



CASE STUDY

Project: Eckert's Country Store and Restaurant

Location: Belleville, IL

Size: Store- 22,166 SF

Restaurant- 14,054 SF

Design- The Lawrence Group

Lighting Design- BAERO North America



In 1910, Alvin O. Eckert opened the first roadside farm stand on the Eckert family farm located in Belleville, Illinois. A century later, the Eckert family celebrated that milestone with another, the grand opening of their 22,166 square foot country store and an expanded country restaurant. Blending a history that now spans three centuries with a modern market offering customers all the amenities became the vision for this project. That vision came to life on July 5th, 2010.

The Eckert's experience as a day-trip destination for the entire St. Louis area and beyond is one that several generations of area residents have enjoyed. Now with a new country store that includes a 1,200 sf cooking classroom, a 789 sf exterior patio on which to have their frozen custard or a meal from their prepared foods department, a 900 sf wine department including a walk in wine cooler, full service bakery, meat, seafood, cheese and deli departments customers have even more reasons to come spend a day with the Eckert family. With so much to see and do, because there is also that expanded country restaurant, a large garden center, and of course the orchard tours, you almost forget the reason why you're there....almost.

And for most people that reason is buying peaches so fresh you would have to pick them yourself to get them fresher, which of course at Eckert's is a very popular option. Along with all the other fresh produce and vegetable options such as strawberries, apples and peppers, The Eckert's Country Store now offers those famous peaches in an extraordinary market with an incredibly warm and inviting atmosphere.

Tapped with the Eckert's family request to create new buildings with historic meaning, Dennis McGrath and The Lawrence Group team designed a space that presents future orchard goers with a setting rich in history, continuing the tradition and experience of creating your own family memories. Large life size photographic murals from throughout the last century let customers feel that history while savoring all the modern perks of today. Entering the new produce department, decades old customers will have a sense of nostalgia as they pass under the tin roof and replica facade.

Even with the lighting, the Eckert family returned to their roots as they picked BAERO, a German based lighting manufacturer which specializes in illuminating fresh food markets, to provide the lighting design and fixtures. The warm tones of BAERO lighting provides market owners the ability to stand out from the competition.

