# MAETA Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Who are we?
   a) The Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association is a non-profit organization based in Meriden, Kansas. We were founded in 1977 to promote early farming practices and an appreciation for antique engines and tractors. What does that mean? We love to farm the old fashioned way! We want to pass on the techniques used in the past so we don't forget them. We also love to play with old tractors and old engines. And we want to pass that knowledge on as well.

2. Where are you located?
   a) We're at 8275 K-4 Highway, approximately 1 mile northeast of Meriden, Kansas. If your GPS can't find us, try 8274 K-4 Highway. We're right across the road. Otherwise, we are about ½ mile past the Butler Road/K-4 intersection on the north side of the road.

3. What is Cottonwood Station?
   a) Cottonwood Station is the little town we have built on our show grounds. It allows us to showcase various trades and activities. While all buildings are open during our shows, the Flour Mill, the Sawmill, and the Blacksmith Shop all have working exhibits as well. During the Fall Festival, the Sorghum Shack is busy making sorghum, the Cider Shack is busy making cider, and the Log Cabin is busy with Apple Butter. Sundays during show weekends, you can even attend services at the Bloomfield Church.

4. How do I get involved?
   a) Join us! We love to bring in new members and put them to work! You can pick up a membership application during one of the shows in the General Store. You can also print one off our web-site. It's on the bottom of the home page at meridenthreshers.org. Membership is $20 per year for persons over the age of 12. This gets you free admission to all the shows.
   b) Warning! This is a volunteer run organization. So the pay is terrible, but you learn a lot and get to work with a great bunch of people.
   c) Meetings are the 4th Sunday of each month except for September and December. The September meeting is generally moved to the first weekend in October because of the Fall Show. We don't have a December meeting.
   d) We are led by a board of 4 officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, we have Directors in charge of each building, activity, and other areas. Officer elections take place during the October meeting. Directorships are voted on during the November meeting.

5. When are the shows?
   a) The summer threshing show is the third full weekend of July.
   b) The Fall Festival is the fourth full weekend of September.
   c) The Bloomfield Chili and Soup Supper and Craft Bazaar is the first Saturday of November.

6. How do I exhibit at a show?
   a) If you are displaying engines or tractors or cars/trucks, you just need to show up. You will get one free admission per piece of equipment.
   b) While we feature one particular brand of tractor and one particular brand of engine each year, all brands are welcome.

c) If you want to display something else, please call Jess.

7. How do I sign up to be a vendor?
   a) Call Russ! His number is 316-737-2525. We have lots of vendor space for $20 per spot. If you need electricity, we will charge you an additional $10. We welcome almost everyone but fresh food vendors. We don't allow you to compete with our wonderful on-site kitchen. So pre-processed canned food like jams, jellies, honey, and food mixes are fine. But we don't allow vendors that sell things like popcorn, cotton candy, or sno-cones.

8. Where do I park?
   a) We have a designated parking area west of the campground. During our busiest time of day during each show, we are running a trolley between the parking area and Cottonwood Station. If you're going to need a ride from your car when the trolley isn't running, tell the gate and they will send someone to bring you up!
   b) Handicap parking is available along the south side of the track.
   c) We have a designated area for unloading equipment down by the Big Engine Building. Trailer parking is against the tree-line northeast of the Bloomfield Church.
   d) The trailer parking area in the west parking lot is limited to small equipment trailers.

9. Where can't I park?
   a) We try to reserve the area along the highway for special exhibits. Please don't park there unless the gate tells you its ok.
   b) Please don't park along the track unless you have a handicapped tag or placard.
   c) The treeline directly behind the campgrounds is reserved for those who are camping. That is also our overflow camping area.
   d) Other “No Parking” zones are roped off.

10. Do you have camping?
   a) Yes! We have 30 camping spots with electricity and many more primitive (no utilities) spots. Camping is $30 per show weekend. We can handle up to 30 amp services. We also have a dump station north of the restrooms.

11. Can we bring our dog(s)?
   a) Yes. But please keep them on a leash.

12. What about food?
   a) The Chuck Wagon is our on-site kitchen. Jolene serves hot food, drinks, pie, and ice cream. She usually serves a thresher's meal, in addition to chips, hot dogs, burgers, etc. to order. The menu varies with the time of year but you can count on breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

13. What about restrooms?
   a) We have modern restrooms with showers. Restrooms are only open during shows. We have portable toilets by the Bloomfield Church during shows as well.

14. What are your hours?
   a) During the shows, our grounds are open 7am to midnight.
   b) Otherwise our grounds are open year-round sunrise to sunset. You are welcome to come on in and have a look. Please note that our modern restrooms are only open during shows.
   c) Due to equipment vandalism, we have had to put up gates and keep them locked during off-

hours. Please come anyway! You can park at the gate and walk in.

15. What is there for kids to do?
    a) LOTS! We have a playground down by the restrooms. In addition, we have many kid-friendly exhibits and activities. The summer show also has a Pedal Tractor Pull and events at the Cider Shack.

16. What farm techniques do you demonstrate?
    a) We grow some crops on our land and demonstrate how to harvest and process what we grow. For wheat, that means binding the wheat shocks and threshing them with a threshing machine during the summer show. For sorghum, that means cutting and stripping the stalks, pressing them with a sorghum press, and then cooking the juice down to syrup during the fall show. When we plant corn, we demonstrate how to pick it, shuck it, and shell it. In addition, we make apple cider and apple butter the old fashioned way. Our apples are grown off-site.

17. Do you have air conditioning?
    a) Um. Not really. Most of our exhibits cool off the old fashioned way with fans and shade. However, the General Store and the Bloomfield Church are air-conditioned.

18. How do I donate my time?
    a) Come to a meeting. We have work days every month and decide on them at the meetings.

19. How do I donate money?
    a) In 2015, we received our 501(c)(3) status so now any contributions made to us are tax deductible!
    b) If you are making a large donation, paying by check, or just want a receipt, please contact Kerril at 816-898-2328. Smaller cash donations can be dropped into one of the many donation boxes throughout the grounds.

20. How do I donate equipment?
    a) How old is it? Does it work/run? Do you know the history behind it? Is it something others would be interested in or is it just crap you're trying to get rid of? Do you want to loan it to us or give it to us?
    b) Once you have the answers to these questions, please contact Jess or Gary Bowen. If they accept it and you want to donate it, you will need to have the value of the item determined by an independent appraiser. Once you have the appraisal, please give a copy to Kerril so she can issue you a receipt for your taxes.

21. Can we go into buildings when there isn't a show going on? Can we get a personal tour?
    a) Absolutely! While we recommend attending a show to see all of our equipment in action, we understand that not everyone can make it. If you want to set up a private tour, please contact Merril Lovendahl at 785-986-6469. We do have gates at the entrances now, but there is plenty of parking and you can park and walk in.

22. What is Kids' Day?
    a) The Friday before the Fall Festival, we invite 5th graders from all the Jefferson County Elementary Schools to our grounds. They get lessons in everything from cider making to fur harvesting. This is by appointment only and the show is not open to the public during

this time. If you are not on our list, but would like to bring your home-schoolers or other kids, please contact Jess to see if we can work you in.

23. What is the Garden Tractor Pull?
    a) We are pleased to offer this growing sport at both shows every day. Garden tractor pulls are just that, pulling a weighted sled with your old lawnmower/garden tractor. It is lots of fun for kids and adult participants and spectators. Our pulls are run by the Bucket Brigade Pulling Club founded by long-time MAETA member Orville Calhoon. Please visit their web-site to find out more: http://gardentractorpulling.wikifoundry.com/

24. What is the Antique Tractor Pull?
    a) Saturday night of our summer show we host an Antique Tractor Pull. We run 3 classes of tractors (Stock, Modified, and Open) in different weights. It is very exciting and lots of fun to watch. Rules for the event can be found on our web-site.

25. What about photography?
    a) We love that people love to take pictures on our grounds! We have hosted shoots for everything from weddings to a swimsuit calendar to a fashion catalog. You are free to take pictures any time we are not having a show. Also, post some to our Facebook page! We love to see pictures of our grounds!
    b) Please don't pose or climb on any of our equipment. Most of it is really old and we don't want anyone to get hurt.
    c) Please note: the restrooms are not open year-round.
    d) We literally spend thousands of dollars per year on upkeep of the buildings and the grounds. We take great pride in our grounds and are happy to have visitors. The downside is that we are frequently robbed of metal, wood, and copper. We have donation boxes strategically placed around the grounds. Please feel free to drop in a few dollars to help offset our expenses.
    e) To the professional photographers: We see you taking senior and family pictures all over our grounds, sometimes, one client right after another. Please be fair to us. If you make money from our grounds, a donation in the box is a much appreciated gesture.
    f) Also, restrooms are not open if we aren't having a show.

26. Can I have my wedding or other party on your grounds?
    a) Yes! Please contact Jody Kirkwood at (785) 484-3713 for pricing and details. Obviously, our show dates are blacked out.

27. How do I contact somebody?
    a) President Jesse Noll – 785-633-9706
    b) Vice President Greg Coker – 785-213-2570
    c) Secretary Emily Petesch – 785-438-8978
    d) Treasurer and Web-master Kerril Bauerly – 816-898-2328
    e) Vendors – Russ Dunlap – 316-737-2525
    f) Camping – Susan Naylor – 757-379-5240
    g) Tours – Merril Lovendahl – 785-986-6469
    h) Grounds Rental – Jody Kirkwood - (785) 484-3713
    i) Equipment Donation – Gary Bowen – (785) 484-3705