

National Ag Center and Hall of Fame

October 2008

Change

2008 has been an interesting year from many standpoints. We have seen gas prices skyrocket to levels never before seen, grain prices hit record levels and are now seeing a challenge to our financial system that most of us never thought would happen. Weather, depending on your location in the country, has presented its own challenges, whether one was impacted by the flooding in the spring and early summer or the hurricanes of recent weeks.

An examination of 2008 reinforces the challenges and opportunities facing the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame (Ag Center). Those who founded the Ag Center, nearly 50 years ago, set out three primary purposes:

1. Honor those who have made major contributions to agriculture
2. Provide a museum of agriculturally related artifacts to illustrate what agriculture was like and how it has contributed to our country
3. Educate society about the issues and challenges of agriculture

These three purposes are perhaps more important today than when originally written. The interesting part is that we will never complete the purposes because agriculture is always changing and the issues and challenges faced today will be the accomplishments or contributions of tomorrow.

As we plan the future of the Ag Center, a great deal of thought has gone into exactly how we carry out the three purposes. In plain and simple terms, we have categorized the first and second purposes as an examination of the past while the third purpose (educating society) as a challenge to provide information and education about the issues and challenges of agriculture today and in the future.



Many people ask, “what are the issues and challenges facing agriculture today?” Some will say that this is a silly question and the answer will depend on the farmer questioned. An example of a huge agricultural challenge is outlined in a recent headline attributed to the United Nations, “**50% Increase in Food Needed by the year 2030.**” A challenge such as this presents opportunities and issues for agriculture as a whole – how will we rise to the occasion?

(Con’t)

It is important for the Ag Center to help people understand the proud heritage of agriculture, but it is also important for us to help them understand agriculture today and what is being done to help meet challenges like the one mentioned above. With this in mind, we have informally adopted a motto that goes like this: “Honor the past, but examine the present and look to the future.”

We have just completed a very busy summer of events and activities. There has been strong interest and an increased awareness of the Ag Center and what we are trying to do. Our new bee exhibit opened in the spring and has surprised a number of people because they had no idea of the impact bees have on the foods we eat. Others have been challenged with the mystery of what is happening to our bees.

As we speak, we are working on next year’s schedule and anticipate even more change. Our 2009 schedule will have fewer day events but emphasize periods of time over which a number of related programs, events, or workshops will take place. For instance, “Spring has Sprung” will be a period of approximately 6 weeks where different activities will take place – all programs or workshops relating to agriculture in the spring.



Two more programs will be introduced in 2009. The first is called “Farm Tales” and will be a program for children held one time per month. The second program will be called “Ask the Expert” and will be a quarterly program for adults and families. Since these are both still in the formative stages, be sure to watch the web site for details (www.aghalloffame.com).

We are excited to be moving forward with the Poultry Museum. A number of people across the country have worked for years to raise the funds to make the Poultry Museum a reality. This year, the Poultry Museum fund reached a point where we could move ahead. One of the buildings on our grounds has been remodeled and components for the displays will begin to arrive in late October. Many of the initial displays will focus on the history of poultry and things we will continue to work on will relate to present day poultry and the role poultry plays in our food supply. Make sure you watch for an announcement of the opening of the display.



(con't)

Work continues to develop the ideas and raise the funds needed to put in place programs and displays related to present and future agricultural issues. Topics we continue to work on include: alternative energy, biotechnology, and food safety. We look forward to moving forward with the purposes outlined by the founders of the Ag Center.

* * *

Dates to Remember!

- November 15 — “Thank Goodness for Food”
- December 6, 7, 13, and 14 — “Santa’s Express”



Watch our website for more up to date information:
www.aghalloffame.com

Volunteers

As the number of programs we present increase, so does the need for additional volunteers. Volunteer opportunities run the gambit — from interpreters to train drivers to tractor drivers to host/hostesses, you name it and we most likely have a need.

If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested in volunteering at the Ag Center, give us a call and we’ll take it from there (913 721-1075).

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 Golf Tournament

The 2008 Ag Hall of Fame Golf Classic was held on September 15 at Prairie Highlands Golf Course. The Golf Classic is one of the major outside fundraising activities held during the year. Over 90 players participated on a beautiful and very successful day.

We want to thank all our sponsors — especially John Deere and the SouthWestern Association who served as our Presenting Sponsors.

If you are a golfer, make sure you put September 14, 2009 on your calendar.



Award Winning Staff



We want to congratulate the Ag Center staff and Curt Blades (a member of our Board of Directors) for their award winning presentation at the Community Foundation of Wyandotte County “Shine and Dine” event on September 11. The event showcases non-profit organizations via comedy skits that describes who their organization is and why it exists.

Our group not only participated but brought home first prize which was a check for \$1,250. Congratulations!

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: _____