



Preserving
Agriculture
for
Future
Generations

Passion for agriculture and history is just one of Dan Taylor's many characteristics. As you walk through Taylor's garage, it's like stepping into the past. From cotton gins dating back to Eli Whitney and John Deere tractors dating back to the 1930s, it is like being in a history museum.

Preserving agricultural history is Taylor's mission to teaching the younger generation and telling the story of how agriculture has progressed throughout the years. Over the years, agriculture has progressed tremendously from hand harvesting cotton to machines that can do 10 rows at a time.

"It's important to show the perseverance and dedication people in agriculture had in providing the food and fiber of their lives."

Taylor said the museum started out with the vision of the previous county commissioner Alton Brazell and previous mayor of Lubbock David Langston's desire to get the American Agriculture Museum going. The mayor saw that Taylor had the same passion as he did for preserving agriculture and asked Taylor

to be the vice president of the museum. Taylor says that there have been many struggles over the nine years getting the museum up and running and says that it doesn't just stop at having the building and the artifacts. "To keep the building going, you can't let your guard down on getting the message out that this is a good deal." "Sometimes it's harder to get the funding to keep the operation going," Taylor said.

One of the main goals and visions of the museum is to really make it an educational facility, and by focusing on the past, they really want to focus on the future as well.

When spending time with Taylor, you see his passion. He's a story teller and a very successful business man. Lacey Hoelting director of the American Museum of Agriculture says one lesson Taylor's taught her is the value of personal relationships.

"Don't ever let someone leave without saying thank you," Hoelting said he is very big on personal thank you notes and telling people how much you appreciate them for what they've done.

Hoelting says that she believes this is how Taylor got to where he is today by developing those very strong personal relationships with his customers in the ginning business and board members at the museum.

Taylor's passion and sincerity have really pushed the museum forward and its mission. Hoelting says it's very hard to spend time with him and not get fired up about promoting the museum and preserving agricultural history.

As far as working with the museum, Taylor donates resources financially, as well as donating his time and labor. Taylor would like to see his personal collection end up at the museum.

"No one in the United States has documented the history of the cotton ginning industry and the progression of equipment throughout the years," Taylor said.

Taylor grew up on the farm, and by operating Buster's Gin for 35 years he felt passionate about his work. As the gin got bigger and with its close proximity to Lubbock people would stop by and want a tour of the gin to see where their food and fiber came from.

"Success takes time, perseverance and hard work."

Taylor felt that this was a good opportunity to create a place where people could come and see where cotton comes from.

Taylor said that he wishes he would have started collecting earlier. Over the years he said that there are still a lot of good pieces out there. Taylor says that most of his personal collections have been acquired over the years by word of mouth and some by nosing around old rundown gins. Taylor's mission is to preserve the history of cotton so that younger generations can learn from the different pieces, knowing where things came from, and how they looked during that time period, and how things have revolutionized and changed over time.



Different pieces of Taylor's personal collection that he has been collecting over the years.