

National Ag Center and Hall of Fame

DIRECTION

Agriculture impacts each of us, regardless of age, gender, job or vocation. Agriculture is food, fiber, and energy – things each of us depend on for our very existence. In excess of 15% of all jobs are related to agriculture.

The founders of the National Agriculture Center and Hall of Fame outlined the mission of the Ag Center in terms of three purposes: 1) honor those who have made major contributions to agriculture, 2) provide a museum of artifacts depicting life in agriculture, and 3) educate society regarding agricultural issues. The Ag Center has focused on these purposes since the beginning and continues to see them as the primary reason it exists.

In carrying out its mission the Ag Center has had its focus on the past (who has made contributions to agriculture; what tools, equipment or living was like; or what were issues impacting agriculture) not on the present or future. There are many things happening in agriculture today that will have huge impact on our food, fiber and energy of the future. Change in agriculture is happening at an unprecedented pace and, as a result, many people do not have an understanding of what the issues are, much less the impact they have or will have on our daily lives.



The Ag Center is gradually changing the strategy of how it carries out its mission. Emphasis will no longer just be on the past but encompass present and future issues impacting agriculture (and society) while still illustrating and honoring the past. Gradually, a number of displays and educational programs will be transitioned to illustrate present and future issues. Some topics will include things like biotechnology, alternative energy, and food safety. Most any issue has multiple perspectives, therefore as a new topic is highlighted the Center must be sure to emphasize balance and objectivity.

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Education is a key component of the Ag Center’s reason for existence and learning takes place in different ways for different people. As the Ag Center further develops its new direction, a major emphasis will be placed on displays and programs that are interactive. The following concept or theory is being applied:

“Tell someone about something and they develop a certain level of curiosity. Read about something and the detail unlocks a broader perspective. Let someone experience something and they will move to a whole new level of understanding and knowledge.”

The first steps toward implementing the new direction are being taken this winter. The Hall of Fame is being relocated into the lobby of the theater where it will be updated with a new look and feel. This move will open up a significant amount of space in the east wing of our main building, making way for new displays and venues focusing on present and future issues. Plans are also underway to place an interactive classroom in the exhibit space where groups can examine and experience an issue in greater depth.



The first new display will be ready when the Ag Center opens the spring season on March 10. This display will focus on Bees – the important role bees play in modern agriculture and exploring challenges such as Colony Collapse Disorder. Likewise, new educational programs will be introduced that are tied to the new display.

The building of displays and programs focusing on present and future issues will take place over the next 24 months but will never be finished. Since the Ag Center is funded by contributions from individuals, funding must be identified in order to proceed with each new display or program. Likewise, new issues are always developing – what is perceived to be of greatest importance today may be displaced tomorrow by something of even greater importance. The Ag Center must continually update and change its displays and programs if it is to be a center of learning about agricultural issues.

We’re excited about our direction and hope you will join us as the Ag Center moves forward.

Email Address

We are moving a significant portion of our communications to email in order to not only save postage and printing dollars, but to make it easier and less time consuming for our staff.

The system we will use sends individual emails to all parties in order to protect the privacy of the recipient by not distributing addresses to other parties.

If you would like to be on our email communication list (newsletter, special event notification, etc.) please send your address to us via email (info@aghalloffame.com) or by calling our office (913 721-1075).

2008 Event Calendar

Event	Date
Open for 2008 Season	March 10
“It’s Spring, We’ve Sprung”	April 3
Community Appreciation	April 12
“A Salute to Hamburgers”	May 10
“Celebrate Your Local Cow Day”	June 14
“Tractor Daze”	July 12
“Harvest’s a Comin’”	August 23
Traveling Exhibit – “Farm Life: A Century of Change for Farm Families and their Neighbors”	September 1 – October 5
Lineman’s Rodeo	September 13
Annual Golf Tournament (Prairie Highlands Golf Course in Olathe, KS)	September 15
“Life in the Country”	September 27
“Thank Goodness for Food”	November 15
Santa’s Express	December 6-7
Santa’s Express	December 13-14

New CEO

In August of this past year, I had the opportunity to join the Ag Center staff, serving as Chief Executive Officer. My career spans over 30 years in agriculture; ranging from time as an agricultural producer, to management of local farm cooperatives, to nearly 20 years with Farmland Industries. Although I am not new to agriculture, it is my first “crack” at management of a non-profit organization like the Ag Center.



Respect for the organization’s mission drew me to the opportunity because I truly believe it is important that we not only honor the accomplishments made in agriculture but feel it is extremely important to help people, in general, understand agriculture and how it affects us.

I am excited about what we have at the Ag Center – a committed and dedicated staff, supportive board of directors, good facilities, and a customer base or audience that is anxious to see us succeed. With this mix, we have the major components needed to adapt the Ag Center’s displays and programs and reposition it for the future.

I look forward to working with everyone in the days ahead.

Tim Daugherty

Donations?

The Ag Center is totally funded by contributions from individuals, families, and corporations. If you are so inclined to make a contribution, you can call the Center direct (913 721-1075), go to our web site (www.aghalloffame.com), send us an email (info@aghalloffame.com) or mail it.

Please include the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____