

**Aullwood Audubon Center
Farm Discovery Center
Dayton, Ohio**

The Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm is located on 350 acres with the purpose of providing programs that increase the understanding and preservation of the planet through education, research and recreation.

The Farm Discovery Center is a 12,000 SF educational facility that highlights the working farm activities of Aullwood. The center is a place for hands-on learning and serves as a gathering spot for community organizations.

The building contains two classrooms, kitchen, multi-purpose area and a maintenance shop. One of the classrooms has a lab for students to study water, soil and plant science. The other classroom offers hands-on experiences such as candle dipping, weaving and spinning.

The Farm Discovery Center is LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The client's vision was for the center to serve as a gateway to the Aullwood complex and to create a suitable environment for interactive agriculture activities and education. A tree-lined, one lane drive enhances the arrival experience.

The location of the facility to the working farm provides indoor/outdoor opportunities for visitors and promotes Aullwood's mission.

The building design celebrates farm life living and a love of all things outdoors by blurring the lines between indoors and outdoors. This is accomplished by carefully locating windows, doors and porches to connect children and their families to the outside environment at all times.

The interior materially reinforces this by trying to bring back the imagery of a barn by exposing structure, and utilizing horizontal siding with 1/2" spacing to recall the light and shadows of old drying barns.

The Farm Discovery Center is an architectural interpretation of traditional farm life.