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Ag Expo Center Announces Significant Economic Development Milestone

September 30, 2020, (St. Joseph, Missouri): A recent development means the Ag Expo Center's vision continues, but it will be a different venue. In July, the Ag Expo Center leadership announced a change in direction and now comes a second major change with developer and entrepreneur Steven Craig.

In late July of 2020, Mr. Craig entered into an agreement with the Ag Expo Center to purchase the present site where he will develop a business park.

"Ag Expo has always said if a developer came along that would bring great benefit to the community the Board of Directors would consider a change of location and/or venues. Mr. Craig's purchase meets that test," says Gerald Sprong, President and Executive Director, of Ag Expo Center. "The park will be a tremendous asset for the community, and will extend the economic impact Ag Expo has already brought."

Steps are underway to continue the Ag Expo Center as a venue for educational opportunities, leadership for area youth and agriculture at a new location.

"As we continue to evolve the project to meet the region's needs and goals, it makes sense to maximize the original site location toward further economic development with Steven Craig," says Sprong. "Ag Expo Center is proud that through its efforts as a catalyst the entire area benefits from the development of the land to date – as well as the development that is to come with its sale to Mr. Craig."

The sale will be closed today, September 30, 2020. Mr. Craig agrees that the purchase of the land benefits the community, the region and the overall project goals. Ideas for the land include a business park, similar to other successful business parks in the Midwest that specialize in clean production and manufacturing.

"We never dreamed the Ag Expo Center project would be a catalyst to accomplish so many great things for the area, but it did," says Sprong. "Development of the roads to the north and the south of the location, the bridge and the increased access have been significant engineering accomplishments that open many doors to further economic progress." He adds that at the same time, project leadership can continue completing the goals of the Ag Expo Center. The project's goals are still to improve the lives of area youth and build upon the region's longstanding agricultural heritage.

Sprong adds that the Ag Expo Center vision is changing and becoming more refined to the region's needs. "We are working on a plan to enhance and complement the new developments that are coming to our community. We want to create a resource for area youth, businesses and families that is focused on agricultural development and education. There's no need to reinvent the wheel when it comes to creating a convention space."

Learn more at www.agexpocenter.org/landing