

November 2011 [www.FarmProgress.com](http://www.FarmProgress.com)

# WALLACES

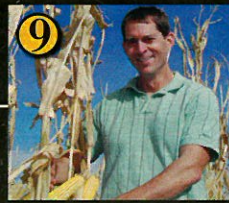
## FARMER

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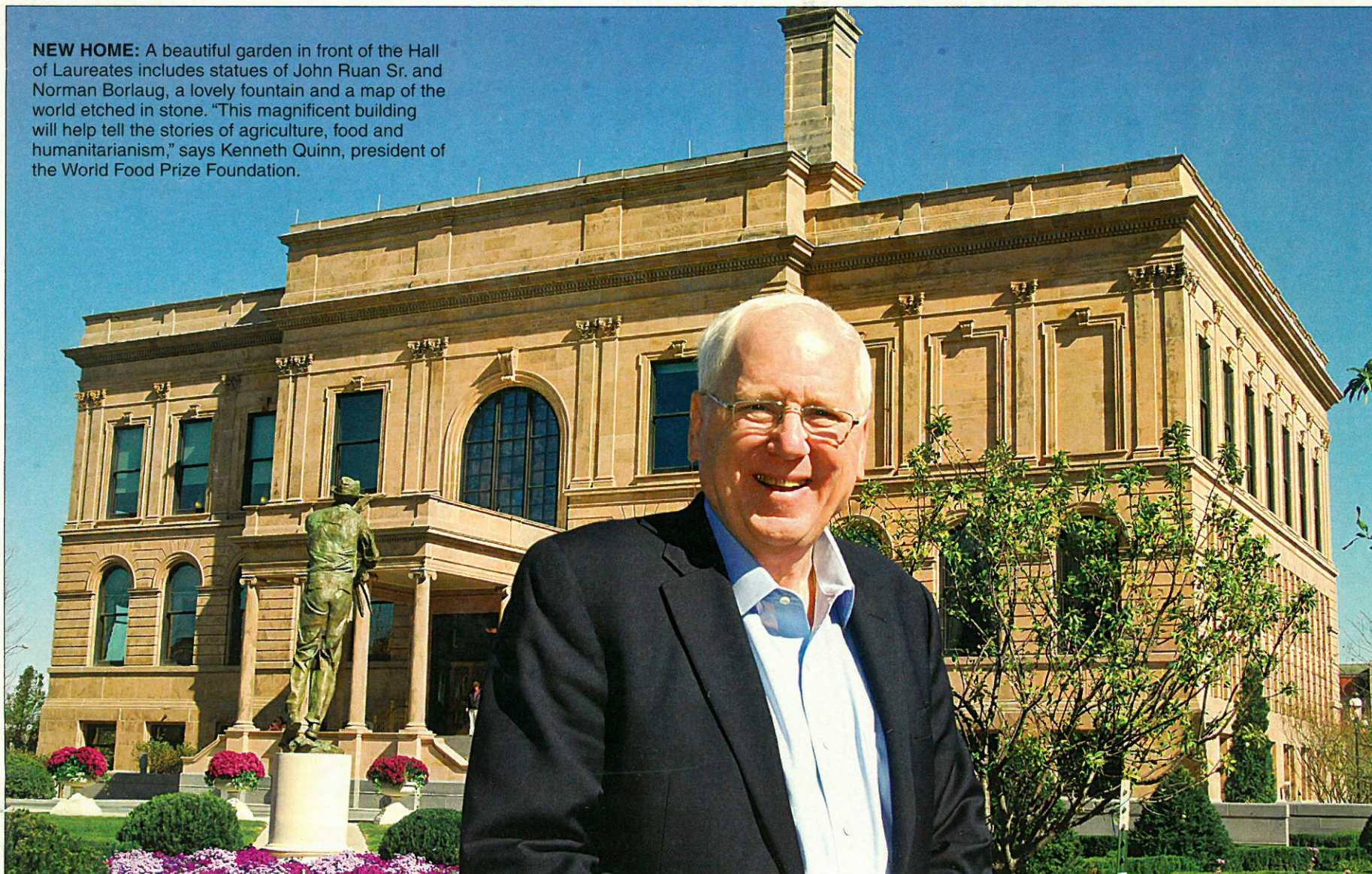
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**NEW HOME:** A beautiful garden in front of the Hall of Laureates includes statues of John Ruan Sr. and Norman Borlaug, a lovely fountain and a map of the world etched in stone. "This magnificent building will help tell the stories of agriculture, food and humanitarianism," says Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation.



# Lasting legacy

By **ROD SWOBODA**

**T**HE World Food Prize marked its 25th anniversary in October with the opening of its new home, the Norman E. Borlaug World Food Prize Hall of Laureates. What began as a dream a decade ago is now a reality with the restoration of the 108-year-old former Des Moines Public Library, which anchors the downtown riverfront in Iowa's capital city.

Walking into the courtyard, past statues of Borlaug and John Ruan Sr., Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize, listened to visitors' appreciative comments. Quinn smiled as he heard words such as "stunning," "wow" and "marvelous." "It's a dream come true," he said.

Quinn grew up in Dubuque, the part of Iowa where folks say, "If you build it, they will come." A former ambassador during his long career with the U.S. State Department, Quinn became president of the World Food Prize Foundation in 2000.

### Key Points

- World Food Prize marks 25th anniversary this year by opening new headquarters.
- The award gives Nobel-class recognition to those devoted to ending hunger.
- Restored historic building is a monument to the importance of agriculture.

Since then, the annual World Food Prize symposium has grown from about 50 out-of-state visitors to a record 1,400 people this year, who came from 75 countries for the weeklong event to discuss food and agricultural issues.

### A global meeting place

The October gathering draws government officials, food company executives, scientists, hunger advocates, farm leaders, ag college deans and reporters. High school students and teachers are in the mix, as the event includes a Global Youth Institute

for 125 high school students.

The World Food Prize was created in 1986 to recognize exceptional achievements in increasing the quality, quantity and availability of food in the world. It was created by Norman Borlaug, who grew up on a farm at Cresco and went on to success as a plant breeder. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work to feed the world's hungry. The Hall of Laureates will continue his legacy by promoting his vision.

Known as the "Father of the Green Revolution," Borlaug was passionate and determined that human endeavors could create solutions to solve hunger and poverty around the world. "He believed there should be an award to encourage Nobel-like achievements in food and agriculture, reducing hunger and ensuring adequate food for all," says Quinn.

The \$250,000 World Food Prize was awarded this year to former presidents of Brazil and Ghana for fighting hunger and poverty in their nations. The symposium

was a reminder that hunger and related issues haven't gone away in the world.

In 1990, Iowa businessman and community leader John Ruan Sr. rescued the World Food Prize when its sponsor withdrew; he worked with Borlaug to bring the prize to Des Moines. Thanks to the funding and vision by the Ruan family and the leadership of Borlaug and Quinn, there is now a place where the achievements of World Food Prize Laureates can be recognized.

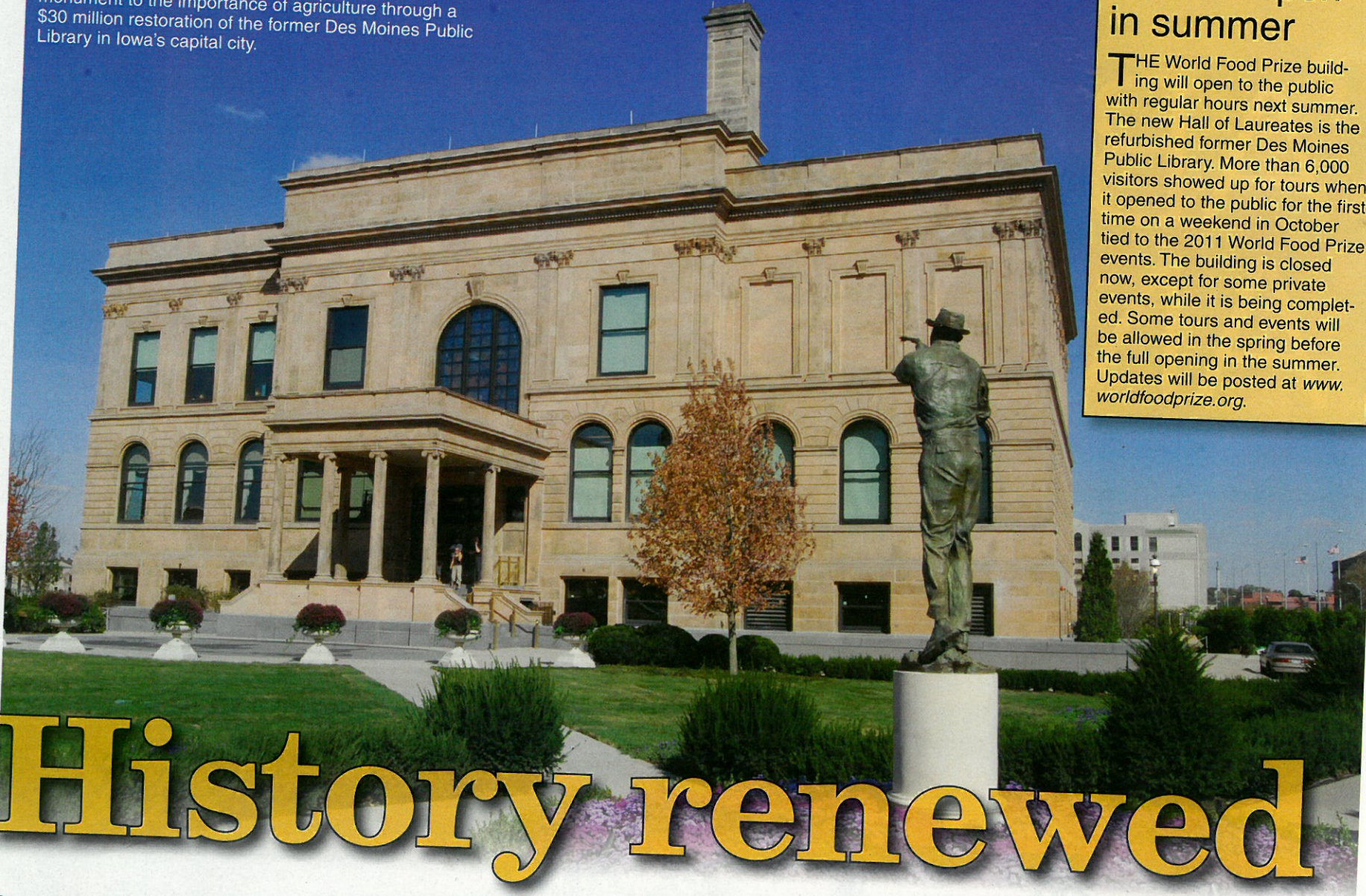
The Hall of Laureates is also a place for events and meetings, where students and others can visit and learn about the accomplishments and humanitarian efforts of great Iowans in agriculture, such as Norman Borlaug, Henry A. Wallace, George Washington Carver, Herbert Hoover and others. "And just possibly, it will become the place where we gather someday to celebrate our victory in vanquishing hunger from the face of the earth," says Quinn.

■ See more of the building on Page 8.

**A GEM:** A statue of Norman Borlaug greets visitors at the new headquarters of the World Food Prize. The World Food Prize Foundation has created a classic monument to the importance of agriculture through a \$30 million restoration of the former Des Moines Public Library in Iowa's capital city.

**WFP to open in summer**

**T**HE World Food Prize building will open to the public with regular hours next summer. The new Hall of Laureates is the refurbished former Des Moines Public Library. More than 6,000 visitors showed up for tours when it opened to the public for the first time on a weekend in October tied to the 2011 World Food Prize events. The building is closed now, except for some private events, while it is being completed. Some tours and events will be allowed in the spring before the full opening in the summer. Updates will be posted at [www.worldfoodprize.org](http://www.worldfoodprize.org).



# History renewed

By **ROD SWOBODA**

**T**EN years and nearly \$30 million later, the World Food Prize Foundation's new home in downtown Des Moines opened its doors for the first time for public viewing in October. The historic former Des Moines Public Library building has "AD 1900" on its cornerstone.

At the grand opening, artists and archi-

itects involved in the project showed their work — ornate pillars, stained-glass windows and gardens in front. The Norman E. Borlaug World Food Prize Hall of Laureates will give the World Food Prize a world-class home, just like the Nobel Prize. With a lead donation of \$5 million from the Ruan family and contributions from more than 100 donors, the building will serve as a home for the World Food Prize Foundation and its programs, a convention and conference center available to the community, and an educational facility.

"To all who visit, it will bring awareness about our collective history in agriculture and humanitarianism, as well as the challenges facing our planet in feeding the burgeoning global population," says Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize.

In restoring this building, the World Food Prize endeavored to preserve its historic integrity and strove to make the building highly energy-efficient. "It's designed to earn LEED Platinum certification, the highest possible level of resource conservation, an achievement almost unheard of for buildings on the National Historic Register," says Quinn. Key green features include high-efficiency solar panels, a geothermal heating and cooling system (102 wells dug 200 feet deep under the garden), and an 8,000-gallon cistern to catch and recycle rainwater for use as gray water.

At the Oct. 9 opening reception, Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad said, "This building is phenomenal. It tells the story of Norman



**GOING FORWARD:** The Hall of Laureates will serve as home to the World Food Prize and all its programs, including the Global Youth Institute, which aims to inspire the next generation to combat hunger.

Borlaug and the World Food Prize. But greater, it tells the importance of agriculture and feeding hungry people worldwide. In a beautiful way, it tells the important role Iowa plays, too."

Quinn says the building is a way to pay back the state and city for the public-private partnership that kept the World Food Prize alive when it lost its sponsor in 1990. The new Hall of Laureates can help promote economic development, educational opportunities and tourism.

"This building will help us tell great stories," says Quinn. "Through the art and sculpture, we want people to know that

Norman Borlaug saved more lives than any other person who ever lived; John Ruan and Iowa rescued the World Food Prize; and that it has become the Nobel Prize of food and agriculture. The World Food Prize laureates have led the single-greatest period in food production and hunger reduction in human history. And it will help tell about Iowa's amazing agricultural and humanitarian heritage."

**Art honors ag pioneers**

A total of 20 new, original works by Iowa artists is displayed in the Iowa Gallery. Most prominent is a mural depicting four Iowa leaders (Jessie Shambaugh, Herbert Hoover, Henry A. Wallace and George Washington Carver) sitting on the front porch of Borlaug's boyhood home, while Borlaug is nearby. Other art and sculpture depicting agricultural history is displayed throughout the building.

A large stained-glass globe teaches visitors about the origins of agriculture throughout history. A WPA project of story-telling murals painted on the walls of the former children's library from 1937 to 1941, supervised by famed Iowa artist Grant Wood, has been restored.

Next summer a number of interactive educational exhibits will open and help guide visitors through the topics illustrated throughout the building. This area will focus on current global challenges, real-life stories, ongoing efforts and what lies ahead for the next generation.

For more visit [www.worldfoodprize.org](http://www.worldfoodprize.org).



**BORLAUG:** Norman Borlaug founded the World Food Prize, based in Des Moines, in 1986 to raise awareness of the role of agriculture in the world.

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