



# Farmamerica

*Telling Minnesota's Agricultural Story - Past, Present, and Future*

**Legal Name:** Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center

**Classification:** Public Charity

**Tax Status Determination:** 501 (c)(3)

**Federal Tax I.D #:** 41-1326437

**Vision:** To teach people of all ages about our agricultural, food and environmental systems and their impact on our lives.

**Mission:** To carry out the vision through public and private partnerships and interactive experiences for our visitors.

**Facilities:** The Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center (MAIC) was commissioned in 1978 by the Minnesota Legislature in 1978 to preserve and promote the strong heritage of Minnesota agriculture. Better known as Farmamerica, the 120-acre site located 4 miles west of Waseca just off US. 14, includes a historic representation of rural Minnesota from the days of land settlement by European immigrants in the 1850s, the emergence of community life represented by village buildings including a church, one room school, blacksmith shop/town hall, grist mill, prairie and pond, peddlers' grove, farm fields, a typical dairy farm site of the 1930's, modern farm, agricultural museum and 10,000 sq. ft. visitors center all located along a mile-long time lane road and walking path.

**Organizational Overview:** The Board of Directors is composed of fifteen (15) persons nominated and elected to 3-year overlapping terms. The Executive Committee conducts the work of the Board between monthly meetings. A number of other standing committees, each chaired by a Board Member, develop and conduct their own programs of work within the framework of the overall mission and strategic objectives of the board. The committees include finance, program and events, marketing, volunteers, education, buildings and grounds, development, operations, and legislative. The Board of Directors employ an Executive Director (currently a part time assignment), Office Manager and Site Manager. Volunteers are selected for their interests in specific events, activities, educational programming and interpretation.

**Service Area:** Farmamerica is located in Southern Minnesota but has a state-wide mission. Events and activities are promoted to residents and visitors statewide but principally within a 100-mile radius. That area includes approximately 2/3 of the residents of the state because of proximity to the Twin Cities, Rochester, St. Cloud, Austin, Mankato, Albert Lea, Owatonna, Northfield, Faribault, Fairmont and a highway system that makes it an easy drive.

**Benefits:** Annually more than 20,000 people visit Farmamerica. The potential for outreach and the availability of newer communications technologies present opportunities to impact many more in the future.