward, you'll return to Kearney for a tour of the **Classic Car Collection** (allow 1 hour). This impressive collection includes more than 140 vintage automobiles from the early 1900's to the 1980's and has been called the "best public car attraction between Chicago and Denver!" The day ends with a tour and dinner at **Thunderhead Brewing Company** before heading off to one of Kearney's excellent hotels for the night.

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## DAY 5

Kearney • Lexington • North Platte

### MORNING

Your last stop in Kearney is a **Wolfden Dairy Farm** (allow 1 hour) where you'll experience life on a modern day farm. The 40-acre **Nebraska Wild Horse and Burro Center** (allow 30 minutes) in tiny Elm Creek houses up to 500 wild horses and burros that are adopted by people across the country. Your lunch stop is **Prairie Bistro at Mac's Creek Vineyard & Winery** (allow 1.5 hours for lunch and tour) in Lexington. Afterward, take a tour and sample some delicious Nebraska wines before departing for your next locale, North Platte.



### AFTERNOON

Upon arrival in North Platte, the first thing you'll do is enjoy a bird's eye, 360-degree view of Union Pacific Railroad's Bailey Yard—the world's largest railroad classification yard—from atop the 95-foot tall, 8-story **Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center** (allow 1 hour). Historical and regional railroad memorabilia can be purchased in the gift shop.

The rest of the afternoon and evening will be with **North Platte's Beef and Wine Tour** (allow 4 hours, includes dinner). Explore the University of Nebraska Extension Center where the latest agriculture research on beef nutrition, weed ecology, wind drift, irrigation, and water recourses is being done.

Following this, you'll visit Feather River Vineyard which will put on a culinary show that you're sure to enjoy. The chef will make your taste buds come alive as she teaches your group how to sizzle, sear, and grill Nebraska's finest beef right, while our wine expert coaches you on how to explore your wine palates and pair it with food. After a fulfilling meal, head to your hotel in North Platte to get ready for another big day of touring.

## DAY 6

Ogallala • Sidney • Kimball

### MORNING

NOTE: Between North Platte and Ogallala, you'll enter Mountain Time Zone, which is one hour behind Central Time Zone.

After a great cowboy breakfast, depart for Ogallala, home to the state's largest lake, **Lake McConaughy**, and the **Lake McConaughy Visitor/Water Interpretive Center** (allow 1 hour). This is the state's first water-related educational facility and houses interactive exhibits highlighting the Platte River and the High Plains Aquifer. Your next stop is taking a colorful tour at **Meadowlark Hill Lilac Collection** (allow 1 hour), one of the largest privately held lilac collections in the world.

### AFTERNOON

Depart Ogallala and head to Sidney where you'll enjoy a delicious lunch before visiting and doing a little shipping at **Cabela's** (allow 1 hour) the world's largest outdoor outfitter. Don't miss the store's centerpiece: a man-made mountain featuring dozens of animals.



Continue your Nebraska agricultural tour to Kimball and the first stop, **EJE Ranch** (allow 1.5 hours) where you can experience life on a real working ranch.

Get to know your farmer who produces your food at **Lazy W Diamond Ranch** in Harrisburg. Learn how they care for, feed, and shelter their animals to produce such high quality products for consumers. Afterward, visit the ranch's micro goat dairy operation, **Double L Goat Dairy**, where you can purchase soaps, lotions, lip balm, body butter and a host of other products made using the excess milk left over from their goat herd (allow 1.5 hours).

After dinner in Kimball you can depart or overnight there and extend your Nebraska agriculture tour to the northwestern part of the state the following morning.