The Agricultural Experiment Station Management Community is one of the original divisions (A7) within ASA that was converted into a community when we had our reorganization a few years ago. Much like ASA, if you haven’t checked us out lately, you won’t recognize us. Traditionally, our sessions included safety issues, utilizing advisory boards, equipment leases, and other matters that dealt directly with the day-to-day management of the research centers. While these are incredibly important issues, over the past several years, we have focused on outreach to non-traditional audiences and moving our message into the 21st century.

Our Focus

As you can see by the photo below, an agricultural research center is a beautiful and unique place with its varied assortment of plots, buildings, and unique fixtures. These facilities are used for our primary focus, research, and how we better serve our research faculty, staff, and students in a safe and efficient manner. Our secondary focus is how we get that information out to our audience whether it is farmers, professionals, or the general public. For many years, the agricultural experiment stations focused on these two priorities and have been very successful in communicating cutting-edge research and also getting that research out to our audience through field days (see photo below). As our society has become more urbanized, there is a growing need for agriculture to reach out to those non-traditional audiences with facts and how the research that we are doing affects their everyday lives. The agriculture experiment stations are the place to make those connections between agronomy and the general public.

Our Participants

Our Community membership is just under 400 individuals and is traditionally made up of agricultural experiment station directors, university and industry farm and center supervisors, farm managers. Some have responsibilities over multiple research centers whereas others are primarily focused upon one research center. Our membership also includes many others who have an interest in how research centers can be further utilized for specific research and outreach activities. Our sessions attract a wide group who are interested in the varied and unique topics that we offer including wildlife management, student farms, and...