



**REGINA ROTH APPLIED AGRICULTURAL & FOOD STUDIES PROGRAM**

# **ROSEN AG CENTER & LAGS GREENHOUSE**

*The Morningside University experience cultivates a passion for lifelong learning and a dedication to ethical leadership and civic responsibility.*



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# ROSEN AG CENTER

## Regina Roth Applied Agricultural & Food Studies Program Fast Facts

- Serves about 90 students each year and is one of Morningside's fastest growing programs.
- Offers majors in Agricultural & Food Studies and Agricultural Teaching Education, as well as minors in Agricultural Studies, Agribusiness, Environmental Policy/Law, Agronomy, and Food Safety.
- Provides students the opportunity to become connected and involved in the ag industry as early as their first year through local, state, and national organizations, lectures, conferences, active learning, and an externship program.
- The Garden-to-Table experience on campus is an active learning opportunity that allows students from a multitude of programs to take part in growing, harvesting, marketing, selling, and other aspects of food production; it has also been a great community outreach program that offers educational programming to children and adults throughout Siouxland.

## Lags Greenhouse

The Rosen Ag Center will be home to the Lags Greenhouse, which will be a 3,300 square-foot greenhouse on the 2.5-acre site of the former Longfellow Elementary building. The greenhouse will provide laboratory and teaching space, becoming an experiential learning showpiece, while also beautifying the southwest corner of campus. Included in the structure will be:

- a headhouse (preparation and storage area)
- aquaponics room (fish and other aquatic production)
- grow tower/leafy greens room (production of food quality greens)
- two production house rooms capable of producing crops with two separate climate requirements

## Proposed Outdoor Classroom/Test Plot Area

The 2.5-acre site will provide space for outdoor, agricultural production, research, and demonstration classrooms that will further enhance agricultural courses provided in AAFS/AGED curricula. Specifically, this area will provide much needed space for agronomic research plots, precision agricultural research plots, additional in-ground garden demonstration and production plots for crops requiring larger space (sweet corn, pumpkins, squash, melons, etc.), tree and shrub nursery (for campus grounds), an edible forest plot (tree nuts), orchard, edible landscapes, vineyard, apiary, and other outdoor ag and environmental science-related demonstration gardens and plots.

## Benefits of the Rosen Ag Center

- *Enhances active learning opportunities* for students and faculty in the AAFS program, and provides new opportunities for partnerships and cross-collaboration with active learning programs at Morningside.
- *Opens the door to partnership opportunities with other education organizations*, from K-12, area two-year colleges, and other nonprofits, as no one in the area currently has access to a greenhouse or test plots.
- *Creates opportunity for innovation in curriculum*, including but not limited to hydroponics, campus composting, turfgrass management, turfgrass irrigation, aquaculture production and more.
- *Generate efficiencies and experiences*, such as using the greenhouse to produce annual, perennials, trees, shrubs, etc. to be used on campus grounds.
- *Further solidifies Morningside University's position as a regional resource* through curricular collaboration, curricular enhancement, and outreach opportunities.
- *Expands outreach efforts with nonprofits and community organizations* to enjoy educational programming hosted by AAFS faculty and students.



*The large picture shows a rendering of the anticipated Rosen Ag Center, and the smaller photo shows progress as of September 2021.*



*Ag faculty and students currently host several hundred adults and individuals in the campus garden during spring, fall, and summer for educational programming. The addition of test plots and a greenhouse will expand such offerings to year-round, with more subject matter variety.*



*Food produced by the ag program in the garden is used by campus food service to provide fresh, locally grown options to students. Produce is also provided to the local food bank and other community organizations. These efforts will be expanded with the construction of a greenhouse and test plots.*



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