

Ag Tours

Pre-Conference tours will depart at 7 am on Saturday morning.
Additional fee of \$95 includes meals and plenty of refreshments

Tour 1

Stop 1: Hayden Flour Mill & Sossaman Farms, Queen Creek

Taste Arizona history at Hayden Flour Mills, a family-owned flour mill focused on native seeds and growing hand cultivated heritage grains with minimal processing. Sossaman Farms has been growing wheat for more than 100 years in Queen Creek and supplies Hayden Flour Mills with a variety of ancient and heritage grains. Visitors can enjoy a full-sensory culinary experience that starts with a tour of the milling operation, which is located on the farm in Queen Creek. Hayden Flour Mills showcases flavorful grain and its importance to the American diet.

Stop 2: Schnepf Farms, Queen Creek

Today, the fourth generation Schnepf Farms is enjoyed by over a quarter of a million people during the year. Through festivals, weddings, music events and educational programs, Schnepf Farms is one of the largest Agri-tourist farms in the country. It is well known for its fall pumpkin festival and their U-Pick peaches. They are the largest organic peach grower in the State of Arizona. Now visitors can enjoy a country store, bakery, petting zoo, play yards, train rides, U-pick organic gardens, and orchards as well as hay rides. They have a Farmhouse museum and gift shops. You will enjoy a lunch made with all locally grown ingredients in a lovely farm atmosphere.

Stop 3: Queen Creek Olive Mill, Queen Creek

After an inspiring trip to Arizona, Perry Rea and his wife decided this was the place to be if you are going to

produce olives! Within a year of their trip, they left Detroit and the automotive industry behind and relocated with their four children (and one on the way) to Phoenix, Arizona. They decided to plant 1,000 olive trees on 100 acres (now over 7,000 trees, 16 varieties) in the outskirts of the Town of Queen Creek. Queen Creek seemed like the perfect place, considering its rich farming history. With the idea of providing the Arizona community with fresh local Extra Virgin Olive Oil, they built a farm shed, which eventually transformed into the Queen Creek Olive Mill you see today.



The Maricopa Agricultural Center's main focus is on cotton, small grains, alfalfa, and new specialty crops that could be used to provide fibers, oils and pharmaceuticals. The research projects are related to irrigation and crop water requirements, soils and crop fertility, insects and IPM management, cotton production and breeding, new crops and their uses, weed control, cultural management practices, plant diseases and urban entomology.

Stop 3: Caywood Farms, Casa Grande

Caywood Farms is a fourth-generation, family-operated farming business located near Casa Grande, Arizona. In addition to the production of cotton and forage crops, the Caywood family also runs cotton farm tours on a seasonal basis. The tours start with live music, a short presentation, and a fun-filled hay ride pulled by an antique tractor. The hay ride takes you for a tour around the property, and into an alfalfa field where a hot lunch (or dinner) of fire grilled sirloin burgers, homemade sides, and deserts are served with your choice of beer and wine. This is a true opportunity to have a relaxed meal with Arizona aggies.

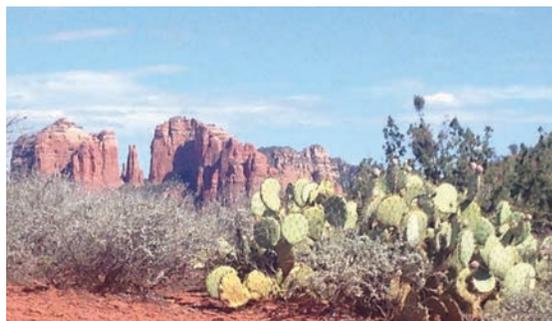
Tour 2

Stop 1: Shamrock Farms, Stanfield

Founded in 1922, Shamrock Farms is one of the largest family-owned and -operated dairies in the U.S. They produce and distribute a full line of dairy products. And since the family farm is home to the family's very own herd of more than 10,000 cows, they thought it only appropriate to feature one of those bovine beauties as the official spokesperson – Roxie – on their product packaging. You can find these products throughout the U.S. in grocery chains, restaurants, schools, hospitals, institutions and vending machines. And, of course, they are still known as the hometown dairy in Arizona carrying on this tradition by being the No. 1 milk processor and distributor in the southwestern region.

Stop 2: Maricopa Agricultural Center, Maricopa

The Maricopa Agricultural Center is a 2,100-acre research farm within The College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at the University of Arizona. The Center strives to be at the forefront of field testing to develop, deliver and service the best integrated agricultural technologies for all problems faced by Arizona consumers and producers.



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