

Pope Homestead Potential Uses - 11/1/2015

1. Expand education along the lines of that currently offered by Friends for children, families, adults, teachers. Charge some fees to generate income. Some examples:
 - Children: nature-based programs after school, for home schoolers, for scouting groups, and as summer day camps. Possible topics: insects, farming history, visiting farm animals.
 - Students: long term monitoring of pollinators where a certain grade of students monitors the same area from year to year and analyzes trends over time.
 - Adults: lectures (possible topics: pollination, organic gardening, building bluebird and bat houses); photography; arts; yoga; intergenerational programs (similar to Grandparents University).
 - Teachers: enhance teaching skills for scientific inquiry (e.g., how to use crops to teach science, such as Purdue University's "Teaching Science with Soybeans" kit).
2. Promote public understanding and habitat for pollinators, including bees, butterflies, bats.
 - Plantings that attract pollinators (could include a colorful field of butterfly weed). Distribute their seeds to the public.
 - Interpretative signage.
 - Lectures/field trips.
 - Bee hives.
 - Citizen science projects, such as tagging monarch butterflies to track migration with Monarch Watch program.
 - Host a program as part of Middleton's Beestock event, which was offered for the first time in June 2015 with plans to make it an annual event.
 - Research center.
3. Grow crops to sell. Some examples: Sunflowers for bouquets during Sunflower Days; other flowers for bouquets; pumpkin patch; orchard fruits.
4. Create an orchard to complement the agricultural crops at PFC. Educational programs could be created based on the fruits grown (e.g., making cider from apples). If fruit is not sold, it could be donated to Middleton Outreach Ministry's food pantry.
5. Artist-in-residence and/or other arts programming, using the farmhouse as a base.
6. Lease land to immigrant farmers. Local Hmong farmers and others need access to land for incubator farms.
7. Create a kiosk or other display about Art and Betty Pope, their family, his animal research, etc. Preserve the story of the family farm and Art Pope's career.
8. Hang a colorful barn "quilt" visible to PFC. A sunflower theme would be appropriate.
9. Use the barn to store equipment for PFC and for seed processing. Long-term it could be converted to a shelter for field trips or a visitors center.