



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**  
**July 23, 2014**

## **Agrium's Crop Production Services Donates Former Owensboro Farm Center to Asmark Institute**

### ***New facility will provide unique training center for Industry-led ResponsibleAg***

Owensboro, Ky. - Crop Production Services today announced the donation of a former retail farm center in Owensboro, Kentucky to the Asmark Institute to be used as a national training and education center. Among the programs planned for the new facility will be the training of auditors to implement ResponsibleAg, an industry-led effort to assist agricultural retailers more effectively comply with federal environment, health, safety and security regulations.

“Crop Production Services is very proud to build on our longstanding partnership with Asmark and help ResponsibleAg get off to a strong start,” said Tom Warner, Agrium’s President, North America Retail.

Warner said, “ResponsibleAg is one of our industry’s highest priorities and there is no better way to get the program underway than through a state-of-the-art facility and with the leadership of the Asmark Institute.”

The Owensboro site was built in 1981 and included one of the first concrete dry fertilizer storage buildings in the country. It served as a retail farm center operated by CPS and predecessor companies until 2014. At that time, CPS consolidated local operations and closed the site.

Renovations at the new center will be completed this fall and include a classroom and computer lab along with the typical equipment and simulated operations found at ag retail locations. All of this will help prepare auditors and other agribusiness professionals to conduct onsite assessments as part of the ResponsibleAg program.

“We have been watching for a suitable facility for a long time to train auditors on some of the more specialized topics unique to our industry. Thanks to the generosity of CPS, we will have a facility

unlike any other in the nation that will make it possible to expedite personnel training exponentially,” said Allen Summers, President of the Asmark Institute.

Summers said, “The ag retail business has become increasingly complex over the past 25 years and requires innovative ways to further protect the health and safety of employees and communities. This facility is a major step towards providing better training that will benefit small and large retailers alike, and ultimately the communities they serve.”

While training in connection with ResponsibleAg will be the initial purpose of the new facility, Asmark will support the industry by making the facility available for use to others and by offering several new programs such as containment repair and maintenance, unloading of railcars of anhydrous ammonia and several types of workshops specific to retail operations.

### **About Agrium**

Agrium Inc. is a major Retail supplier of agricultural products and services in North America, South America and Australia and a leading global Wholesale producer and marketer of all three major agricultural nutrients and the premier supplier of specialty fertilizers in North America. Agrium’s strategy is to provide the crop inputs and services needed to feed a growing world. We focus on maximizing shareholder returns by driving continuous improvements to our base businesses, pursuing value-added growth opportunities across the crop input value chain and returning capital to shareholders.

### **About the Asmark Institute**

Asmark Institute, Inc. is a national resource center serving the retail agricultural industry, consisting of retail agribusinesses, state and national trade associations, educational institutions and government agencies. The Institute provides compliance materials and services, develops common sense solutions to new regulatory requirements, assists the government in its mission of protecting life, property and the environment, monitors enforcement activity for uniformity, supports industry efforts to arrive at fair and reasonable regulation and provides a wealth of unique resources to give wings to the ideas designed to help lift an industry. The Institute is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides a forum for organizations to effectively collaborate on issues for the benefit of the retail agricultural industry.

### **Responsible Ag**

ResponsibleAg is an independent, nonprofit organization founded in 2014 to promote the safe storage and handling of fertilizers and to educate persons in the fertilizer distribution chain with respect to safety standards and governmental regulations. Utilizing third-party audits, ResponsibleAg will educate fertilizer storage and handling facilities to achieve and maintain compliance with federal environmental, health, safety and security laws and regulations. ResponsibleAg works closely with the Asmark Institute and maintains a training center and office in Owensboro, Ky. For more information, go to [www.responsibleag.org](http://www.responsibleag.org).

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