



December 14, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**World Ag Expo AgVentures! and Museum
expand educational opportunities**

TULARE, Calif.— More than 20,000 school children visit the exciting AgVentures! Learning Center at the International Agri-Center each year. Now, thanks to Bank of America, many more will have that opportunity. The bank's Access to Agriculture for All grant awarded in 2006 will provide \$50,000 to AgVentures! Part of the money is earmarked to pay entrance fees for school groups.

Jana Hopper, Heritage Complex facility director, said the grant will also assist with curriculum and program development and cover new take-home packets for students as well as resource guides for teachers. Hopper joined the staff at the Heritage Complex this year and is excited about the new opportunities for visitors at AgVentures!

"This will help us to add something new and allow more students to come and learn about agriculture," said Hopper.

AgVentures! is an interactive oasis of learning and exploration for children. A variety of professionally designed, curriculum based exhibits tell the unique story of Central Valley agriculture.

The Antique Farm Equipment Museum next door is a tribute to past generations of California farmers, ranchers and dairy producers. It contains fully restored antique tractors and farm implements and shows the evolution of the industry that feeds and clothes the world.

Visitors to World Ag Expo can access AgVentures! as well as the museum through the rear entrance of Heritage Complex.

Hopper added, "I'm excited about showcasing agriculture, an industry that really defines this valley. I look forward to building on the strong foundation of the Heritage Complex and AgVentures! while continuing to help them grow," she said.

Hours for AgVentures! and the Antique Farm Equipment Museum will run consecutively with World Ag Expo, Feb. 13-15: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday. For more information on the World Ag Expo, visit www.worldagexpo.com or call (800) 999-9186.

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To book a tour of AgVentures! and the Antique Farm Equipment Museum, or to find out more information, contact Hopper at (559) 688-1030 or email jana@farmshow.org.

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