

News Release



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New Training Center Dedicated to Ford B. West Retired industry leader's commitment to be recognized at state-of-the-art facility

Owensboro, Kentucky -- The Asmark Institute today announced plans to recognize Ford B. West for his years of service to the fertilizer industry by dedicating a new training center in his honor. A dedication ceremony to commemorate the launch of the Ford B. West Center for Responsible Agriculture will be held on October 27, 2014 in Owensboro, KY. Mr. West served as the President of The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), a national organization representing the agricultural nutrient industry. He retired in 2013 after 34 years of service to TFI and the industry.

"Ford West is known throughout the U.S. for his impeccable integrity, tireless work ethic and an inherent ability to quickly dissect complicated issues into a simple plan of action. It is very fitting that we honor him by creating a first-of-its-kind learning center that advances safety and compliance for the ag industry," said Allen Summers, President of the Asmark Institute.

The facility will be used as a national training and education center for personnel employed in the agricultural input industry. Among other programs planned for the new facility, will be the training of auditors to implement ResponsibleAg, an industry-led effort to assist agricultural retailers with compliance on a myriad of federal environmental, health, safety and security regulations.

Crop Production Services (CPS) recently donated the retired facility to the Asmark Institute to help make this national training center possible. The retired facility served as a retail farm center until 2014 when CPS consolidated local operations and closed the site. The Asmark Institute anticipates the renovation and construction project, which includes training scenarios, to cost one million dollars. Renovations at the new center will be complete this fall and include a classroom and computer lab along with the typical equipment and simulated operations found at ag retail locations nationwide.

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About the Asmark Institute

Asmark Institute, Inc. is a national resource center serving the retail agricultural industry, consisting of retail agribusinesses, state and national trade associations, educational institutions and government agencies. The Institute provides compliance materials and services, develops common sense solutions to new regulatory requirements, assists the government in its mission of protecting life, property and the environment, monitors enforcement activity for uniformity, supports industry efforts to arrive at fair and reasonable regulation and provides a wealth of unique resources to give wings to the ideas designed to help lift an industry. The Institute is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides a forum for organizations to effectively collaborate on issues for the benefit of the retail agricultural industry.

About ResponsibleAg

ResponsibleAg is an independent, nonprofit organization founded in 2014 to promote the safe storage and handling of fertilizers and to educate persons in the fertilizer distribution chain with respect to safety standards and governmental regulations. Utilizing third-party audits, ResponsibleAg will educate fertilizer storage and handling facilities to achieve and maintain compliance with federal environmental, health, safety and security laws and regulations. ResponsibleAg works closely with the Asmark Institute and maintains an office in Owensboro, KY. For more information, go to www.responsibleag.org.