# BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS AND FUNDS

KELLY L. SUDBECK
CEO / Executive Secretary

LAURA B. BAHR-FREW
Minerals Administrator

belf.nebraska.gov

**TO:** **All Lessees**
**DATE:** **September 30, 2026**

Greetings. **Please note** we have restricted elections to harvest. The Board also has the right to disallow planting certain crops in the last year of the Lease. Please contact your Field Representative before planting fall seeded crops in the last year of your Lease. We also place restrictions and penalties on pumping water in excess of the allocation in those areas where the local NRD has implemented restrictions. Please read your leases carefully.

**LESSEE'S RIGHTS:** Please remember you have the right to farm and hunt the lease property, but do not have the authority to grant access rights across our property. The hunting rights are yours personally, and if you transfer those rights to anyone else, whether for payment or otherwise, a sublease is required. We have had a significant increase in hunting requests from the general public. In the past we have contacted you, rather than giving out your number. The sheer number of calls is making this impossible, so we will be providing your contact information to individuals who request permission to hunt on the property you lease from us, so they can contact you directly.

**IMPROVEMENTS:** No improvements shall be placed on the land by Lessee without prior written approval of the Board; and any improvements made without prior written approval shall be permanently owned exclusively by the Board.

**TRASH DUMPING:** No dumping or accumulation of non-operational autos and machinery, trash, refuse, including oil or any other contaminant, is allowed on School Trust Land. If this occurs on your Lease, you may be charged the cost of cleanup, and denied the opportunity to bid at any future School Trust lease auctions.

**FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS CRP OF&W OR OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAMS:** Pursuant to FSA rules, to be eligible for Government programs, your Lease **MUST** be held by the person or entity which does business with the FSA. An assignment or sublease must be approved by the Board prior to FSA program eligibility. The Board's prior consent is required for participation or enrollment in the CRP, CSP, EQIP, Open Fields and Waters, or other similar programs which, if permitted by the Board, are subject to such special terms, conditions and rental as the Board may specify.

**PASTURE, RANGELAND, FORAGE RAINFALL INDEX CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM:** The deadline to sign up for this program is approaching, and can assist in paying for some of the damages you incur as a result of drought. The Federal Government subsidizes this program; therefore, the long-term cost can be minimal, or actually pay out over a period of several years, and is therefore well suited to a multi-year lease.

**CONTINUOUS CROPPING POLICY:** In all counties west of the western boundary of Cherry, Hooker, McPherson, Lincoln, Hayes and Hitchcock Counties, Lessees wishing to continuous crop wheat during any year of their Lease must request and receive advance written permission from the Board no later than August 1 of that year.

**PERENNIAL AND COVER CROPS:** Call your Field Representative prior to planting perennial crops. Also, while the Board encourages planting cover crops, such crops will not be appraised in the last year of the Lease, and as always, removal of any crop residue in the last year of your Lease is prohibited without prior Board approval.

**MOWING TO THE CENTER OF PUBLIC ROADS AND DRAINAGE DITCHES:** Nebraska law requires the mowing of "all weeds that can be mowed with the ordinary farm mower to the middle of all public roads and drainage ditches… at least twice each year, namely, sometime in July, for the first time and sometime in September for the second time." If this does not occur, the County may cause the weeds to be mowed or otherwise destroyed and assess the costs to the landowner. Any costs of this kind billed to the Board, will be charged to the Lessee.

**WEED SPRAYING:** Your Lease provides that you will control the weeds on your lease. We recommend you consider weed control this fall; it is more effective and cheaper than spring and summer spraying, and the window is much wider. If you need assistance, please contact your Field Representative or our Invasive Species Program Manager, Larry Gibbens, at 308/631-1822.

**DELINQUENT LEASE PROVISION:** Previous leases provided that rent became delinquent if not paid 6 months after the due date. Leases now provide that your rent becomes delinquent 60 days after it is due, not 6 months.

**NEW LEASE PROVISION:** New leases will require that you inform your Field Representative of any double cropping practices. Your rent may be adjusted as a result. It also requires that you provide us with certain FSA information about our property, upon request.

For all the latest news and information, please visit our website at **belf.nebraska.gov**.

With your help in maximizing the income and preserving the assets of the School Trust, we benefit Nebraska's K-12 public school children and Nebraska's taxpayers. We enjoy hearing from you, and I would appreciate any suggestions you may have for improvement of the land, and operation and management of the School Land Trust.

Best regards,

Kelly L. Sudbeck, CEO/Executive Secretary

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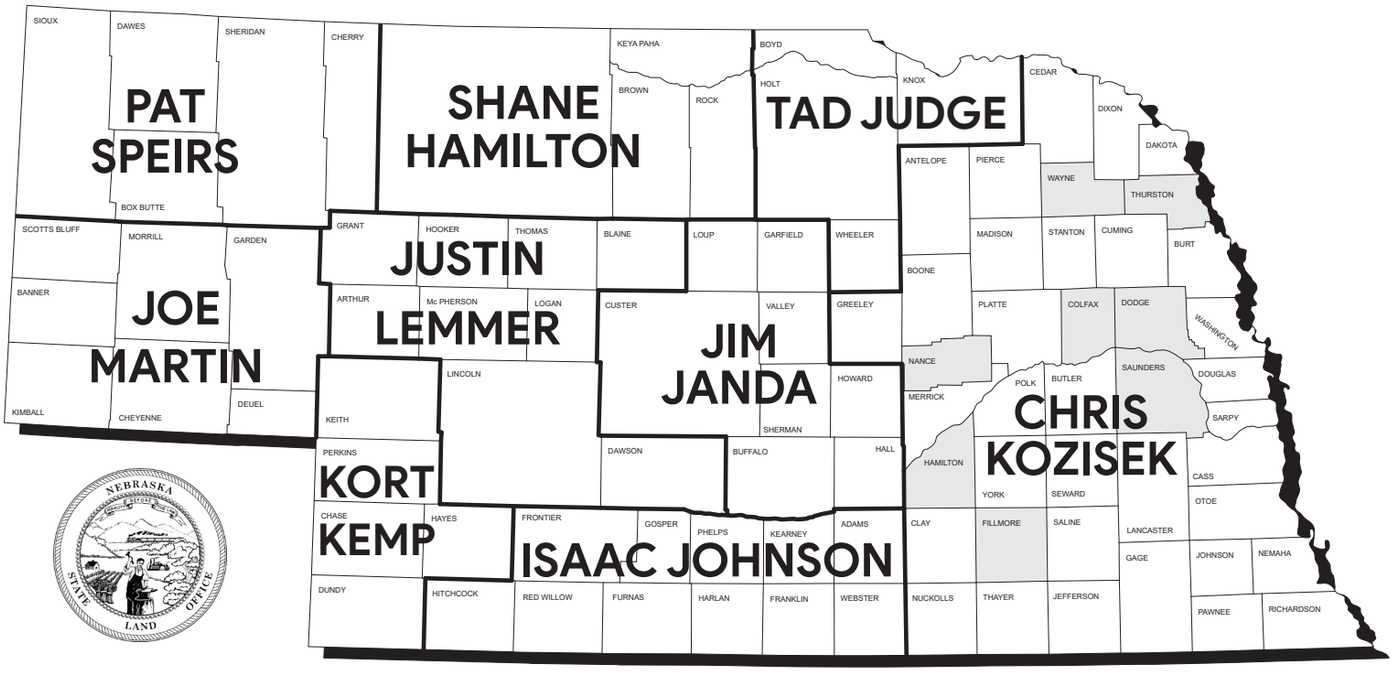


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# DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS

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**If you have questions about noxious weeds or predator control, please first contact your Field Representative as listed above.**

*8-2026*