

C O M M U N I T Y D E V E L O P M E N T S

The Hesston community has seen exciting growth over the past several years. Following are highlights of recent developments and positive community indicators:

- **AGCO Corporation** has seen exciting growth over the past several years. AGCO assumed sole ownership of Hay & Forage Industries in May of 2000. With this change in ownership, AGCO moved operations from plants in Ohio, Texas and Missouri to the Hesston facility, including its combine assembly operations. The City of Hesston committed to issue \$35M of Industrial Revenue Bonds in support of the project. Within the first year of the major expansion, AGCO had constructed 140,000 sq. ft. in new manufacturing facilities, 20,000 sq. ft. in new engineering facilities, hired an additional 300 new employees and constructed a new 12,000 sq. ft. training facility. The training facility is bringing in approximately 75 people a week from throughout the United States. During 2001, AGCO continued to expand with the addition of another 130 employees. With the recent acquisition of Caterpillar's Challenger tractor line, the EDC is excited about the continued potential for growth locally. This expansion has had a significant economic impact on the county. AGCO is Harvey County's largest employer, employing over 1,450 people.
- **Americ Inn** a new 42 room upscale hotel facility opened in January of 2003. This project will have a significant impact on the community with an estimated economic impact of \$2 M a year and the creation of 10-14 new jobs.
- The City of Hesston and the Hesston Chamber of Commerce are currently actively working to establish a family restaurant and other service businesses near the new hotel. Working with a consultant, the city hopes to lure additional businesses to locate in the newly established commercial zone next to the interstate, to compliment the hotel and serve the visitors who stay there.
- Hesston Community Childcare Center and Schowalter Villa are partnering together to construct a new 8,000 sq. ft. **intergenerational facility**. This unique childcare center will promote healthy interaction between both young and old.
- In the last few years, Hesston has enjoyed the success of attracting specialty, quality businesses such as **The Sunflower Patch** and **The Wild Geranium**. Restaurants that are new to Hesston include **Sonic** and **The Water's Edge**.
- The historic Draper-Hurford House, now the **Emma Creek Bed and Breakfast**, was originally constructed in 1885. After a move to Hesston and extensive renovation, this charming Victorian home with its wrap-around porch is now open for guests.

- The community has **superior public schools**. Hesston USD 460 was named by Money Magazine as one of the top 100 public school districts in affordable areas in the U.S. In May 2002, the community overwhelming passed a \$13.7 M bond issue for school improvements, which are currently in progress.
- USD 460 received a \$96,000 grant for their **school-to-career** program.
- Hesston is home to an immaculate **18-hole public golf course**.
- **Dyck Arboretum of the Plains** is located within the Hesston city limits. This 13-acre outdoor nature facility features hundreds of different species of trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers.
- The **Hesston Wellness Center** contains an exercise area with a wide variety of equipment, an indoor pool for exercise and recreation, pool tables and game and activity rooms. This outstanding facility was completed in February 2000.
- The city adopted a **Neighborhood Revitalization Plan** to promote the development and improvement of properties. This program provides an added incentive for development and building rehabilitation in the community.
- **Hesston is conveniently located** on Interstate 135 and Old US Hwy 81.