An
AGRICULTURE EDUCATION CENTER
at
Andrews University
“Educating Earth’s Caretakers”

Concept Draft 3-17-19
The gardens and orchards of the Emmanuel Missionary College campus in the 1940’s are seen on the lower half of the photo above (west side of campus).
Our Rich Agricultural Heritage
The practice, art, and science of agriculture has been embedded in Seventh-day Adventist educational philosophy since the church and its educational institutions were established in the mid-19th century. The founders envisioned that all students no matter their grade level would be engaged in some aspect of caring for the soil, plants, animals, and the environment. Emmanuel Missionary College, the predecessor to Andrews University, was a leader in implementing this vision.

The students grew a wide-variety of food crops for the cafeteria and also cash crops such as tomatoes and potatoes for the Chicago market.

Ornamental plants such as poinsettias were grown in the college greenhouses. These were sold locally and also sent to the Chicago market.
In 1914, 13 years after EMC moved from Battle Creek to Berrien Springs, MI, the Department of Agriculture was established thus pairing the production of food with the academic entity that provided students with the opportunity to learn the scientific basis for that production. In the subsequent decades, the horticultural operations were replaced with much needed buildings as EMC grew and became Andrews University in 1960. The dairy moved farther from the center of campus and continued to develop. In 1999, it was completely renovated into a modern facility.

It operated successfully which allowed students to use it for their laboratories, research projects, and invaluable work experience. However, in the mid-2010’s the market for milk nationally began to shrink dramatically and the price for milk dropped to an unsustainable level. Therefore, in June 2018, the AU Board of Trustees voted to close the 111-year old Dairy, the last one in Seventh-day Adventist education in North America.
What's next?

The facilities of the former dairy will be re-purposed into an Agriculture Education Center.

The closing of the dairy was very difficult for many who had come to know and love that place. Some have wondered if Andrews is shutting down its entire Agriculture Department. We want to reassure these loyal alumni and friends that the Agriculture Department is alive and well, and what we have a plan for re-purposing the former dairy facilities. The plan has been benchmarked with seven schools similar to ours that have successfully made the transition from an industry to a wholly educational facility, an Agriculture Education Center.

The goals of our Center are:

1. To take the education of our students to the next level
   ➔ The students would have an immersive educational experience working with a wide variety of animals and plants in conjunction with their class requirements and senior projects.

2. To partner with other departments on campus
   ➔ These include the Departments of Public Health, Nutrition, and Wellness, Physical Therapy, Medical Laboratory Science, Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Physics, Religion, and the Seminary for therapy programs, preparation of the mission service both in the U.S. and internationally, as well as collaborative research and teaching.

3. To partner with the K-12 schools in our county and beyond
   ➔ Teachers in K-12 classrooms have expressed great interest in bringing their students to an Agriculture Education Center for outside-the-classroom scientific learning experiences. This partnership would continue to strengthen AU’s reputation, help our K-12 colleagues, and enhance the education of their students some of whom may choose to come to Andrews.

4. To preserve the agricultural legacy of Andrews University
   ➔ We have been part of the vibrant agricultural community in our county for 118 years. We are seen as a leader in this area so would be expected to carry on the tradition. We are also main maintaining the heritage of Adventist education of our founders.
Phase One *(Begin educational operations September 2019)*

- Seed East Pasture with grass/alfalfa mix and fence for all species
- Prepare Small Animal barn and Calf barn to house calves, rabbits, miniature pigs, pygmy goats, chickens, ducks, turkeys

- Move existing greenhouses from the four locations on the A.U. property to the Ag Ed Center and consolidate all our horticulture equipment into the Greenhouse barn

- Site preparation for circle drive by Visitors Center
- Set up classroom in Visitors Center
Phases Two and Three (Years 2, 3, or earlier)

- Prepare Animal Science Complex to house sheep, goats, llamas/ alpacas, yearling cattle, horses and miniature horses, indoor riding ring
- Install raised beds, floor beds, benches in Greenhouse barn

- Seed Central Pasture with grass/alfalfa mix and fence for all species
- Develop the entrance area to Agriculture Education Center.
**Phase Four (Years 3-5, or earlier)**

- Develop outside horse arena, seed and fence West and South pastures

- Develop the outside Horticultural Garden Production space
Phase Five (Years 5+, or earlier)

- Collaborate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop the former manure lagoon on the north side of the facility into a growing out pond for fingerling fish from hatcheries.

- Collaborate with the Student Life and Wellness Departments on campus to develop recreational paths along the St. Joseph River and around the Ag Ed Center.
Join us in making the Agriculture Education Center a reality:

- To better educate our students,
- To demonstrate to the community that Seventh-day Adventists care deeply about being good stewards of the natural resources our Creator has given us, and
- To continue our rich agricultural heritage

For more information or to donate, please check our website: www.andrews.edu/agriculture