

## Agriculture Education & Resource Center TIMELINE

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<b>Nov 2017</b>	<b>Initial Meeting with County Representatives.</b> Presented concept for a centrally located agriculture education center in Polk County
Jan 2018	Business Plan Developed
<b>May 2018</b>	Presented detailed business plan at Commissioner Meeting. Commission agreed to fund (\$10,000) a Feasibility Study by the University of Georgia.
<b>Sep 2018</b>	<b>Submitted SPLOST Proposal</b> to County Commissioners proposing public/private sharing of costs. Feasibility Study results presented to Commissioners.
2 Aug 2019	Friends of Agriculture incorporated as a Georgia Non-Profit. Bylaws and Board of Directors established.
Jul 2019	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant Application Rejected as premature.
30 Sep 2019	First Board of Directors Meeting.
13 Jan 2020	Bylaws approved.
May 2020	FriendsOfAg.org webpage initiated.
18 Sep 2020	Friends of Agriculture Awarded <b>IRS Tax Exempt 501c3 Status</b>
<b>Oct 2020</b>	<b>Submitted Second SPLOST Proposal</b> to County Commissioners requesting they fund \$250,000 for the purchase of land and initial design drawings.
<b>14 Apr 2021</b>	<b>Letter from Commissions denying request for funding.</b>
Jul 2021	Truist Foundation Grant Request denied because they did not have a presence in Polk County at that time.
<b>Nov 2021</b>	Board accepted <b>donation of land.</b> Architect contract approved.
Mar 2022	Stakeholder's Meeting on Design Plans
Jun 2022	Finalized Initial Design Drawings
<b>12 Jul 2022</b>	<b>Zoning Approved</b> (A1-Special Use) for Agriculture Education & Natural Resource Center on Sardis Road.
Aug 2022	Board approves Fundraising Goals and Milestones. Met with WD Tripp Foundation (14 Aug) and received promise of \$1 million designated for "brick & mortar".
22 Oct 2022	Virtual "tour" of proposed facility held on site. Initiated Memorial Brick sale.

Jan 2023	Signed up with SAM.gov as required for federal grants. Fundraising meetings with White Hawk Ranch, Atrium Health Rome and Tip Top Poultry.
Feb 2023	Soil samples taken on site.
Mar 2023	Booths at Young Farmer Trade Show (14 Mar) and Rockmart WelshFest (18 Mar) to raise awareness & fundraise.
Apr 2023	Spoke to Polk County Rotary (4 Apr). Applied for grant from AgGeorgia Farm Credit which is under review. Held Cow Plop 50-50 fundraiser (29 Apr) sponsored by Rockmart Chick-fil-A.
May 2023	Spoke to Cedartown Kawana's Club (12 May).
June 2023	Submitted Grant Proposals to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGCO Agriculture Foundation</li> <li>• BASF</li> <li>• Georgia Power (Request for Invitation)</li> </ul>
Nov 2023	Secured interest free signature loan to allow for RFP for detailed architectural drawings release
Jan 2024	<b>1/4/2024: Met with Andrea Wiggins (Warnock Rep) &amp; Hope Iglehart (Ossoff Rep)</b>
	Released Legal Notice for bids on RFP for Detailed Architectural Drawings (1/24 – 2/14)
Feb 2024	2/7/2024: Zoom with Tony Mallen, UGA RE: Student assistance in Grant Writing
	<b>2/15/2024: Met with Gavin Thomas from Marjorie Taylor Greene's office.</b>
	<b>2/22/2024: Bid Conference with prospective architects held. Two local bidders: Doug Elkins (Bell &amp; Associates) and Mark Freeman (Petra Architects)</b>
March 2024	Bids from Mark Freeman (Petra Architects) & Doug Elkins (Bell & Associates) submitted by 3/22/3034 deadline.
	3/21/2024: Submitted Grant proposal to USDA for land & water conservation training in support of NCRS. (3/21/2024)
	<b>3/22/2024: Submitted requests for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grants to the offices of Senators Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock and Representative Marjorie Taylor Geene</b>
April 2024	4/23/2024 = Selected Bell & Associates of Carrollton, GA to complete detailed architectural drawings

May 2024

5/31/2024 - Received notice that our request for Congressionally Directed Spending from Senator Ossoff's office was not submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Received phone call from Senator Warnock's office that our package has been sent to Washington for consideration.

June 2024

6/5/2024 – Signed contract for Detailed Architectural drawings with Bell & Associates, Carrollton, GA.