



2011 NYFEA Institute Guide

Event hosted by
*Missouri Young Farmers/
Young Farm Wives*

The 2011 NYFEA Institute will offer a special experience. Farmers and guests from Missouri and around the nation will enjoy a packed event with both education and relaxation. The following pages will highlight the scheduled ag and business stops, as well as the lighter trips to local draws like the Kansas City Plaza Lights and world-famous KC barbecue.

The Holiday Inn/Coco Keys Water Resort in Kansas City will serve as event headquarters. The resort is designed to beat the winter blues, and touts the largest indoor water park in Missouri. A special rate is already secured at just \$89+tax per night (and there's a special deal for Missouri residents only). **Registration information starts on page 10.**

The planning committee members promise to activate your senses as they provide you with a "winter ag-venture like no other." Missouri, in particular Kansas City, is nestled in the heart of America, and has been pumping agricultural commodities to the nation for multiple generations.

Missouri has a diverse landscape, with 45 million acres of crop, forest and grasslands. You can find more than 600 different soil types in the Show-Me State. Two of the world's largest rivers, the Mississippi and Missouri, help define the state through boundaries and culture. Your ag-venture will begin Wednesday evening with a "Taste of the Heartland" food extravaganza. Two full days of hands-on tours and down-home meals will consume the Thursday and Friday schedules. **See the tour details, starting on page 6 and the brief itinerary on page 7.**

Casually narrated tours will take you to a variety of agricultural businesses, family farms, and Midwestern surprises, and your evenings will be topped off with delightful entertainment and holiday sights that may keep you out into the twilight of the Midwestern winter nights. **Learn more about Kansas City entertainment on page 10.**

Make sure to visit the event website, at www.2011nyfeashowmemo.com, and if you need more details not offered in the following pages, contact Lisa Evans, Missouri executive secretary of MYF/YFW at (573)751-8467 or by e-mail at Lisa.Evans@dese.mo.gov.

Now it's time to register and start packing—we'll see you in Kansas City!



Featured NYFEA Institute stops

NYFEA Institute organizers have put together a diverse set of tour stops, with a mix of local historic attractions and modern cutting-edge farm operations. Here's a look at some of what's waiting for you this December in Kansas City.

Pony Express Stables

Most people know the story of the first Pony Express ride, but not everyone gets to see the stables where it all started. MYF/YFW guests will get that chance, at the Pikes Peak Stables in St. Joseph (pictured above). Today, the stables are a popular museum. Exhibits bring to life the need, creation, operation, and termination of the Pony Express during the days of the Wild West. Visitors can pump water from the original well, walk along a 70-foot interactive diorama of the

PX route, and look inside a historically accurate PX relay station.

Recently added exhibits include an 1860s blacksmith shop, tack room, life-sized oxen pulling a covered wagon with pioneer supplies, and Civil War coins (gold and silver). The newly updated museum store offers a variety of Pony Express memorabilia, T-shirts and collectibles.

Wade Farms

Wade Farms is one of Missouri's largest grain crop operations. The farm grows specialty waxy corn. Greg Wade and his two sons, Nicholas and Brice, are partners in this venture. Greg, who was recognized through Missouri's Master Farmer program last year, strives to stay in the top 1 or 2 percent of yield. He does that with grid sampling,

fertilization and hybrid selection based on soil type. Greg and wife, Vickie, say they feel blessed to be a part of Missouri agriculture and to have two sons as partners. "In today's economy it's gratifying to see that hard work and adoption of new technology pays off," says Greg. Learn all about it at the 2012 Institute.

LifeLine Foods

LifeLine Foods in St. Joseph produces products for both domestic and international markets. Their products originate from corn-based food ingredients and ethanol. The focus of LifeLine's business model is to extract maximum value from the corn kernel and capitalize on both food and ethanol production. LifeLine is placed on 38 acres with a 750,000 square foot manufacturing facility. The consolidated facility products are

manufactured under AIB standards and are Kosher certified.

Shatto Milk Company

Shatto Milk Company is a family owned and operated dairy farm located just north of the Kansas City metro area (see our cover story). This family has been farming there for more than 100 years and began processing milk on the farm in June 2003. The family stays in control of the entire production process. They milk cows, process milk and other dairy products, and deliver them to stores. They also deliver visitors, to the tune of more than 75,000 per year.

Regular tours (typically for city visitors) include petting baby calves, milking cows, and learning about processing and packaging products. If you've visited before, you may find some new interesting features, including a new cheese-making facility that's already earned statewide honors.

Show Me Energy Cooperative

With ongoing concerns about foreign fuel and energy sources, alternative options like biomass (taken from grasses, wood, corn stalks, and other crop residues) are finding more interest. Show Me Energy cooperative has gained national attention for leading in the area of biomass, and for helping farmers learn and make use of new practices. The co-op is non-profit and producer-owned, with a plant in west-central Missouri. The group works to help establish suitable fields for energy development, create new options and revenues for farmers and

2011 NYFEA Institute Brief Itinerary

**All schedule and tour details are tentative*

Wednesday - Dec. 7

1:00pm - 3pm	NYFEA Board Meeting
4:00pm - 6pm	NYFEA Delegate Meeting
6pm - 9pm	Casual Kick-Off: <i>Taste of the Heartland</i>

Thursday - Dec. 8

6:30am - 7:45am	A Hearty Breakfast in Hotel Ballroom
7:45am (sharp)	Tours Depart from Holiday Inn Water Resort
11:30am-1:00pm	Lunch on Tour Rotation "Show Me Meal"
5:00pm	Tours Return to Holiday Inn Water Resort
6:30pm	Evening Dinner & Events in Hotel Ballroom:
	*State Flag Ceremony
	*NYFEA Officer Introductions
	*Evening Entertainment

Friday - Dec. 9

6:30am - 7:45am	A Hearty Breakfast in Hotel Ballroom
7:45am (sharp)	Tours Depart from Holiday Inn Water Resort
11:30am - 1:00pm	Lunch on Tour Rotation: <i>Midwestern Meal</i>
1:00pm - 4:00pm	NYFEA Ag Communicator Event
5:00pm	Tours Return to Holiday Inn Water Resort
6:30pm	Downtown Kansas City Shuttles Begin:
	*Plaza lights / Crown Center / Power & Light
	*Dinner on the Town / Shuttles Until Midnight

Saturday - Dec. 10

7:00am	A Hearty Breakfast in Hotel Ballroom
8:15am - 9:30am	Master Farmer/Ag Decision Maker's Forum
10:00am - 3:00pm	NYFEA Yale Program
11:30am - 12:30pm	Lunch in Hotel Ballroom
1:00pm	NYFEA Delegate Session
5:30pm - 6:30pm	Cash Bar in Hotel
	Silent Auction Live Auction
6:30pm	Evening Banquet Sponsored by John Deere
	*Master Farmer Recognition
	*Ag Communication Award
	*Outgoing NYFEA Officer Salutes
	*Your Institute: Review in Pictures
8:00pm	<i>The Big Show</i> in the Show-Me State



more. Learn more about this innovative area of agriculture at the December Institute.

Bayer Crop Science in Kansas City

Bayer Crop Science is internationally known in multiple areas of agriculture and rural programs. The Kansas City location focuses on areas such as pest and disease control and weed management, through producing seed treatments, fungicides and insecticides. The group values safety, environmental responsibility and community involvement. Learn more about Bayer Crop Science on this unique stop.

Lost Creek Wind Farm

Get a close-up look at state-of-the-art wind turbines at the Lost Creek Wind Farm north of King City (pictured on page

5). The farm is part of the Wind Capital Group, which harnesses a renewable source of energy while creating jobs and U.S. energy independence. Wind Capital Group partners with local communities and provides opportunities for investors. Currently, the program is developing utility-scale wind farm projects across the U.S.

Weigand Farms

Dan and Brenda Weigand started farming together in July of 1981 with a foundation of 400 acres of land and around 50 beef cows. Since then, both the farm and family have grown extensively. Their operation is now divided into four parts, including Weigand Feed & Grain, Weigand Bros. Grain, Dan and Brenda Weigand Farms and Clint and

Chad Weigand Farms. In total, the family now owns 2,500 acres of owned land, rents 2,000 acres, has 250 registered Angus cows, 200 commercial cows, 2,800 acres of corn and soybeans, a custom mix feed store and an over the road trucking service. Find out how they do it on this special stop this winter.

Whiteman Air Force Base

Whiteman Air Force Base is a Global Strike Command Center and home to the B-2 Stealth Bomber and the A-10 Thunderbolt. It's the only inter-continental ballistic missile launch control facility located on a base anywhere in the world. Get ready for a welcoming tour, including a look at the hanger and flight deck.

Heartland John Deere

Heartland Farm & Lawn has four locations in the central Missouri, and is a well-known John Deere dealer in the region. The Centerview location is the group's merchandising headquarters where you can buy apparel, collector's items, gifts and more to take home after this memorable event in a special part of Missouri.

MYF/YFW hosts the Master Farmer Award at the Institute

The Missouri Master Farmers are special guests at the NYFEA Institute. They'll be featured in an awards ceremony and a roundtable discussion.

Missouri Ruralist magazine and University of Missouri Extension coordinate the Master Farmer program, which awards farmers who work hard every day for better, more efficient methods of raising crops and livestock.

The program seeks the best managers with innovative ideas, business skills, financial record-keeping, soil and water conservation practices, agricultural leadership, and community service. Nominations are open to all Missourians involved in production agriculture.

The Missouri Master Farmers are Phil Howerton of Chilhowee, Joe Shryock of Columbia, and Dan and Brenda Weigand of Warrensburg.

"This program recognizes active farmers who have not only been successful in farming, but who are also assets to their communities and who can help guide young farmers," says Ron Plain, MU Extension agricultural economist.

All three Master Farmers live and work on family farms. Howerton is a managing partner in the Howerton's farrow-to-finish swine operation and has been an active leader in the Missouri Pork Association.

Shryock owns and manages a grain crop operation and an agritourism business. He has had leadership roles on the East Central Ag Products and the Callaway County Soil & Water Conservation District boards, and has been recognized for a state award by the Missouri Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Weigands (who are hosts of a featured stop on the Institute tours) share management duties at Weigand Grain & Livestock. The couple's diversified farm features grain crops, beef cattle, a custom mix feed store, and trucking business. They have been active in the Missouri Angus Association, with Dan serving as its president.

The awards banquet for the Missouri Master Farmer awardees will be held Saturday evening, Dec. 10, at the Institute. The roundtable discussion, facilitated by Ron Plain, will be on Saturday morning, Dec. 10.

The Master Farmer Award is the nation's longest running agriculture award program. States with established award programs include Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and West Virginia.

-By Jerilyn Johnson



Becky Blackaby as featured entertainment

Becky Blackaby will join MYF/YFW as a featured entertainer again this winter, now welcoming more farmers from around the country. Blackaby last performed for the group at the 2009 MYF/YFW State Convention. Since then, in late 2010, she released her first single on the Country Breakout Chart. Her co-written single, Kelly's Got a Boyfriend, has played on stations across the country.

Blackaby was a finalist in CMT's Music City Madness II Contest, when her fans voted for her original song and video, Eye Games. "I am soooo thankful for that contest and the support everyone gave me, because it put me on the map," she says.

Blackaby juggles a busy schedule as a wife and part-time speech-language pathologist, while maintaining a steady performance schedule. Becky writes her own music, has independently sold over 1,000 CDs, and opened shows for artists such as Steel Magnolia, Josh Thompson, The Jane Dear Girls, Randy Houser, Little Texas, Shooter Jennings and Cowboy Crush.

Meet us in Kansas City: Planning travel

There are multiple options to get to the Institute in Kansas City. Below are the basics, and hotel address information is on the registration forms (see next page).

By plane

More than 49 cities fly directly to Kansas City International Airport each day. The resort headquarters are less than 25 miles away. The planning committee has arranged for airport shuttles on Wednesday and Sunday, by appointment. Call or e-mail ahead of time to reserve your spot.

(See contact information on the registration forms.)



KC turns on the lights for MYF/YFW

Kansas City's Country Club Plaza's Season of Lights has been a tradition for more than 80 years. Miles of Christmas lights, including more than 280,000 bulbs, highlight every tower and window of the entire Plaza area.

The NYFEA Institute will be held during prime light-viewing time, and there will be shuttles for the group running throughout the night on Saturday to the Plaza area. Get ready for these spectacular views!

By train

Hoping to take the scenic route? Three Amtrak rail lines have national routes through the Kansas City metro area. Visit Amtrak's website at www.Amtrak.com

By automobile

Three major interstate highways, I-70, I-29 and I-35 all run directly to the Kansas City metro area. The hotel overlooks I-70, adjacent to the Truman Sports Complex (home of the Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Chiefs).

For more help with planning your trip, visit the Kansas City Visitor's Bureau website at www.visitkc.com

More KC attractions

There's little chance of getting bored during your spare time in Kansas City. The city is rich in cultural and historic attractions.

There are nearly 100 barbecue restaurants in the Kansas City area, such as Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue at the Freight House at Crown Center, or the popular Gates Bar-B-Q spots located throughout the city.

Another popular spot for visitors is the WWI museum at Liberty Memorial, or you can shop to your heart's desire at Westport shops or at Crown Center, the headquarters of Hallmark Cards.

The Institute will have shuttles running to this area on Friday night for the famous Plaza's Season of Lights (see left).

Or, if you want a break from traveling, just within the hotel headquarters is Coco Keys Water Resort—Missouri's largest indoor water park.

NYFEA guests can get passes for just \$10. To see what's available at the indoor park, visit www.cocokeykansascity.com

Registration options

Event fees

There are several registration options, depending on the time you want to stay at the Institute and when you register.

Missouri residents can sign up for the Missouri express option. This includes events and meals from Thursday night through Saturday at a special rate.

Missourians can also register for the entire event, Wednesday evening through Saturday, or as a one-day participation (available Thursday, Friday and Saturday). Early registration, by Nov. 1, offers discounted rates for each option. To register, fill out the registration form on page 11.

Those coming from outside Missouri can either register for the full event or as a one-day participant. Those attending for the entire event can get in on an early registration discount (by Nov. 1). Attendees from outside of Missouri can use the same form (page 11) but may not use the Missouri options.

Hotel reservations

Institute registrations do not include the hotel stay, however the Institute committee has secured special rates for the NYFEA group. Details are outlined on both registration forms, and include contact information to use the discounted group code (NYF). The reserved room block expires on November 1, so call today.

Questions about registration? Contact Lisa Evans, Missouri executive secretary of MYF/YFW, at (573)751-8467 or by e-mail at Lisa.Evans@dese.mo.gov