

2021 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

Pre-Conference Tour

American Gothic:

\$75 per person

Capacity: 26

7:30AM – 4:00 PM Monday, June 28, 2021

Stop #1: Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Neal_Smith/

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1990 with ambitious goals and a multifaceted mission. The mission of the Refuge is to actively protect, restore, reconstruct and manage the diverse native ecosystems of tallgrass prairie, oak savanna, and sedge meadow. These were the native habitats existing on the Refuge's 5600 acres prior to Euro-American settlement. The ecosystem also includes a herd of bison to mimic native wildlife.



Stop #2: Vermeer

<https://www.vermeer.com>

Vermeer is a manufacturer of iconic yellow iron seen on industrial jobsites and farm fields worldwide. They have a 3,000-member team found around the world but are headquartered in the heart of the United States. In 1948, a one-man job shop was established on a farm in central Iowa. The man behind it? Gary Vermeer. The second, and now third generations have taken what Gary started and transformed our company into a market-changing powerhouse recognized around the world. tour (what buildings open in June) assembly line? Bldg. 1 & 2

Stop #3: Pella, Iowa

<http://www.pella.org/visit-pella/attractions/>

(Lunch on your own)

Pella is known as America's Dutch Treasure, so you will be able to see reminders of the Dutch heritage everywhere you look. The town has iconic windmills, wooden shoe factories, and Dutch pastries. The town plays host to an annual tulip festival each year. Enjoy the main square with great shopping in Pella's charming boutiques, stores, bakeries and meat markets.

Stop #4: The American Gothic House

<https://americangothichouse.org/american-gothic>

One of the most iconic paintings depicting agricultural life of the 20th century is Grant Wood's *American Gothic*. The house in the painting has been well preserved and along with the visitors' center provide a glimpse into what life was like in the 1930s.