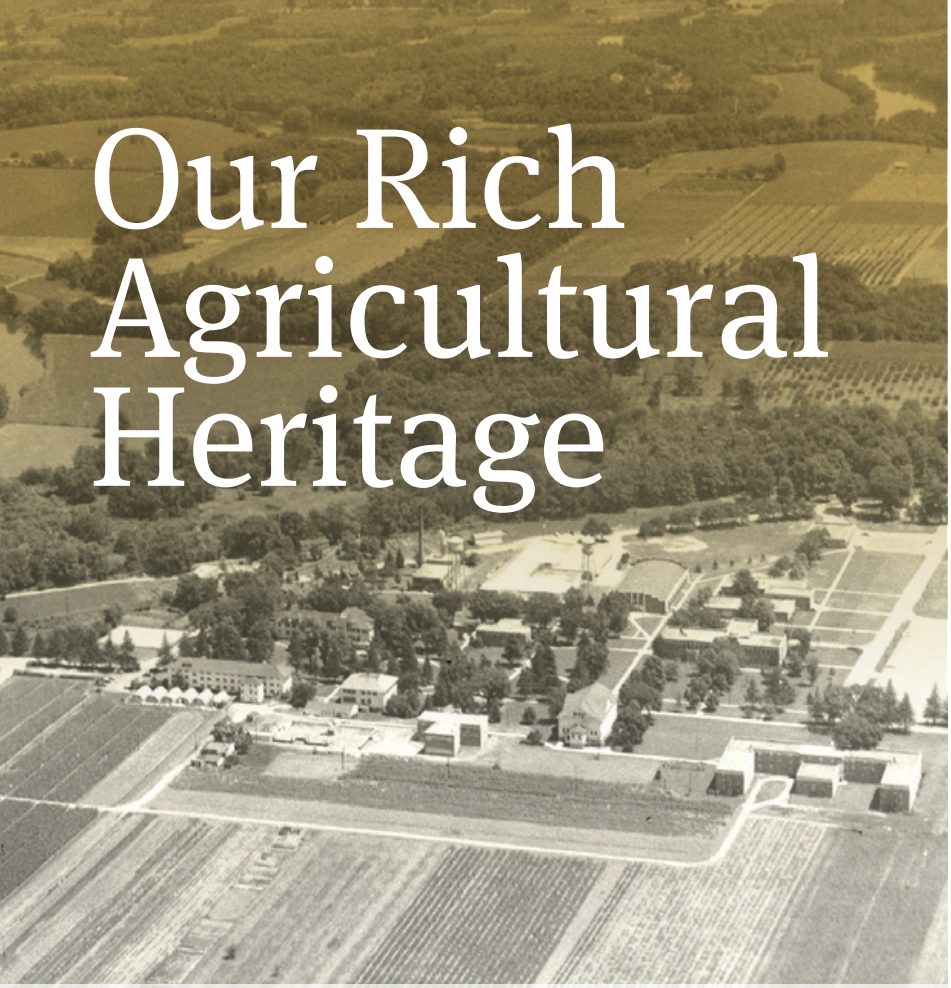
Andrews University

Educating Earth's Caretakers

PROPOSED AGRICULTURE EDUCATION CENTER

Our Rich Agricultural Heritage



In 1914, 13 years after EMC moved from Battle Creek to Berrien Springs, Michigan, 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 subsequent decades, 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 as their laboratory for research projects and gain invaluable work experience. However, in the mid-2010s the market for milk nationally began to shrink dramatically and the price for milk dropped to an unsustainable level. Therefore, in June 2018 the Andrews University Board of Trustees voted to close the 111-year old dairy, the last one in Seventh-day Adventist education in North America.

Caption: *The gardens and orchards of the Emmanuel Missionary College campus in the 1940s are seen on the lower half of the photo to the left (west side of campus).*

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 (EMC), the predecessor to Andrews University, was a leader in implementing this vision.

Laying hens were pastured in the apple and peach orchards.

In 1907, a dairy was added to provide milk and other dairy products for the students and the surplus was sold locally. The proceeds from all food product sales were used to support the education of the students.

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.

What's next?

Conceptual layout of the Agriculture Education Center

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 that we have a proposed plan for repurposing the former dairy facilities. The concept 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 & Wellness, Physical Therapy, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Biology, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Engineering, Physics, Religion & Biblical Languages, and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary for therapy programs, preparation for mission service both in the U.S. and internationally, as well as collaborative research and teaching.

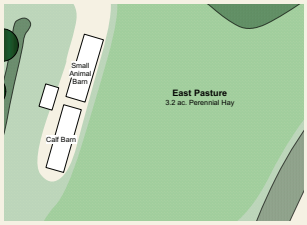
3. **To partner with the K–12 schools in our county and beyond**
   Teachers in K–12 classrooms have expressed great interest in bringing their students to an Agriculture Education Center for outside-the-classroom scientific learning experiences. This partnership would continue to strengthen Andrews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

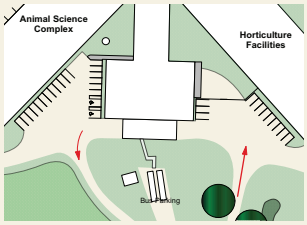
4. **To preserve the agricultural legacy of Andrews University**
   We have been part of the vibrant agricultural community in our county for 118 years and are viewed as a leader in this area, so wish to carry on that tradition. We would also be maintaining the heritage of Adventist education envisioned by our founders.

PHASE ONE

(Begin educational operations September 2019)

- Seed East pasture with grass/alfalfa mix and build fence for all species.
- Prepare Small Animal barn and Calf barn to house calves, rabbits, miniature pigs, pygmy goats, chickens, ducks and turkeys.
- Move existing greenhouses from four locations on the Andrews University property to the Agriculture Education 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.

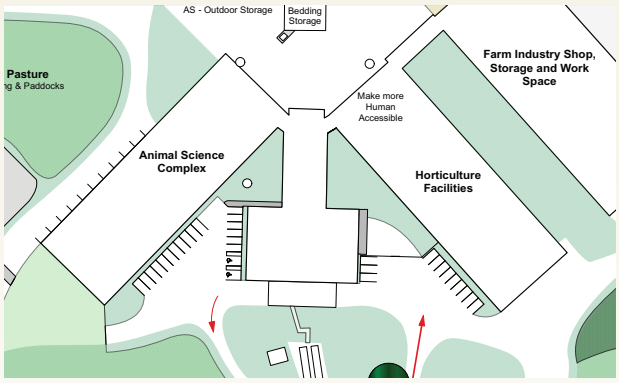




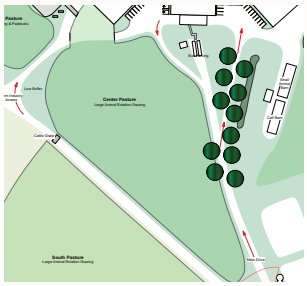
PHASES TWO AND THREE

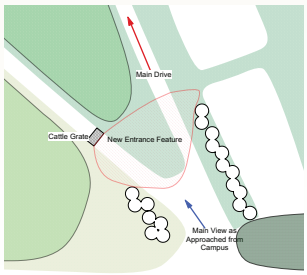
(Projected in Years 2–3 or earlier)

- Prepare animal science complex to house sheep, goats, llamas/ alpacas, yearling cattle, horses and miniature horses, and an indoor riding ring.



- Install raised beds, flower beds and benches in the greenhouse barn.
- Seed Central pasture with grass/alfalfa mix and build fence for all species.
- Develop an entrance area to the Agriculture Education Center.

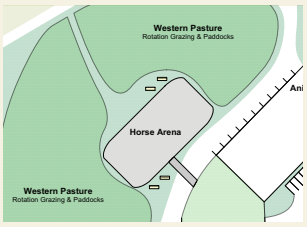


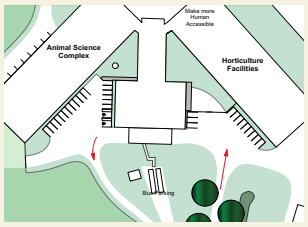


PHASE FOUR

(Projected in Years 3–5 or earlier)

- Develop outside horse arena, seed and fence West and South pastures.
- Develop the outside horticultural garden production space.

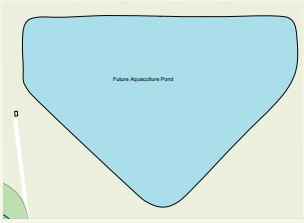


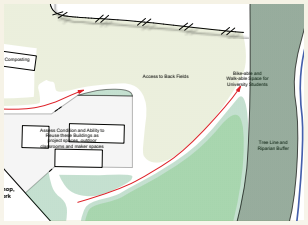


PHASE FIVE

(Projected in 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 Campus & Student Life and University Wellness to develop recreational paths along the St. Joseph River and around the Agriculture Education 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.

Projected phases will only be completed as funds become available. For more information or to donate, visit our website: **andrews.edu/agriculture**.

Andrews University

Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.