

Dear School Board Members,

I am requesting approval to lead a summer trip for students in 2025. Having seen the profound impact that our Africa program has on Veterinary Science students, I would like to be able to offer equally impactful programming to other agriculture students. This program would be planned and led by EF Educational Tours; I have included their materials in this packet.

In brief, I would take a group of interested agriscience students to Ireland for 10 days, where we would tour and experience local agriculture as well as the culture and history of Ireland.

Highlights will include “getting to know Irish farmers and fishermen, learning about the business of farming, and engaging in hands-on projects at dairy, potato, shellfish, or sheep farms. We will balance our time on the Emerald Isle by exploring the vibrant, culture-packed, and welcoming streets of Dublin, Kilkenny, and Galway, and admire the Atlantic Ocean from atop the Cliffs of Moher.”

I have already surveyed current agriscience students and families to confirm their general interest in an international summer experience, and I think that there is plenty of interest to support this effort. In addition, by booking through this educational travel partner, families can make monthly payments toward the trip rather than having to fund a large one-time expenditure. Students may also elect to fundraise to support the experience.

I am an eager and experienced leader of student travel. I look forward to this opportunity to engage more students with international agriculture, and overseas travel in general. I plan to attend the Board meeting on Monday February 12 in case you have any questions. I hope you will approve this new adventure!

Thank you!

Noreen Heikes, MAT, DVM

CTE Agriscience Instructor