



Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine Spring 2024, Vol. 30, No. 1 Copyright Iowa Barn Foundation, 2024

The Iowa Barn Foundation, founded in 1997, is a volunteer-led non-profit dedicated to preserving Iowa's historic barns, symbols of Iowa's agriculture heritage.

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This issue is dedicated to the memory of Jacqueline Schmeal and Don Geiger, founding members of the Iowa Barn Foundation.

Cover Photo:

Sunrise on the 1877 Frost Barn in Waterloo, an Iowa Barn Foundation Award of Distinction recipient. The barn will serve as the hub for the June 22-23 barn tour and host the lunch on Saturday (advance reservations required). Photo by Dave Austin

County Representatives

County representatives promote the preservation of barns in their area through Iowa Barn Foundation programs and membership. Key responsibilities include actively responding to inquiries by phone/email, assisting with barn tour organization/promotion, and providing in-person visits to barns to assist with grant/award programs. We are actively seeking volunteers for several counties who are passionate about barns and enjoy helping others. If interested, please contact our county representatives coordinator, Craig Stephens, at 515-681-1009 or cdstephens@fngi.net.

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Counties Without a Representative

Adair, Adams, Adams, Appanoose, Cass, Cedar, Chickasaw, Clayton, Clinton, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Dickinson, Fayette, Franklin, Freemont, Greene, Grundy, Hardin, Henry, Howard, Humboldt, Jefferson, Keokuk, Kossuth, Louisa, Lucas, Lyon, Mitchell, Monroe, Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, Winnebago, Worth, Wright

We recently updated our county representative list. If your information is incorrect, or you were accidentally dropped off the list, please let us know.



ALL-NEW PROGRAM

to recognize barns preserved with modern materials while maintaining historical architectural detail. Qualified barns can join our fall tour.

Apply today!

The Iowa Barn Foundation's Preservation Award program recognizes historic barns which have been preserved by their owners using modern exterior materials (i.e. metal siding and metal/vinyl windows). Recipients of the award receive a plaque to display on their barn and are invited to participate in our annual all-state fall barn tour (one weekend in September).

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Applications being submitted for a structure must meet the following criteria:

- STRUCTURES TO BE CONSIDERED MUST MEET ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED.
 - The structure must be no less than 50 years old.
 - The structure exhibits unique or distinctive methods of construction, materials, finishes or examples of craftsmanship.
 - The structure contributes in a significant way to the appearance of the rural landscape and/or the community identity.
 - The structure is associated with lives of persons or events significant to Iowa's history.
- NOTE: Barn interior must maintain a significant portion of the architectural detail of the original construction with allowance for some modern updates for personal, non-commercial usage).
- Applications require either the applicant and/or barn owner to be an
 active member donor of the Iowa Barn Foundation. Apply online at
 iowabarnfoundation.org/award-and-grants. A printable application
 form can be downloaded from the website.
- Questions can be sent to iowabarnfoundation@gmail.com or contact Dave Austin at 515-201-4517.

Lowa Barn Foundation A Volunteer-led Non-profit A night view of the early 1900s barn under the Milky Way on the Austin Family Farm

I often get asked where the Iowa Barn Foundation (IBF) headquarters is located. My factual answer is that we don't have any paid staff, and we don't own any property. My more thoughtful response is that our headquarters is all of rural Iowa, and our office is anywhere there is a barn - that is where you will find IBF volunteers.



Dave Austin, Editor

Honoring Founding Members Who Passed in 2023

The IBF would not be what it is today without a small group of volunteers who got together in Ames in 1997 and decided something should be done to save Iowa's historic barns...and created IBF. If you missed the story on the early years of IBF in our Spring 2023 magazine, you can view it online at iowabarnfoundation.org/ibf-magazine.

Sadly, we lost two of those founding members in 2023. I have dedicated this issue to Jacqueline Schmeal and Don Geiger, who both committed 25+ years to ensuring the success of IBF programs. Their legacy will live on as the next generation of volunteers step forward to ensure our rural heritage is preserved through our three key programs – restoration grants, barn tours, and the IBF magazine.

Preparing the Foundation for the Future

in SW Wisconsin.

The past two years have been a whirlwind for me personally as my volunteer work with the Iowa Barn Foundation escalated quickly. I first reached out to IBF in 2020 to volunteer my barn photography services. IBF President Jack Smith and I bonded as we served time together at the Anamosa State Prison Farm. Thankfully, we were just visiting to capture photos of the stone prison farm barns in preparation for the spring tour held there in 2021.

Jack gets the credit (or blame) for getting me fully engaged as an IBF volunteer. Jacqueline Schmeal then recruited me to assist with the magazine in 2022, which led to taking over the reins as the magazine editor in 2023. I joined the IBF Board of Directors in October 2022 and launched a redesign of our website later that year.

Home is where the barn is

As a new volunteer, I was very fortunate to have experienced board members to provide guidance and mentorship as I looked to digitize and automate key operations. Jacqueline helped me get up to speed on the magazine operations, and Jeff Fitz-Randolph helped me migrate legacy content to our new website. Treasurer Steve Lawler and Membership Coordinator Andrea Corcoran were crucial to the launch of online membership donations and grant applications.

I want to give a special thank you to Roxanne Mehlisch for her help streamlining the spring and fall barn tour planning process. Roxanne has selflessly served on the board for 25 years before stepping down early this year. We will forever be grateful for her contributions, and I personally hope she will still take my calls as I will certainly have more questions.

The foundation has been very successful for the first 27 years, and we hope that the updates we have made over the past two years position us for ongoing success. Please be sure to review the list of board members on page 39 and thank them at every opportunity for their service to the foundation.



My parents, Bob and Jean Austin – photo taken on their 65th Wedding Anniversary in 2021. Our farm sign was designed and painted by my younger sister, Kristi Gempler.

Why I Volunteer

I grew up on a dairy farm in SW Wisconsin, and agriculture has been a core component of my life ever since. In my adult years, I gained a full appreciation for how blessed I was to grow up on a farm. The work ethic that was instilled in me by my parents at a young age continues to pay dividends in my professional career. While the dairy cows are long gone, I enjoy getting back to visit my parents on the home farm every chance I can. As the saying goes – Home is where the barn is.

I moved to Iowa in 1997 to pursue my PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics at Iowa State University, and I have been employed at Corteva Agrisciences (Pioneer) in Johnston for the past 27 years. It is through my work that I gained an appreciation for Iowa's agriculture history, serving as the Corteva representative on the Board of Directors for Living History Farms in Urbandale from 2013-2021.

Opportunity seems to know exactly when to knock, as I joined up with IBF shortly before completing my board term with Living History Farms. While I have always enjoyed taking barn and farmscape photos (a trait inherited



An aerial view of the Austin Family Farm from the 1970s – painting done by my late grandmother, Lucy Nodolf. Both of my parents grew up on dairy farms in SW Wisconsin.



The Austin Family Farm dairy barn was built in the 1950s and housed up to 100 milking cows during peak milk production in the 1980s.

from my mother), I now have the opportunity to tell the stories behind the barns in the IBF magazine.

I launched a new "why we saved our barn" series, where we share the history of barns and the families that built them. My favorite part is seeing the eyes light up as family members share their memories in the barn. That joy is my motivation to volunteer.

Help Wanted

Like many other non-profit organizations, the IBF has a generational gap in our volunteer ranks. We have many experienced volunteers who have been with the organization for 20+ years, but we have not had an influx of younger volunteers join over the past 10-20 years. Likewise, the number of Iowans who have a personal connection to farms continues to dwindle.

Through our barn tours and magazine, we hope to reach the next generation of barn lovers who are passionate about preserving Iowa's rural heritage. We have several volunteer opportunities for all ages. Please see page 9, for more details on where you can engage as an IBF volunteer. I look forward to seeing you "at the office" during our barn tours June 22-23 and September 14-15.

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to Founding Members Lost in 2023

The Iowa Barn Foundation lost two Iowa barn Iovers who were founding members of the non-profit organization established in 1997. Jacqueline Schmeal led the organization for 26 years, and she was a passionate advocate for preserving lowa's rural heritage. Jacqueline also served as the editor of the foundation magazine from 1998-2022. Don Geiger was the first treasurer for the foundation, a role which he diligently served for 24 years. Both served on the foundation board of directors continuously since 1997. Jacqueline and Don's contributions were vital to the establishment and long-term success of the lowa Barn Foundation, and they will be greatly missed.



Jacqueline Andre Schmeal

March 29, 1938 - Dec. 21, 2023 Jacqueline Andre Schmeal passed away at her home in Houston, Texas on December 21, 2023. Jackie was born in

Washington DC in 1938 to Floyd and Hazel Andre. They relocated to The University of Wisconsin Madison in 1945 where her father was the Assistant Dean of Agriculture, and then to Iowa State University in Ames Iowa in 1949 where he was the Dean of Agriculture. The family lived on the ISU campus in the Farmhouse which is now a museum.

Jackie attended Iowa State University and received a BS in journalism and was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She then attended Northwestern University and received a master's from the Medill School of Journalism. While at Northwestern she met Walter Richard Schmeal (Dick). Jackie and Dick were married in Ames, IA, in 1962. They made their home in Minneapolis while Dick received his PhD and Jackie worked for The Minneapolis Tribune. Their careers took them to Berkeley, CA and then to Houston, TX. During her career Jackie was a writer for Time Magazine as well as The Christian Science Monitor. When the farm crisis hit in the 1980's Jackie opened a store in the Houston Rice Village called The Iowa Store. She sold American Folk Art made by Iowans to help support their families.

Jackie and Dick had a passion for learning and travel. They spent much of their

time in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she founded the Friends of Folk Art in support of the Santa Fe Folk Art Museum and was on the board of The Museum of New Mexico Foundation. At the foundation she was the Development Chair from 1994-2000, the support group for the History, Folk Art, Fine Art and History Museums. Jackie's love for her home state of Iowa never faltered. In 1997 she founded The Iowa Barn Foundation whose mission is to save Iowa Barns through matching grants. The foundation has saved hundreds of barns across the Iowa landscape.

Jackie also held numerous positions to help educate and highlight cultural understanding. Jackie was a board member of the Houston Arboretum and organized the annual Dinner in the Park fundraiser in the 1980's. She served on the board of directors for the Rice Design Alliance for Rice University Department of Architecture from 1978-1982. Jackie volunteered with The Houston Seminar for over 30 years and served two terms as President (80-84). She served on the board for The Asia Society whose mission is to use arts, education and business outreach to spread cultural understanding between Asia and the West. Jackie also served on the Board for the Rothko Chapel from 2005-2010. She was the Program Chair and brought speakers in from around the world to discuss human rights and abuses and how to alleviate them.

She never lost her passion for writing and published three books all supporting her love for Iowa folk art and barns; Heritage on the Prairie, Patchwork (Iowa's Quilts and Quilters), and Iowa Folk Artists.

Jackie is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Walter Richard Schmeal, their daughter Andrea Schmeal Corcoran of Des Moines, IA (Jeff), her sister Alice Backsen (Lee) of Houston, TX, her brother Richard Andre (Janet) of Chapel Hill, NC, as well as two grandsons, Fox and Connelly, and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions can be made

to the Iowa Barn Foundation.

www.iowabarnfoundation.org



Donald H. Geiger

February 18, 1938 - July 11, 2023 Donald Harlan Geiger, 85, passed away July 11, 2023 in Des Moines, Iowa. He was born February 18, 1938

to Harlan and Anna (Carlson) Geiger in Osage, IA.

He was a graduate of Ames High School and Iowa State University where he was a member of Sigma Nu. He met and married Connie Larson. They later divorced. After reconnecting at a class reunion years later, he married Mary.

Don was a retired CPA and a longtime partner with Deloitte. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed traveling. He was very involved with Youth Hockey in Des Moines. He was an early president of the Des Moines Buccaneers and was very instrumental in bringing the organization to the city. He served as treasurer of the Iowa Barn Foundation.

He is survived by his children, Scott Geiger, Kyle (Connie) Geiger; step-sons, Steve Girvan, Dan (Gwen) Girvan, Robert (Aisha) Girvan, son-in-law, Bryan Stephenson; grandchildren, Scott (Ashley) Girvan, Alexander (Tara) Nouveau, Becca (Matt) Zellmer, Tim Girvan, Allison Girvan, Adam Girvan, Hunter Girvan and Logan Girvan; great-grandchildren, Nakia, Londyn and Blaise Girvan, Aria Fineday, Cooper and Kendall Zellmer and Nora Nouveau; and sisters, Nancy Geiger and Carolyn Thiesen.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Mary Geiger, sister JoAnn, stepdaughter, Kathy Stephenson, and brotherin-law, Tom Thiesen.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Iowa Barn Foundation or Des Moines Youth Hockey Association.





We are looking for a few good barns

Does your barn have what it takes to earn an Award of Distinction and join our fall tour? Apply today!

The Iowa Barn Foundation's Award of Distinction program recognizes historic barns which have been restored by their owners. Recipients of the award receive a distinctive award plaque to display on their barn and are invited to participate in our annual all-state fall barn tour each year (one weekend in September).

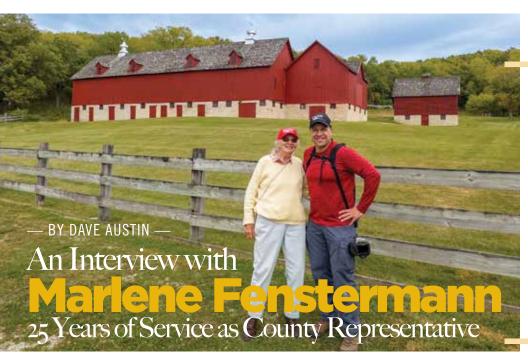
Applications being submitted for a structure must meet the following criteria:

- **)** The structure must be no less than 50 years old.
- The structure exhibits unique or distinctive methods of construction, materials, finishes or examples of craftsmanship.
- The structure contributes in a significant way to the appearance of the rural landscape and/or the community identity.
- **)** The structure is associated with lives of persons or events significant to Iowa's history.

NOTE: Barns must be restored consistent with the original construction materials (exception made for metal roofing).

Applications require either the applicant and/or barn owner to be an active member donor of the Iowa Barn Foundation. Apply online at iowabarnfoundation.org/award-and-grants. A printable application form can be downloaded from the website. Questions can be sent to iowabarnfoundation@gmail.com or contact Dave Austin at 515-201-4517.

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After hearing Marlene's name mentioned by multiple barn owners, I finally got the chance to meet her in person at the Boeding farmstead in Decorah during the 2022 fall barn tour. Her energy and enthusiasm for lowa barns is contagious. We made plans for my return in October, and Marlene treated me to a tour of several of her favorite barns in the area. It was an amazing day, and this photo was taken after we toured the Ashmore-Jewel Barn on the Luther College campus. As the board was reviewing plans for recruiting additional county reps, we put together a list of duties and responsibilities. There was unanimous agreement that Marlene is the gold standard for an Iowa Barn Foundation County Representative. Marlene will be mentoring Jim Palmer in 2024, and two of them will share duties for Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties.

Being a representative for the Iowa Barn Foundation (IBF) is a rare opportunity to explore and cultivate your community. Representatives are volunteers who love visiting with neighbors, encouraging ways to preserve and rejuvenate "cathedrals of the prairie", the barns created in an earlier age.

Marlene Fenstermann has been an IBF representative for 25 years bringing IBF opportunities to barn owners of Allamakee and Winneshiek Counties. We asked Marlene how she got started with IBF. She said, "My professional nursing work included frequent trips to Des Moines. Given the distance between Decorah and Des Moines, I had to leave early in the morning for 10:00 o'clock meetings. In the early years, the farmers were up with barn lights on starting their morning chores. Then as the years passed, I noticed fewer morning lights shining in barn windows. Livestock was vanishing from the traditional farm yards, and fences were disappearing in the fields. Then, one day, Marlene said, "I read an article on the front page of the Des Moines Register that Jacqueline Andre "Jackie" Schmeal had noticed the same changes in Iowa on her travel between Ames and Houston, Texas." Schmeal consulted several friends and started The Iowa Barn Foundation in 1997. "It was an important decision for Iowa." IBF has given over \$2 million dollars in 270+ grants to rehabilitate barns across Iowa.

"I decided to attend one of the very early IBF meetings," said Marlene. "I was a ready convert to the IBF mission."

We asked Marlene about the duties and work of a county representative. She said, "You have to know the role of IBF, its mission of preserving barns, and have an enthusiastic willingness to visit with farmers about their barns." The actual preservation often is

just discussing the significance of a farmer's barn, helping them see the treasure in their farmyard, often built by their ancestors, and discovering the route for repair, adaptation, and stewardship of their barn. Preservation may also come by a partial grant from IBF, but more often it is by self-funding by the local owner who has seen the rehabilitation self-funded projects of their neighbors.

The Iowa Barn Foundation sponsors a Spring and Fall self-guided tour of Iowa barns. The Spring tour features barns of a selected area of Iowa. The Fall tour features barns across the state barns that have received IBF funding assistance or have received awards of merit for self-funding their own barn project. The 2023 Fall tour had 72 barns making it the largest barn tour in the nation. Marlene expressed delight in what happens during the tours. "The touring people, from all over Iowa and adjacent states, start conversations with the barn owner, learning the barn history, how the owner decided to repair or upgrade their barn, and see the value of saving a worthy barn." Some barn projects start simply by seeing the positive attitudes of their neighbors. IBF also publishes a magazine with quality photographs and stories about Iowa barns.

The role of an IBF representative is multifaceted, being both a public relations person for the goals of IBF but also a problem solver working with the local barn owners. The representative sets his/her own agenda of involvement. The owner and the representative progress through the project to completion in a collaborative manner for problem solving. Hopefully, they reach out to other IBF representatives for assistance if needed.

The barn owner has many questions. The representative becomes a helpmate

communicating and planning with the barn owner. How can the stone barn foundation be repaired? Who are local stone masons with skills to do a good job? What kind of siding and roof repair are acceptable? How are IBF grants awarded? Marlene noted that early in the discussion with a barn owner the documentation, grant awarding, etc. must be done before the project work begins. What adaptive uses of the barn are permitted? How to deal with the public during the barn tours? During the early discussions with the local owner, which may turn into many months or vears, the representative will take photographs and record the changes that take place during the restoration process. Early on the representative may use an assessment form to document current needs and condition.

The IBF representative becomes a frequent visitor to the farmstead, working with the owner to solve problems and explore possibilities. They become an on-going friendship. The representative volunteers his/her time and energy. The owner and representative share the pride and joy when a project is successfully completed. Their joy bubbles forth knowing another Iowa barn has been rehabilitated for another Iowa generation. Of course, representatives will want to attend IBF meetings to learn what other representatives are doing.

If your county does not already have an IBF representative, please consider volunteering to become one. Contact: Jack Smith (IBF President, 563-599-3061, jackwsmith@icloud.com) or the County Representatives Coordinator Craig Stephens at (515-681-1009, cdstephens@fngi.net). Other questions can be directed to iowabarnfoundation@gmail.com

Volunteers Wanted

Iowa Barn Foundation County Representative

Since 1998, Iowa Barn Foundation County Represtatives have served a vital role in providing local contacts for barn owners across the state. The most frequent request the foundation receives from barn owners is for someone to visit and provide guidance and support as they contemplate their preservation journey. We are seeking volunteers who are passionate about barns and enjoy helping others. Please see inside the front cover for a listing of 46 counties with open positions.

County Representative Responsibilities:

- > Promote the preservation of barns in their local communities
- > Promote IBF membership, programs, and barn tours through local media channels
- > Respond to gueries by phone or email from barn owners in timely manner
- > Provide timely in-person visits to barns in their county for the following purposes:
 - Consultation on IBF programs Restoration Grants, Award of Distinction, and Preservation Award
 - Inspection of barns to confirm program eligibility
 - > Delivery of IBF barn tour and award signs
- > Assist with spring barn tour organization and execution

Please note, you do not have to be an expert on barn restoration to serve as a county representative. The foundation will provide you with support and documentation to assist in consultation with barn owners. See the article in this issue by Rick Collins to learn the first steps in barn preservation and a simple checklist to assess the condition of a barn. More articles will be coming in future issues and posted to the lowa Barn Foundation website.

If this sounds interesting, please check inside the front cover for counties that currently do not have a representative. Even if a representative is already listed for a county, there may be a need for a backup role. To volunteer, please contact our

County Representative Coordinator Craig Stephens (515-681-1009; cdstephens@fngi.net)

For any of these roles, or to share another talent, please contact Dave Austin at iowabarnfoundation@gmail.com or 515-201-4517.

Additional Volunteer Opportunities

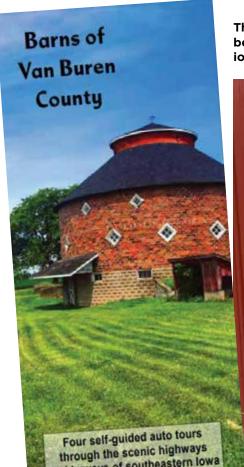
- > Board of Directors
- > Spring tour coordinators
- > Fall tour coordinators
- > Magazine article interviews/writing
- > Magazine assistant editors
- Media/press communications specialist
- > Website admin (Wordpress)
- > Barn photographers
- > Fundraising specialists
- Records digitization project (scan historical magazines to PDF)



Our spring 2023 barn tour was held in Van Buren County June 24-25, and we had the pleasure of partnering with Friends of Morris Park as tour hosts. We had beautiful weather and a great turnout with an estimated 600 visitors over the two days. We were fortunate to have Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naag join us for one morning of the tour, which led to a great partnership with the secretary joining our "barn raising" event at the Iowa State Fair in August.

The foundation would like to thank all of the barn owners who shared their historical structures for the weekend. We would like to give a special thanks to Dorothy Gilbert for coordinating the tour lunch and family activities at Morris Park. We also want to recognize Paul Larson for organizing the barn tour participants. Paul is an architectural historian of 40 years standing, and we are blessed he has donated his skillset to conduct extensive research on the historical barns of Van Buren County. If you would like to learn more about barns in the area, please download Paul's Barns of Van Buren County brochure at *iowabarnfoundation.org/story/barns-of-van-buren-county-2nd-edition*.

If you are interested in hosting a future spring tour in your area, contact Dave Austin at iowabarnfoundation@gmail.com.



The Barns of Van Buren County brochure can be downloaded from our barn stories page iowabarnfoundation.org/barn-stories.

Dorothy Gilbert, Friends of Morris Park Board Chair, gave Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naag a tour of the museum grounds.





and byways of southeastern lowa

The hosts at the Morris Clark Barn enjoyed meeting Secretary Naag. Left to right - Mart Campbell, Dena Clark, Secretary Mike Naag, and Madge Clark).



Cheriel Fleig and Jean Schuck, Friends of Morris Park volunteers, prepare more servings of their delicious strawberry pretzel salad in a bag (also known as walking cheesecake).



Several members of the Iowa Barn Foundation Board of Directors met with with Secretary Naag and the Morris-Clark Barn. Left to right (Wayne Frost, Jack Smith, Mike Naag, Andrea Corcoran, Dave Austin, Dwight Hughes).



Friends of Morris Park volunteers served over 250 lunches on Saturday and hosted activities both days of the tour. Left to right: Duane Clubb, Annie Buzzard (seated), Mike Holcomb, Virgil Morris, Christie Daugherty.



Terry Philipps demonstrated sustainable barn wood preservation techniques.





IOWA BARN FOUNDATION HOSTS A BARN RAISING OF A MODEL IOWA BARN AT THE 2023 IOWA STATE FAIR



Under the supervision of the foundation's Holstein cows, artist Steve Huffman (on the barn roof) works to assemble the Model lowa Barn before the start of the fair. Steve created the barn in his workshop in Ottumwa in such a way that it could be disassembled and hauled on a flatbed trailer.



Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig speaks at the Iowa Barn Foundation "Barn Raising" event.



IBF board member Dwight Hughes reviews the steps to ensure the continued success of the Iowa Barn Foundation during the barn raising press conference.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig joined board members and volunteers with the Iowa Barn Foundation for a "barn raising" of a "Model Iowa Barn" during a special event to kick off the 2023 Iowa State Fair in the Agriculture Building.

The Iowa Barn Foundation, an all-volunteer statewide organization, began as a dream in 1997 and has successfully raised well over two million dollars while assisting in saving and restoring nearly 300 barns across Iowa. To celebrate this milestone and bring recognition to a quarter century of preserving Iowa's unique agricultural history, the Iowa Barn Foundation designed and built a "Model Iowa Barn" for the 2023 Iowa State Fair.

"The beautiful barns found along the fields and farms across Iowa's gorgeous landscape are grand reminders of our state's rich agricultural heritage.



Board Members Roxanne Mehlisch and Wayne Frost were part of a team of volunteers who greeted visitors in the Agriculture Building at the "Model Iowa Barn."



The barn raising crew takes a break after assisting Steve Huffman with assembly of the Model Iowa Barn in the Agriculture Building on the Iowa State Fairgrounds. From left to right – Dave Austin, Wayne Frost, Steve Huffman, Dwight Hughes, Beverly Huffman, Jim Frost.

I am very appreciative of the ongoing and impactful work done by the passionate volunteers with the Iowa Barn Foundation to preserve and protect these structures over the last quarter century," said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig. "As fairgoers enjoy their time at the Iowa State Fair, I hope they'll stop in the Agriculture Building to see the Iowa Barn Foundation's 'Model Iowa Barn' and spend a few minutes visiting with their volunteers to learn more about their statewide efforts."

"We are pleased to focus attention on the 'castles of the prairie' that provided important storage and shelter for families and animals, often multi-generational," said Dwight Hughes, Board Member of the Iowa Barn Foundation. "The significance of Iowa's landscape is greatly enhanced with the historic architecture of many beautiful preserved and restored barns."

Centered in the Agriculture Building, just down the aisle from the world-famous butter cow, The Iowa Barn Foundation welcomed fairgoers to stop by the barn during the 11 days of the Iowa State Fair. A special photo area was set up on the side of the barn to allow visitors to capture the "Iowa Barn Spirit." Foundation volunteers were available to educate the public and answer questions about its mission to preserve and enhance Iowa's rich agricultural heritage. The barn is scheduled to return for the 2024 Iowa State Fair... stay tuned to learn what additions will be to the barn next year.

The foundation would like to thank everyone who contributed to make the Model Iowa Barn possible. First, credit goes to board member Dwight Hughes for having the project vision, drive, and commitment starting with a proposal at the October 2022 board meeting. Second, thanks go to the State Fair administration, Jen Cannon, and her staff for authorizing and providing a prime spot in the Agriculture Building nestled between the butter cow and the Iowa Egg Council. Dwight commissioned the talented Metalscapes artist Steve Huffman to construct the "Model Iowa Barn." Steve went above and beyond expectations providing setup and tear-down services at the fair. The barn was built using salvaged barn lumber and windows provided by board member Wayne Frost from his family barn restoration. Wayne also filled the barn with historic barn artifacts for visitors to enjoy. Board member Dave Austin put together the digital display system to show images of restored barns. Board member Roy Reiman joined Dwight in funding the project 100% from donations. Charlie Rhode with King's Material Inc. graciously donated the stone foundation for the barn. Troy Trevino with Law Mark Capital donated free storage for the barn until the 2024 fair, and Board member Craig Pfantz provided the trailer and labor to transport it from the fairgrounds. Lastly, we would like to thank all of the board members and volunteers who assisted with barn setup, staffing during the 11 days of the far, and teardown afterwards.





Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig (right) poses with Iowa State Fair Board Member Deb Zumbach (left) and Iowa Barn Foundation Board Member Dwight Hughes (middle). Dwight and Deb were both instrumental in making the "Barn Raising" event a success.



The Model Iowa Barn was designed and built by Metalscapes artist Steve Huffman. The back half features salvaged barn wood and windows, while the front half was finished with new materials. The stone foundation materials were donated by King Material Inc.



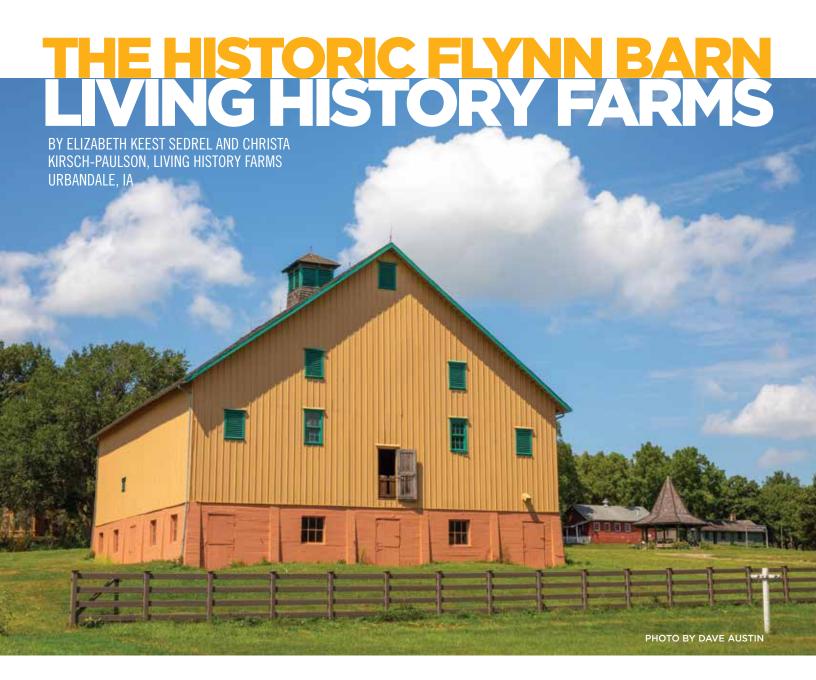




Jacqueline Schmeal talking barns with lowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig.



That's a wrap! After the fair was complete, the barn was taken down and hauled to storage to return in 2024. Left to right: Wayne Frost, Craig Pftantz,
Jim Frost, and Ryan Pfantz.



On August 15,1871, the *Des Moines Register* reported that Mr. Martin Flynn, Esquire, was building a farm that would be "one of the finest places in the county if not the whole state." It would include "a splendid residence, and barns and stabling commensurate with the size of the farm." More than a century and a half later, the Flynn Mansion and Barn not only still stand, they are a touchpoint for teaching visitors about lowa's agricultural heritage. The land that was then the Flynn farm is today the Living History Farms museum, and the mansion and barn are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Martin Flynn was an Irish immigrant. He was born in County Waterford in 1840, the seventh of eight children of a tenant farmer. The family's farm probably produced a modest but reliable income—until the Great Potato Famine began in 1845, followed by a wave of cholera in 1849.

Martin came to the United States in 1851. Records indicate the 11-year-old accompanied at least one older brother and possibly a sister. They landed first in upstate New York, where young Martin found opportunity in railroad building, carrying water to construction crews for 50 cents a day and then breaking rock for 75 cents a day. When the family moved to Pennsylvania in the mid-1850s, Martin found work with the Pennsylvania Central Railroad.

As railroads expanded west, Martin followed. By his 20s, he had established an earthmoving company to prepare ground for laying track. By age 30, he had contracts from Kentucky to New Mexico and employed hundreds of teamsters. He earned a reputation for taking on risky projects such as tunnels and difficult grades, which earned him a great deal of money as well. His contracts could be worth up to \$500,000 each.

In May 1865, Martin married Ellen Keane, who also had come to the United States as a child to escape famine and poverty in Ireland. In 1867, the Flynns began buying land in Polk County, about 7 miles outside Des Moines. Ellen later wrote of that decision: "In an early day my husband and I came to Iowa, and the beauties of the country induced us to make our home on a farm." Construction began in 1870 on the farm they christened Walnut Hill.

The same innovative spirit that made Martin Flynn a successful railroad entrepreneur was evident in the building of Walnut Hill Farm. In the Midwest at that time, indoor plumbing was a rarity in cities and still decades away for farms. Martin, however, designed a private water system with tanks, cisterns, and steam-powered pumps that supplied the mansion with water from springs on the property. The home even had hot running water, heated by a boiler in the kitchens. While not as uncommon as plumbing, the coal furnace and gas lighting were still modern amenities for the time and place.

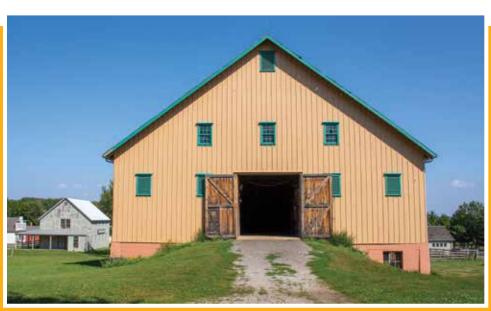
The two-story barn was likewise hailed as a model of farm technology. It was built into a hillside, allowing wagon access to both the upper level, where grain and feed were stored, and the lower level, which housed livestock. It was painted a color described unpromisingly as "drab." The construction cost was \$7,000, or about \$164,000 in today's currency.

According to news accounts of the time, the 64x60-foot, 34-foot-tall structure could hold 30 horses, 40 cows, 4,000 bushels of





Living History Farms is an interactive outdoor history museum, which educates and connects all peoples to the many stories of Midwestern rural heritage. Visit the museum's website LHF.ORG to plan your next visit.





The bank barn design allowed for wagons to be pulled into the upper level for unloading hay and grain with doors for the animals to enter on the lower level.

The Flynn Barn features impressive framing that has stood the test of time. The large beams are white pine which likely was brought in from out of state. The floorboards are made from oak, which was likely harvested and cut in central lowa.

corn, 3,000 bushels of oats, and 150 tons of hay. It had a brick foundation, a gable roof, board and batten siding, a cupola for ventilation, several small high windows, and one large main door. The upper story had a solid oak floor and held two corn cribs, granaries for oats, and storerooms for implements. Grain and hay could be dropped through chutes to the livestock stalls below.

The Flynns' railroad and farm businesses both prospered, and eventually

they owned 1,700 acres of farmland, one of the largest farms in the Midwest. Martin expanded his business holdings in the 1880s to include banking, and the family built a second mansion in downtown Des Moines in 1885. Martin and Ellen moved to the city around 1890 but continued to spend weekends and holidays on the farm until Martin died in 1906. Ellen died in 1922. Together they had raised 10 children.

Walnut Hill Farm changed dramatically after the state of Iowa purchased it in 1915 for \$200 an acre. It became the home of the Clive Honor Farm, a low-security work farm for inmates in the Iowa prison system. Inmates slept on cots lined up in the Italianate brick mansion. The exteriors of the home and barn were painted stark white. Additional barns, including Quonset-style buildings, were added to the grounds.

The Honor Farm began with 15 inmates from the Fort Madison Penitentiary. They grew farm products for use in other prisons across the state. Shipping the produce became too costly during the Great Depression, and the farm closed in 1935. It reopened in 1941, selling produce locally on the open market. In 1947, the farm cleared a profit of \$51,000 (\$702,000 today) and won awards for record corn yields.

As many as 50 inmates worked the farm at a given time. They raised corn, oats, hogs, and cattle and tended gardens and orchards. Inmates wore no restraints. Three guards supervised them but carried no firearms. Many men spent years working productively at the farm.

In 1957, Interstate 80/35 was built through the middle of the farm. A cement underpass allowed workers and equipment to travel between the east and west parcels of land without using public roads. This tunnel remains one of the few private underpasses in the interstate system.

The Flynn Mansion featured many modern amenities that were not commonly found on farmsteads in the 1870s, including indoor plumbing with hot running water (photo by Dave Austin).





Along with construction of the interstate, expansion of the western suburbs brought the end of the Clive Honor Farm. Rollo Bergeson, a Des Moines entrepreneur, bought the land in 1965 with plans to create "Interstate Farms"—housing, businesses, recreation areas, hotels, and golf courses—at a cost of nearly \$25 million. While those plans were in progress, however, Dr. William Murray suggested a different possibility.

Dr. Murray dreamed of a working agricultural museum. He described it like this: "Not just a dusty place where you see yesterday's utensils and machinery under glass. You see things being used, a re-creation of things in action, stretching from the past through the present and into the future." Living History Farms was that vision.

The nonprofit Living History Farms Foundation was formed in 1967 and bought 336 acres from Bergeson in 1969 and 1970. The Bergeson family donated an additional 25 acres, including the Flynn Mansion and Barn. The museum opened in 1970.

The most recent full restoration of the Flynn Barn was done in 1995. The exterior was repainted in 2020, matching the color to the original "drab" discovered under layers of paint. Despite the name, the color is a warm apricot shade. The barn got a new roof in 2022, using a product made from recycled tires but designed to resemble wood shake shingles, maintaining the historic look but promising much more durability.

A recent Conservation Assessment report called the Flynn Barn "an excellent example of barn construction from the 1870s." The original flooring and beams are still there, along with the corn cribs and grain chutes. The barn is among the most popular sites for Living History Farms visitors, and it houses events from day camp to weddings, from storytelling to graduations. The barn has also been the fitting site for naturalization ceremonies, welcoming new U.S. citizens and harking back to its roots as the dream of an Irish immigrant.







An early 1900s view of the Flynn Barn showing an untouched rural landscape in what is now the city of Urbandale.

A view of the Flynn Barn from the 1940s, which was when the farmstead was owned by the State of Iowa and used as Iow-security prison farm.



First Steps in Barn Preservation

Over the last 30 years, coast-to-coast and throughout the Midwest, I have looked at thousands of buildings. To-gether, they nearly encompass the entire breadth of the last two centuries of our built vernacular. From ornate churches with dense timber trusses and magnificent soaring steeples, to one-room log buildings constructed with Medieval techniques direct from Europe. There have been commercial and private buildings of all types and sizes spanning every era from pre-industrial to post-modern: pavilions, houses, mills, skating rinks, and of course many, many barns.

ASSESSMENT:

All this to say, no matter what type of structure, we're always following the same method and looking at the same things in order to identify: 1) what we have and 2) what to do. Examples around the world tell us, barring catastrophic events, if a timber frame is dry and maintained, there is no reason to expect anything less than an indefinite lifespan- hundreds or even thousands of years.

When we begin to look at a building and determine priorities for its care, we always consider the owner's long and short-term objectives, resources, and budget. This full understanding informs us as we begin with an identification of what we call the "scope of work". Over and over again we find the most important factor in identifying an efficient scope of work that will be able to be completed fiscally and be a success (which may include a phased approach over decades) is really understanding this greater context along with the objective for the building.

PRIORITIES FOR CARE:

Most buildings we see are clad structures. This means the frame (structure) is covered (clad) by siding or stone or brick. The foundation can be as minimal as piers – and may include piles of rocks, stacked stone, brick, or rubble. In clad structures, the roofing material and the siding material should be looked at as a protective skin - something to be replaced over time as it wears from the elements. The exception to this clad structure building type, of course, is log buildings. And in cases where the logs (structure) are exposed, we have a separate set of circumstances which we won't focus on in this article.

When determining priorities for care, there are three areas to look at first, and they all have to do with water intrusion. If water finds a way in the building through the roof, siding, or foundation,

then we have a building at risk and in active decline. Water infiltration creates a situation for progressive rot and quickly opens additional damage (and cost) from insects, fungal decay and animals.

SIDING:

It is not uncommon for wood siding from the 19th century to last 100 years or more if maintained with oil or paint. In the case of stone or brick—that life span is centuries if attention is paid to refreshing mortar every 80-100+ years. If the cladding is not maintained or replaced when damaged, the building loses its protection and structural problems will start in the walls, sill plates, and foundation. Failed siding generally tends to cause damage more slowly and in more isolated immediately surrounding areas than failures at the roof or foundation do.

Secondarily we look at windows and doors during an assessment of a potential project. These also often fail for a variety of related reasons whether it's wind, water, or mechanical damage.

ROOFING:

Unfortunately for us in the Midwest, many buildings were built with wood shingles or shakes originally and then covered with asphalt shingles—or even something like a concrete asbestos shingle. In these cases, we often find significant roof damage as parts of those layers of shingles have blown off and allow water to penetrate the building. Water leaking through the roof causes damage to the roof structure, which include the rafters and the purlins, and then of course running down to damage posts, sill plates, and floor systems.

FOUNDATION:

The causes and types of foundation failure include many common scenarios. Settling of the foundation (underbuilt footings), spalling (loss of the fired face and/or pulverizing) of the brick or stone units (excessive moisture during freeze thaw cycles, incompatible mortar, poor drainage), exposure (unmaintained mortar joints wearing away) or under mining (by animals, water, or abutting concrete) all open the door for water and structural shifting.

These are the primary areas of focus when we are assessing a building, and the objective is to isolate which one or more of these factors are most critical. Large roof failure is by far the most important issue to deal with and foundations are second (with siding being as well in some cases).

strategy is examining the structure of the building from the standpoint of modern engineering and what the future of the building might be. Even though engineering and construction in the 19th and early 20th century

Another component to our assessment

was highly evolved, it's often the case (as is today) that the original builders may have omitted some framing or undersized some components due to budget, time, mistake, or other factors. Many buildings are also modified as their primary use changes and evolves over time. We look at this as well, and consider what sort of structural improvements might be made to the building.

Examples of increasing capacity and adding redundancy are sistering of rafters, adding additional structure to plates, adding lateral ties from the gable end of the buildings to the first interior bent, or reinforcing the floor system. As mentioned above, in some cases during the assessment of the structure, we identify that components have been moved or removed overtime- especially in agricultural buildings. As agricultural technology and machinery evolved, more clearance and bigger spaces became necessary. Parts of the original frame were taken out to accommodate. These commonly include upper straining beams, posts, girts, and tie beams. In many cases we add these components back in, or strengthen them with a variety of methods. How we go about it depends on practical things like budget as well as the historical significance of the building and repair work.

Prior to hiring a professional to make an assessment and repairs—you can observe these three primary areas: siding, roof, foundation, and investigate whether it appears as if structural components were moved or removed. You can do this by looking for open mortise pockets, missing symmetry from bent to bent, or obvious conditions of the foundation, where it appears, as if there was a structural member, such as a pier with no post.

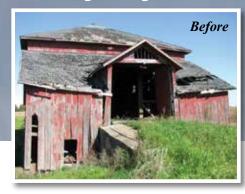
It's important to remember that buildings made of wood have memory, and that even though a barn or a structure might be sagging, due to a failed foundation, a missing post, or a missing tie beam, it may be returned to its original position without damaging the wood in almost all cases. Obviously, if a building is sagging substantially, or if the condition of a purlin or a rafter plate has developed several inches or more of deflection it may make the most fiscal sense to leave a little of the undulation—make the main goal to shore the frame and keep it safe and secure.

ORDER OF OPERATIONS:

So, in terms of establishing priorities, it's important to have the foundation in a condition that allows the structure to be worked on. This may mean repairing, or replacing the foundation, or in the case of phasing (budget constraints), just the temporary shoring of the foundation, so that the frame can be brought back into what we call a "parallel and flat" condition. It's not as important to level the building as it is to bring the surfaces back into parallel. This means the top of the foundation wall is parallel with the sill, the sill is parallel with the rafter plate, the rafter plate is parallel with the purlin plate, and the purlin plate is parallel with the ridge. There is an acceptable amount of difference between these things, and in the case of a 60 foot building for example, an out of parallel condition of around an inch is within reason.

After the foundation has been repaired, replaced, or shored, structural work should begin. And in the case of structural work, the same situation or parameters apply. If it's impossible to repair the frame, due to resources or cost, then the horizontal timbers should be shored temporarily.

Nearly any barn can be saved...





With the foundation repaired or shored, and the frame repaired or shored, we move to the roof. If the roof is in need of repair or replacement, this becomes the top priority. If there is a roof back on the building work to the foundation, and the frame can occur at a later date if needed.

Siding is often the last item of these things to address as installing new siding prior to working on the frame of the foundation causes difficulty and bringing the frame back where it needs to be or hinder access for the frame repairs. This is not to say it's always the case though, in some cases, we have temporarily closed (mothballed) a structure with steel or plywood to keep out weather and animals while well-thought plans and fundraising are made for future work. In these cases windows and doors can be enclosed temporarily, but these should follow as the last item to consider. All of this can and should change and be dictated by the objective for the building. If it's important to get the building dry and still have some utilization of the

building well, these general scopes of work and order of operations are modified. For example, temporary doors are quite a normal procedure. There are many cases (with barns) that call for lifting the building up, installing a new foundation and piers, leaving the existing siding on, installing a new roof, and installing new wood siding over the original siding.

Historic fabric (ie. the materials used in the original construction) are important and part of the story of the structure. It's with the utmost respect that we approach the care and repair of our collective cultural heritage- the historic agricultural buildings still in our landscape. We quite often advocate for leaving as much historic fabric intact as possible. This often saves money too, and we see it frequently in the reinforcement of floors as we bring them up to an increased capacity for public or greater use. In these cases the original joists remain and are "sistered" (doubled up) with another joist. In the case of roofs, we sometimes see the need to

reinforce by sistering rafters and purlins. This increased capacity of the roof can be needed due to under-building, failure, or updated engineering requirements (responding to greater wind or snow loads).

MATERIALS AND MANY CHOICES:

In all the above-mentioned cases it's possible to use modern lumber, lumber directly from a sawmill, engineered lumber, or reclaimed material. New components and repairs can be exact replications, hidden, obvious utilitarian, steel, all wood, cutting edge European timber fastening systems, or a mix of it all.

The most important part of our work, and what I would like to convey to you is that the critical path is to save the building. To do that we must keep it dry. When you go out later today or tomorrow to look at your barn: First look at what damage is being caused by water intrusion, then look for structural damage, which may include missing/ removed components, and look at the foundation. Making a list of these things and establishing a quick sketch of your building to mark locations both in plan and in elevation is supremely helpful in starting to or beginning to isolate the priorities. Documentation with photography is useful overtime too as we often see the patterns of damage that might be happening when we look at buildings over years or decades. When this information is captured it's simplified-easier to understand, discuss with others, and track. We have a fraction of these buildings left now and they deserve our attention and care.

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Rick Collins is recognized for his expertise in both the history and the future of timber frame building. His portfolio encompasses visionary buildings that redefine the role of wood in the built environment, as well as authentic restoration and preservation work.

Rick is a structural timber expert, who is committed to the Preservation & Continuation of our built and natural heritage: A Master Carpenter with formative experience in metalwork and mechanics, and one of only 20 people in North America to carry the certification of Journey Worker Timber Framer, he has a BS in Forest Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Rick served in the USMCR as a Combat Engineer, studying engineering and building science. He is also a self-taught scholar in the methods and tooling that were used by Europeans who settled the Midwest from the 1600s-1800s.

A long-time cultivator of creative energies within the US timber framing trade, today Rick focuses his energy as a consultant and a subject matter expert - adding to the efficiency, and context of a project by grounding process with practicality and linking community with place.



BARN ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Barn Owner Name (Please Print):	Date:				
Barn Address:					
Barn Type:	Build Year:				
Barn Dimensions (WxLxH):					
FOUNDATION ASSESSMENT: Type: Continuous Diors/Interrupted	Additional observations including condition of siding, doors, and windows (with locations):				
 □ Continuous □ Piers/Interrupted Material: □ Poured Concrete □ Concrete Block □ Natural Stone □ Brick □ Clay Tile □ Mix/Other 					
Visual rating of foundation condition (1=poor, 2=typical, 3=excellent) □ 1 - complete structural failure □ 2 - moderate repairs required □ 3 - no structural or surface damage					
Observed foundation issues (i.e. settling under footings, poor drainage, water erosion, tree/brush growth, crumbling, mortar loss, animal damage, displaced walls, cracks, failed repairs):	INTERIOR FLOORING AND FRAME ASSESSMENT: Visual rating of lower flooring (1=poor, 2=typical, 3=excellent) ☐ 1 - very unsafe: uneven, inclined, holes/rot ☐ 2 - safe: even, level, some localized rot ☐ 3 - very safe: even, level, clear of rot				
Lowest level floor: Dirt Concrete Slab Other ROOF ASSESSMENT:	Visual rating of upper floor condition (1=poor, 2=typical, 3=excellent) ☐ 1 - poor (need to replace entirely) ☐ 2 - typical (needs some repairs) ☐ 3 - excellent (very little needed)				
Type: Wood Asphalt Composite Metal	Frame: Stick framing Mix Other				
Number and type of layers under current roofing	Joinery type: ☐ Mortise & Tenon ☐ Metal Brackets/Plates ☐ Nails/Bolts ☐ Mix				
Visual rating of roof lines (1=poor, 2=typical, 3=excellent) ☐ 1 - multiple crooked or wavy lines ☐ 2 - some burps in ridge or eaves ☐ 3 - really straight ridge & eavelines	Describe the level of clean out required - hay loft, upper floor, lower floor:				
Roof Condition: Percent holes/missing sections					
Presence of Gutters & Condition:	Observed damage to structural framing (with locations) - removal of framing for equipment access, prior repairs, frame out of square, joints pulled apart, rotten wood:				
Additional Roof Observations (with locations):					
SIDING ASSESSMENT: Type: Wood Metal/Wood Metal Other					
Visual rating of siding condition (1=poor, 2=typical, 3=excellent) ☐ 1 - large holes and gaps, missing battens ☐ 2 - some open areas ☐ 3 - intact and weather tight	Photo Documentation Exterior photos from each direction - N, E, S, W Interior photos facing each direction on each level Detailed photos of damaged areas or unique components				



WE SAVED OUR BARN









Before, during, and after photos of the Frost barn restoration project completed in the summer of 2018. An Amish construction crew from Fairbank, IA spent seven weeks working on the 88'x40'x40' barn that has been in the Frost family since 1946. The crew toiled for seven weeks taking off the old wood, replacing damaged beams/supports, and putting on all new southern yellow pine.

— BY WAYNE FROST —





A Barn Full of Restored Memories

We all have memories of our life growing up, and living on an Iowa farm created a wide array of experiences for me. As a boy, many of my earliest memories include the animals and the barn where many of them were located. I remember my Dad taking me out to the barn when I was about 5 years old as he did his morning chores. The cows were already milked, but there were still many things to do. He helped me climb the ladder to the hayloft where we tossed hay down to the milk cows. As I grew older many of the chores that my Dad did were passed from him to my older brothers and then to me. The barn is where we learned discipline and responsibility as chores needed to be done seven days a week morning and night.

The barn was also our playground. When relatives or neighbors visited this was one of the first places us kids would head for. We played cowboys and Indians, tag, building hay forts, swinging from ropes like Tarzan and jumping into the piles of hay, imitating all the early TV and radio show stars.

I took the barn for granted, as I got older it was just another building on the family farm. It wasn't until I moved away from home and then later had a chance to become co-owner of the property that I realized how important that old barn was to me. Sitting on the porch of the new house built on the old farmstead, I gazed across the road at the barn that held so many of my memories growing up and I frowned. The barn no longer matched my memories. The roof was sagging, boards were missing, rock walls crumbling and wood rotting.

Our barn was growing old, and it showed. It was built in the 1870s, and it had been in our family for over 75 years serving as a landmark for many. The last thing any of us wanted was to watch it slowly fall to the ground in ruin. Functionally, the barn had little value. My brother raised some sheep in it; however, we couldn't justify fixing it up for that reason. One particular discussion stood out in my mind. Would we still be living on the family farm of our youth if the barn was gone? Or, would we just be living in a house in the country? After much discussion, our hearts said to fix the old barn.

So, the plan to refurbish the barn came to life. The next question became — how do you find someone that works on old barns? No one builds them like this anymore. I asked several people for recommendations for a contractor, and they all recommended an Amish contractor from near Fairbank, IA.

Before the contractor started. decisions had to be made on materials. I had quotes for both southern yellow pine with batting and steel. I had many discussions with friends and family over the benefits of each. If cost was the only factor, then steel would be the obvious choice. One conversation with my younger sister really stuck with me. She said, "If you put steel on the barn, you will have a very nice functional building. If you put wood on the barn, it will be just that, a very nice-looking barn!" So, it came down to either having a nicelooking building or a nice-looking barn that reminded us of all the memories we had growing up. The choice became clear.



The haymow continues to be used for storage of square bales of hay for Jim's flock of sheep.



View looking up one of the haymow ladders used to get to the top stored hay when the barn is full.

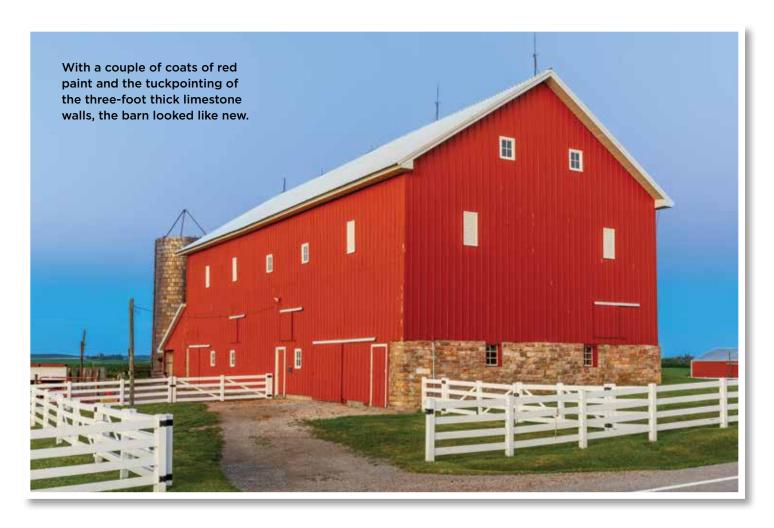








The first floor of the barn has always been used for the animals and has seen changes over time. The north half of the first floor was originally used for horses, and the south half was used for milking cows and calf pens. In the late 1940's, the dirt floor was cemented and 27 new stanchions for the milk cows were installed. With tractors taking over the workload, the section for horses was switched to calf pens and a place to farrow hogs. The barn is now used to raise sheep. You can still see the original storage cutouts in the 3-foot limestone walls in the original horse area, which would have been the resting spot for a curry comb.



After seven weeks of work, the barn had all new wood on the sides. With two coats of red paint and the limestone walls tuckpointed it looked like new!

When you undertake a project like this, you come across a lot of memorabilia - like the old Daisy BB Gun found in a pile of hay. Did my Brother use it acting like he was Roy Rogers or Matt Dillon? Maybe it was my sister using it like Annie Oakley! Probably both, it was just a matter of who got to it first on that particular day! Digging through an old pile of lumber revealed the old hay saw used for cutting loose hay. We also found the old hay fork that carried loose hay up into the barn, which was later converted to carry up bales. Like many old items in the barn, it had been set aside when replaced by newer technology.

There were many initials and names carved in the wood, stone and cement. A few I recognized such as a couple of

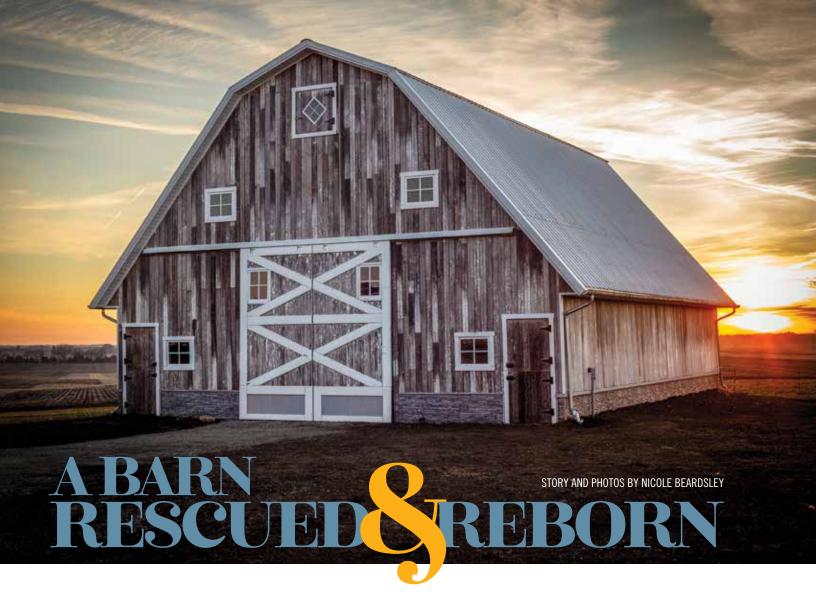
hired men that worked for my Dad, one name I'm told came from an earlier owner. Three formally carved initials in a stone builders block in one of the rock walls I found through research belonged to the person that built the barn and who died in 1878. I found two planks with odd looking boards attached, in a pattern. It turns out these were part of a set of wooden stairs from the horse barn to the hayloft.

During the restoration process, the barn became the main topic at all family gatherings. Stories long since forgotten were revived and retold, revealing how central the barn was to our farm life. Each story told seemed to bring about even more memories. We never dreamed that restoring the barn would have the added benefits of restoring so many wonderful memories. Hoping that the generations that follow will start many conversations with "Do you remember

when they restored the barn"? Not only my family, but family members of previous owners, neighbors and sometimes complete strangers would stop, asking questions or reminiscing about the barn and its history. What a wonderful conversation piece the barn had become.

After the project was done, I caught myself thinking about if it was worth the time, labor and money? I was instantly reminded that I didn't just restore a barn....I restored all of my childhood memories. When I am sitting on my porch now looking across the road, I see one of the best decisions I ever made...and I can't help but smile.

I hope that as others read this story and see the pictures of our barn, they are reminded about their life growing up in farm country. Better yet, I hope it inspires others to save their barns and the memories that go with them.



OUR BARN'S STORY STARTED IN 1900.

James P. Ellison (banker of Martelle, IA) built a 40x80x32 ft barn in rural Martelle, Iowa. On October 5th of 1920, Mr. Ellison passed away leaving the farm to his daughter Ethel Gotch. The farm was later sold to Harry and Dorothy DeMean, who then passed the farm on to their daughter Lynette Jordan (who still owns the farm).

In August 2020, the Midwest derecho ripped off the rear wall and almost half of the roof leaving the barn in bad shape. In June of 2021, my Grandma (Miora Carott) called

to see if we would be interested in the barn before it was torn down. In late June and early July, we went to work with my dad, husband, 5 children, and 3 brothers. We tackled the job with a 60 ft boom lift, chainsaws, skill saws, and hammers. We cut the side walls off at the concrete foundation, dropping them inside like a folding box. The walls were so heavy, we had to use tow straps hooked to a truck to pull them away from the concrete foundation walls. The kids had a blast "surfing" on them as we pulled them to the trailer destined for Waterloo. It took us about two full weeks to tear the barn down and transport it using a pair of trucks and trailers, transporting multiple loads.

Once the transition to Waterloo was complete, we quickly started designing our "new" barn to utilize as many of the original salvaged pieces as possible. We designed a smaller 36x48 barn that is pretty close to the height of the original barn. In August, we began setting poles for the new barn. We were able to use up nearly every piece of original

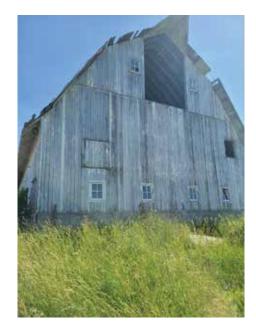
siding, re-used all of the good floor joists, and made new headers with some of the larger beams from the original barn. The kids and I pulled oodles and oodles of nails as my husband planned, prepped, and used the wood. Most of the poles were salvaged from a pole barn in Washington, Iowa. We had to buy the top peak trusses and then custom added to the small trusses to add the lower part of the roof. The purlins and steel were salvaged from a chicken confinement in Washington, Iowa. We rented a skid loader to drill the holes for the posts. Otherwise, we constructed the barn by being tied to it with straps and reaching as far as we could. At the end of 2021, we had the barn framed, steel on the roof, side walls attached, siding on the front, and windows installed. We finished putting the flooring in the barn and sealed it as winter set in. I vividly remember one winter night when the barn was a real-life snow globe as the snow swirled around inside.

As 2022 arrived, we discovered the strong winter winds had shifted the back end of the

The 1900 milk barn suffered significant damage from the derecho that hit lowa in August, 2020.

barn nearly 8 inches with it leaning significantly to the northeast. We tied tow strap to the barn poles and the tractor and pulled it as close to straight as we could. We hauled (Schmitz excavating) in gravel, lime and other fillers to start leveling the floor of the barn. When we built it, we had to raise the northeast corner of the barn almost 3 feet. We rented a skid loader to move the material into the barn and a drivable packer to smash it all down and into place. Then, we decided it couldn't be that hard to do concrete work. Whoa! It was a lot of work, but were able to get all the concrete in the barn. While not perfect, it works for us. We poured the floor 5 1/2 inches thick in five pours. My husband and I did all the stall concrete ourselves. We called in reinforcements (family and friends) for the center since we wanted to pour the whole slab in one go (13x48 ft). As we quickly learned, pulling concrete with a 2x6 wears on the arms very quickly.

We finished trim work on the front of the barn, put plywood and siding on the back (gave rack strength to the back wall), and put doors on the front and rear of the barn. The siding for the back of the barn and the doors were salvaged from a shed at the county maintenance center in Grundy Center. We put stone siding on the bottom two feet around the barn, while adding many more anchors and supports to the framework of the barn. In October of 2022, my husband and I went to Independence to salvage barn



stalls and stall doors from a pole building for the barn.

Work continued inside and outside the barn in 2023. We installed our barn stalls, added gutters, leveled around the outside of the barn, added a gravel drive to the front of the barn, ran water and electrical, and built two staircases. The focus for 2023 was to finish the first and second floors. We hope to have everything finished inside our barn in 2024, including the third floor. All of the work we have done has been late nights and after normal workdays. We have been working diligently on the barn for the last three years, most of which has been done without big equipment. As the list of items to complete gets shorter, we can now appreciate how the project has been a labor of love.

Our barn main floor will primarily host horses/livestock. The second floor of the



barn will mainly be used for hay storage. We plan to turn the third floor into a fun game/ dance room with air hockey, bumper pool, and ping pong, and more. The barn has already been used as a beautiful backdrop for several photography sessions, with more to come in the future. We love all the options we have to use and enjoy our barn, and it has become a beautiful focal point for our property.

The barn had over 120 years of history before we rescued it from the site where it was built by James P. Ellison. Now that it has been reborn on our homestead, our family looks forward to many years of making new memories in the barn.

The 1900 James P. Ellison (Ryan and Nicole Beardsley) Barn can be toured June 23-24 during the Iowa Barn Foundation Spring Barn Tour.



The Beardsley children enjoy some barn board surfing as the side walls were pulled to the trailer.



Framing stage at the barn's new location using a combination of new and salvaged wood.



Interior view after pouring of the concrete floor and installation of the stalls.









The Entz Family Barn

Our family dairy barn was built by my grandfather J.E. Entz. Construction started in 1920 and spanned a period of 24 years with disruptions during the Great Depression and World War II. The barn is 100 feet long, 36 feet wide, and 36 feet high. The cornerstone, laid in 1933, was inscribed to my great grandfather, M.W. Entz, a Pennsylvania schoolteacher. The barn was completed on January 17, 1944.

The foundation walls were constructed from locally harvested granite fieldstones and concrete. The foundation goes 5 feet 7 inches into the ground and rises 7 feet above ground, and all of the trenching and construction was done by hand. The first 3 feet of walls above ground were built in 1931, with the remaining

4 feet going up in in 1935. The support beams and loft floor are made of concrete, reinforced with steel. The cement slab floor was laid in 1931, and the loft floor added in 1941. The support beams and loft floor can hold an impressive 250 pounds/sq. inch.

The upper portion of the barn is made of wood anchored with hundreds of bolts, 20 iron rods bedded in the concrete loft floor, and scores of diagonal support beams. The cross pieces supporting the roof are 1x6 inch and 3 inches apart. There are no horizontal rafters required with the roof's design, which maximized hay storage capacity in the loft. Tall hay chutes provided an easy path for the hay to cattle below, even when loft was full with bales to the rafters.

On the lower level, the cattle stanchions were imbedded in the concrete floor with a grooved feeding trough in the front and gutters behind for waste removal. The first level also has two large pens for calves and heifers. It also features a heavy-duty bull pen, which kept the bull safely secured away from the rest of the herd (and people) until his services were needed.

The barn was actively used for dairy cattle until 1980. It is a one-of-a-kind design that you will not see anywhere else in Iowa.

The Entz Barn will be available for touring June 22-23 during our spring barn tour.

Big Rock Bison Farm

The Jeremiah Yuska Barn in Buckingham is likely going to be a popular stop on the June 22-23 tour. Jeremiah's Big Rock Bison Farm has been in operation for 8 years and is a member of the Minnesota Bison Association. His uncle raised bison for 35 years, which is where Jeremiah got his interest in managing his own herd. Iowa has about 50 farms that raise bison.

The Minnesota Bison Association website features a great resource to learn about raising bison - https:// mnbison.org/raising-bison. Although the term buffalo is often used, bison is the correct scientific name. Bison are curious, intelligent, territorial, dignified, playful and tremendously strong. The nature of the animal requires they be treated with respect and caution. They are wild animals. While not mean, they will not hesitate to react if they feel threatened. While visiting the farm, it is very important to keep yourself at a safe distance from the fence.

BISON ADVANTAGE

- > No barn (artificial shelter) needed
- ➤ Outdoors, year round, no matter the weather
- > Efficient feed utilizers
- > Long productive life
- > Primary requirements: fresh water and adequate nutrition
- > Calving rarely requires human intervention
- ➤ Superior hardiness results in disease resistance
- Thrive in many environments with no ill effects
- ➤ The meat they provide is low fat and high protein
- There is considerable consistent growth in consumer's demand for bison meat
- > Free enterprise market without excessive intervention

ALL BISON

- ➤ Have short curved hollow horns that are used for defense. A cow's horn base will be similar to the size of her eye where a bull's horn base is significantly larger.
- Grow winter coats and shed the excess hair as summer approaches resulting in a very shaggy appearance for a while.
- ➤ Have humps that have muscles that hold up their massive heads.

- Swing their lowered heads side to side telling another bison or intruder to move out of the way or consequences may follow.
- ➤ Make a "grunting" sound to communicate to one another. Each unique.

BISON BULLS

- ➤ Bison bulls are highly territorial and one bull will always establish dominance no matter how large the herd. At maturity, they will stand approximately 6 feet tall and weigh 1800 to 2400 pounds.
- ➤ A bull can run at top speeds of 35 mph with a quick acceleration from a full stop.

COWS AND CALVES

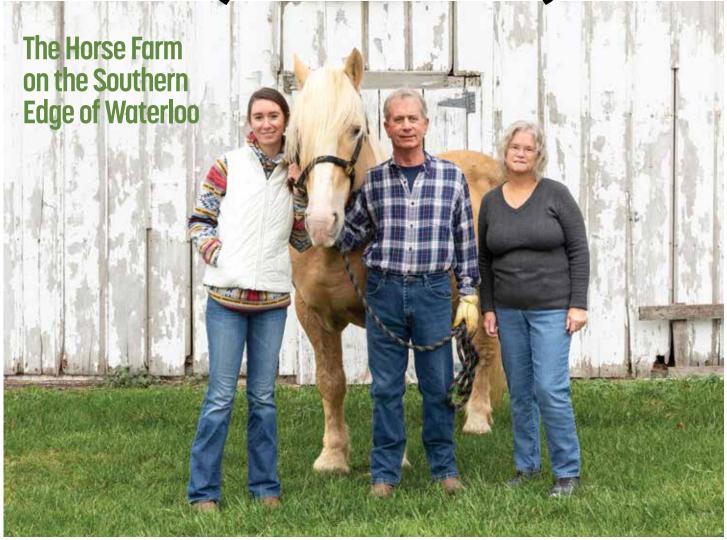
- ➤ The average cow is roughly 5½ feet tall and weighs between 800-1200 pounds at maturity.
- ➤ Bison calves, born a tan to cinnamon color, nurse more frequently than cattle. The udder of a cow is quite small, which allows cows to lay on frozen ground without harm to the udder. Calves begin to nurse and eat forage on the day they are born.
- > Calves develop rapidly, weighing around 50 pounds at birth. The mother's milk is rich in protein and fat and most calves will nurse for at least six months.
- > By fall of the first year, the calves coat will begin to turn to the traditional bison color.







-BY MAGGIE LUPKES— LUPKES (KLINGAMAN) BARN



Completed in 1928 under the supervision of W.W. Klingaman, this Gambrel Roofed style barn has stood as a home for generations of livestock and is a place where the community still comes together. Today, numerous visitors still frequent it as it sits across from Waterloo's Prairie Grove Park.

Built with the intent of housing dairy cattle, the south wall of this barn contains many windows that would have been the source of light for milking. Among the original wooden stanchions used, one set would have hung on a metal hinge so the whole device could be moved out of the way for loads of loose hay to have been

driven in. This drive-thru alley originally featured an open-floor hay mow so wagons could be unloaded to either side, but it was later filled in for more storage due to the advent of the square bale and the Olsen bale fork. Two large stalls on the northwest side of the barn could have been the residence of dry cows, bred heifers, and/or beef cattle.

On the other side of the alley were three double-tie stalls for draft teams or mules that would have provided a good share of farm labor. Located above them in the haymow is the grain box with two chutes dispensing grain into the ceiling below. This box was most likely expanded when the hay mow was also closed off. Lumber from a preexisting building was recycled to close off the open haymow and grain box; consequently, red paint is visible on the ceiling when walking into the barn today.

Other original structures on the property include the pump house, hog house, and corncrib barn. The pump house is a small concrete building on top of a mechanical pump where groundwater was pumped up to keep milk cool. All the other buildings are currently used for storage.

Silas Klingaman, a former Civil War Union soldier, moved his wife and two sons from Pennsylvania to Iowa to farm in 1865. His son, W.W. Klingaman, later married and had 6 children. He continued farming until he retired and moved to town so his son, Verl, and wife, Iva, could take over the farm. After their third daughter was born in the late 1940s, Verl decided to give up milking since he had no sons to help him, but he continued raising beef, sheep, and hogs. In the spring of 1966, Verl passed away suddenly from a heart attack, and Iva only lived on the farm a short time before selling the acreage to Waterloo Schools Administrator Roger Anderson. The barn became popular as Mr. Anderson boarded horses for local equestrians who often rode down to the nearby Silver Spur saddle shop for western shows and trail riding. After Mr. Anderson moved, two brief ownerships occurred until the Lupkes family bought the acreage in 1999.

Wendell's father, Merlin, delivered their first American Cream Draft the following year. The Lupkes' have had Creams ever since, raising over 60 horses since they started with the breed in 1997.

Thanks to Soo Greiman and the Klingaman Family for background history information.



Mabel - the first American Cream tracking mare delivered to the Lupkes farmstead.



Merlin Lupkes and the herd sire, Ackerman's Dan.

The Lupkes Barn will be open for touring June 22-23 from 9:00-5:00 as part of the Iowa Barn Foundation Spring Barn Tour. Visitors will have the opportunity to see the family's beautiful American Cream draft horses, the only breed of draft horses developed in the United States (originated in central Iowa).



Aerial photo of the farmstead from the late 1950s.



Undated photo of W.W. Klingaman, who was born on an lowa farmstead in 1879.



Klingaman Family - Verl Klingaman (second to right) with his siblings and their mother.

A photo of Maggie Lupkes and Lucy taken in 2005 - the next generation of Lupkes American Creams.

Meet Brandy, one of the horses that will greet visitors during the spring barn tour June 22-23.

LUPKES (KLINGMAN) BARN



The Lupkes barn is still actively used to house American Creams.

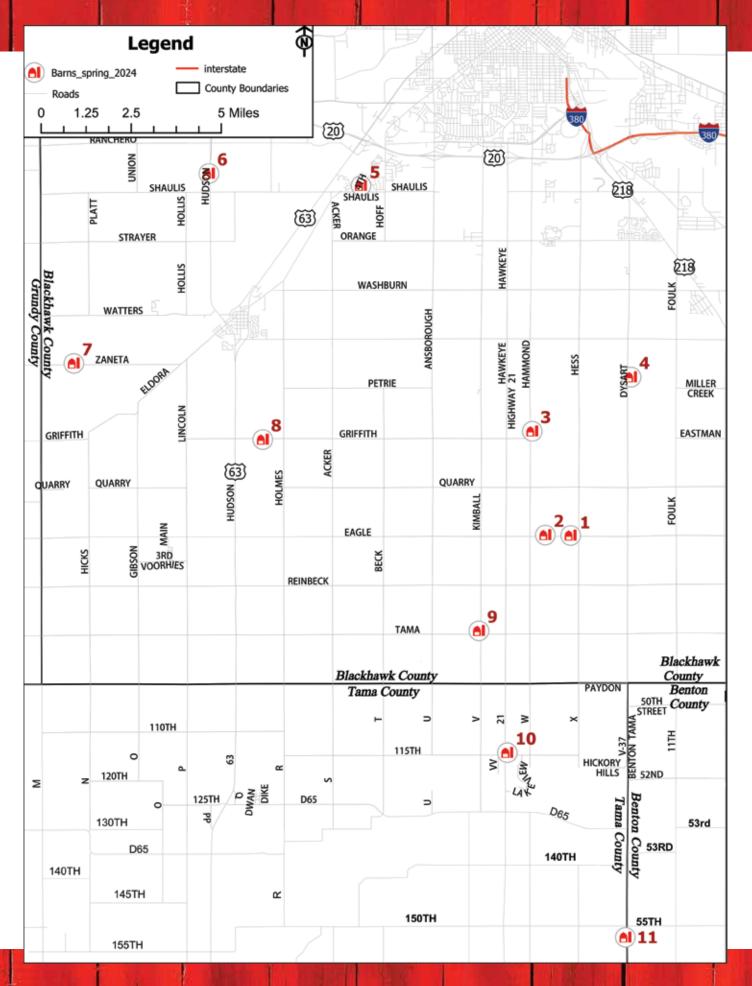


The haymow continues to serve its purpose for the horses below.



Self-Guided Tour Hours - 9:00-5:00 Both Days

Our June 22-23 tour will feature eleven total barns in Black Hawk and Tama counties, with diverse construction dates and styles. Several of the barns are still in active use – visitors may encounter bison, Suffolk sheep, Babydoll sheep, American Cream draft horses, paint horses, chickens, ponies, and cats during their visit. Property owners will be present at most barns to provide history and answer questions. The tour is free and open to the public, made possible by the generosity of lowa Barn Foundation member donors.



Frost Barn, 1745 E. Eagle Rd, Waterloo (Black Hawk County)

Beck Barn, 1235 E Eagle Rd, Waterloo (Black Hawk County)

James P. Ellison (Ryan and Nicole Beardsley) Barn, 9831 Hammond Ave, Waterloo (Black Hawk County)

4 Entz Barn, 8801 Dysart Rd, Waterloo (Black Hawk County)

5 Lupkes (Klingaman) Barn, 5 4862 W 4th St, Waterloo (Black Hawk County)

6 Bailey Barn, 4600 S.
Hudson Rd, Cedar Falls (Black Hawk County)

Wolfe Barn, 8242 Zaneta Rd, Hudson (Black Hawk County)

Robert and Kathy Yuska Barn, 4431 W. Griffith Rd, Hudson (Black Hawk County)

Jeremiah Yuska Barn, 13906 Kimball Ave, Buckingham (Black Hawk County)

Miehe Barn, 3153 115th Street, Buckingham (Tama County)

11 Hayward Round Barn, 1520 County Hwy V37, Dysart (Tama County)



1- Frost Barn, 1745 E. Eagle Rd, Waterloo (Black Hawk County) -From La Porte City, take US 218 (La Porte Rd) north, then turn left (west) onto E Eagle Road.

Barn was built approximately in 1877 and was renovated by owner in 2018. Original use was horses and milk cows, but the barn now houses sheep. The walls are three-foot thick limestone at the base. (Award of Distinction)



2- Beck Barn, 1235 E Eagle Rd, Waterloo (Black Hawk County)

Barn was built around 1910 and was utilized mainly for draft horses and hay storage. This barn replaced the original which was lost to fire, and it was of a similar design to the Frost Barn located just to the East. The barn's livestock diminished in the 1950s as the farm turned mainly to row crop production. Steel siding was added in the 1970s as the wood siding was deteriorating, and a steel roof was added in the 1990s. With a growing interest in horses during the mid-2000's, interior restoration began. In 2023 the limestone foundation was restored and additional exterior updates are planned for the future.



Beardsley) Barn, 9831 Hammond Ave, Waterloo (Black Hawk County) Originally built as a milk barn in 1900, by James P. Ellison (banker of Martelle) in Martelle, Iowa. In 2021 Ryan and Nicole Beardsley (with the help of family) tore down and moved the barn to Waterloo, IA. In its new location, the main floor will primarily host horses/livestock. The second floor will provide hay storage, while

the third floor will serve as a family

game/dance room.

3- James P. Ellison (Ryan and Nicole



4- Entz Barn, 8801 Dysart Rd, Waterloo (Black Hawk County)

J.E. Entz built this gambrel roof dairy barn over a 24-year period from 1920 to 1944. The barn is 100 feet long, 36 feet wide, and 36 feet tall. The foundation and walls are built from locally harvested fieldstones and concrete. The support beams and loft floor are made of concrete, reinforced with steel. There are no horizontal rafters required with the roof's design, which maximized hay storage capacity in the loft. The barn was home to a dairy operation until 1980.



5- Lupkes (Klingaman) Barn, 4862 W 4th St, Waterloo (Black Hawk County)

This gambrel roof barn was built in 1928 under the supervision of W.W. Klingaman. The barn was originally used for dairy cattle, then later transitioned to house beef cattle, sheep, and hogs. It is now home to a herd of American Cream draft horses. The farm gets numerous visitors as it sits across from Waterloo's Prairie Grove Park.



6- Bailey Barn, 4600 S. Hudson Rd, Cedar Falls (Black Hawk County)

This beautifully maintained 1930s gambrel-roof barn is 34 ft wide long 48 ft long with a hog building addition that is 20 ft wide and 52 ft long. The barn has been in the family since 1961, and it was used for dairy through 1980. It was then converted to swine and beef before housing bucket calves until 2009. Steel roofing was added in the late 1990s. The distinctive orange paint makes the barn an easy to spot landmark along Hudson Rd.



7- Wolfe Barn, 8242 Zaneta Rd, Hudson (Black Hawk County)

This 1948 gambrel barn is currently home to a flock of Babydoll Southdown sheep, chickens, and cats. Since purchasing the property in 2000, the owners have taken significant steps to bring the barn back to its original glory. Preservation steps included replacing the roof, replacing the hay loft floor, repairing damaged siding, straightening with a cable, and a fresh coat of red paint. Over the years, the barn has been home to 4-H and FFA project animals including swine, cattle, and sheep. The barn is now a place for grandchildren to explore, keep their animals, and learn about life on the farm.



8- Robert and Kathy Yuska Barn, 4431 W. Griffith Rd, Hudson (Black Hawk County)

Barn was built in 1940 and was originally used for dairy cows and horses. It was later converted to swine farrowing and early weaning. The Gothic-arched roof is supported by laminated rafters made from eight 1x3 boards bent to shape and secured with bolts. This self-supporting roof design maximized hay storage space by removing the need for interior support columns. While not confirmed, the construction characteristics are consistent with Sears kit barns of the era.



9- Jeremiah Yuska Barn, 13906 Kimball Ave, Buckingham (Black Hawk County)

This 1930s era barn features a Gothic-arched roof and laminated rafters provided clear span hay storage space in the haymow. The barn was originally used for dairy, but it has been the home of a bison herd for the past 8 years. The herd bull is very protective, so visitors should stay a safe distance from the fence. The barn is also home to chickens and cats.



10- Miehe Barn, 3153 115th Street, Buckingham (Tama County)

This gable-front bank barn was built in the late 1800s is a great example of a modern preservation to ensure the barn will have utility for years to come. The original siding has been covered with a new layer of stained solid cedar siding. The interior of the upper level has been insulated and covered with boxcar siding, which makes it a great space for family events. The lower level reveals the historic origins of this dairy barn. The lower level features a limestone foundation, hand-hewn posts/beams, and log floor joists.



11- Hayward Round Barn, 1520 County Hwy V37, Dysart (Tama County)

Owner's great-grandfather, Charles Hayward, purchased the farm in 1881. The barn was built in 1916 and is 66 feet in diameter. It may have been constructed by Johnston Brothers Clay Works, Ft. Dodge because of size of clay bricks used. Visitor Note: The owner may not be present for both days. During tour hours, visitors are welcome to tour inside the barn and corn crib on their own.



The lowa Barn Foundation will be hosting a Saturday lunch with all proceeds going to support our programming. Lunch will be served on Saturday from 11-1, and advance reservations are highly recommended. Limited quantities will be available for cash only purchase at the event. Lunch will be served rain or shine. No refunds.

The lunch will include a pork loin sandwich, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, cookie, and drink (soda/water). Catering will be provided by Randall's Meats and Catering in Hudson, IA.

By June 10, please send a donation of \$15 per person with checks made out to "lowa Barn Foundation" to the following address: Wayne Frost, 1745 E Eagle Road, Waterloo, IA 50701. Lunch reservations can also be made online at iowabarnfoundation.org/product/2024-spring-lunch



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