



# MI BARN

PROMOTING APPRECIATION, PRESERVATION, AND REHABILITATION OF MICHIGAN BARN, FARMSTEADS, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

## Barn of the Year Nominees Sought Deadline is December 31

It is time to seek out barns worthy of consideration for the MBPN's Barn of the Year! The awards will include four categories: 1) Continued Family/Private Agricultural Use, 2) Family/Private Adaptive Use, 3) Non-Profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use, and 4) Commercial Agricultural or Adaptive Use. The barn must be used for one of these four purposes and must retain its overall appearance, i.e. both interior and exterior barn characteristics. The barn must have been built before 1959 to qualify.

It is not necessary that you own the barn or barns that you nominate. Please provide as much detail about the history of the barn and the process of the work done on the barn(s) as possible on or with your application. Send high-quality photographs or high-quality digital images. These can be copies, but must be professional quality on photo paper, not scanned on printer paper. They must be suitable for reprint and enlargement. Show all four elevations of the barn, interior images, and images documenting the barn work process before, during, and after.

Winners receive a plaque, a one-year membership in MBPN, recognition by the MBPN at the annual conference, and media coverage.

The criteria that the judges use include the completeness of information provided about the known history of the barn and repair or maintenance work that has been done, quality and completeness of photographs that illustrate the work accomplished, the setting and visual appeal of the barn, the preservation of original materials or sensitivity of changes to the structure that maintain the character, and the heroic effort demonstrated by the nominee in preserving their barn. Barns will be ranked by committee members until a consensus is reached within each category.

Applications must be postmarked by Thursday, December 31, 2009. Late applications will not qualify for this year's competition, but will be kept for the following year's competition if the applicant desires. Send applications and photos to:

Barn of the Year Committee  
c/o 414 S Burdick Suite 300  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

An application form appears online at [www.mibarn.net/About/RecognitionPrograms/](http://www.mibarn.net/About/RecognitionPrograms/)

For more details, contact Tom Nehil at [tnehil@nehilsivak.com](mailto:tnehil@nehilsivak.com) or (269) 345-9211 (evenings).

Tom Nehil, Barn of the Year committee chair, Kalamazoo

See Barn of the Year form page 2

## MBPN To Celebrate 15 Years of Making a Difference

The Michigan Barn Preservation Network celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2010. Mark your 2010 calendar now to attend what promises to be a barn-tastic celebration, March 12 and 13. As always, the Network hosts its annual conference in association with Ag & Natural Resources Week on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing. Another memorable barn tour is in the works for Friday, this one centering on great barns in the Jackson and Grass Lake areas. The tour committee, headed by Dan Creyts, has stops planned at a barn church, barn homes, a barn museum and barns remaining in active agriculture. Tours just keep getting better and better!

*The theme for this special event is Fifteen Years of Making a Difference.* (See President Brad Brogren's message inside.)

This year, Barn of the Year awards will be presented Friday evening. Saturday begins with a plenary speaker with breakout sessions confined to the afternoon. Says Conference Chair Vera Wiltse, "This will allow more time for true networking among barn lovers and opportunities to enjoy the popular exhibit room. Silent auctions will be held both Friday and Saturday."

For more information about the barn tour and conference, contact the chair persons at the numbers listed inside. Much more information will be available after the first of the year.



Two of two dozen barns undergoing restoration! See page 5 for the full Omega Farms story.

Photo:  
Jan Corey Arnett

## Save These Dates!

✓ March 12 and 13

MBPN 15-Year Celebration, East Lansing

✓ June 10 - 12

National Barn Alliance Conference, Kansas

# MiBARN of the Year 2010

*Nominations must be postmarked by December 31, 2009.*

Attach this list to your nomination to be sure you've included everything required.

- Name of barn owner, address/phone/email
- Person submitting nomination, address/phone/email
- Location of barn, address/county
- History of the barn to include as much of the following as possible: date built, name of builder, past and present uses, unique features, dimensions, work done to preserve it, recognition it may have received. Be as detailed as possible. No word limit on submission.

Category in which barn is nominated:

- continuing family/private agricultural use
- family/private adaptive use
- non-profit agricultural or adaptive use
- commercial agricultural or adaptive use

*Please remember that photographs must be high quality (35 mm or 7.2 or more megapixel digital) suitable for reprint, enlargement, and display. Images scanned on paper are not acceptable! Images will not be returned. Do NOT write on the photo with pencil or ballpoint pen or use paper clips. Attach a "post it" with information or use a photo-safe pen for labeling. Provide photos of all four elevations (sides) of the barn if possible. MBPN Membership is NOT required to be eligible for recognition.*

Direct questions to Tom Nehil at [tnehil@nehilsivak.com](mailto:tnehil@nehilsivak.com) or (269) 345-9211 evenings, and nominations to:

Barn of the Year Committee  
c/o 414 S Burdick Suite 300  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

## Michigan Barns Need YOU.

Visit [www.mibarn.net](http://www.mibarn.net) for complete membership and gifting information or contact any member of the MBPN board.

## Nominations Sought for MBPN Board

*"Need not own a Barn"*

Members of the Barn Network's 12-member board of directors invest three years in sharing their enthusiasm for the preservation of Michigan's heritage barns (while getting some great perks along the way).

The board meets quarterly, usually at an interesting barn. Throughout the year, this group is involved in many programs --

## Officers

**Brad Brogren, President**  
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the annual conference, barn tours, advocacy, membership, budget and finance, exhibits, workshops, communications, awards, technical advice, and more. In addition, individuals bring their own expertise and interest to the Network, leading to other special projects.

"Board members do not need to own a barn or be expert about anything related to barns except that they believe in their preservation," said Jack Worthington, chair of the nominating committee. "The best thing anyone can offer is a willingness to make a difference."

Four board members are elected at the annual conference each mid-March. Contact Worthington at (517) 627-5763 to nominate yourself or a fellow barn enthusiast.

**Michigan barns need YOU!**

## Happy Anniversary to Us!



It's not very often that we as an organization, the Michigan Barn Preservation Network, take the time to look back at where we've been. Many might say, Why look back? when to preserve barns we must move forward. We have moved forward through our strategic planning process initiated several years ago but now have the opportunity to look back and celebrate our accomplishments. Next year, 2010, will mark our 15th anniversary and a time for celebration.

Perhaps we cannot celebrate the number of barns we have helped save since we still see barns crumbling around the state. But we can celebrate how the MBPN has jelled into a cohesive group of barn enthusiasts working together to make a difference in Michigan's rural landscape. In 1995, our founding mothers and fathers formally incorporated the Michigan Barn Preservation Network and 15 years later, we are almost 300 members strong. Since our inception, we have developed outstanding annual conferences, barn tours, fall conferences, newsletters, technical workshops, our network exhibit, our web site and award programs. In addition, we published a contractor listing which is now on the web and participated in many speaking engagements and exhibits. Most importantly, many members are now active in the organization to help strengthen our cause.

Your Board of Directors is taking this opportunity to further strengthen our organization through a variety of anniversary programs. Our greatest effort will be a membership challenge for the coming year. We strongly believe for the network to move forward we must have not only more members, but also more active members. So much remains to be done but we really have so little time to save these agricultural icons; the American barn. Please do your part to help the Michigan Barn Preservation Network move forward.

Brad Brogren, Okemos

## Join the 15th Year Membership Challenge

MBPN will be 15 years old in 2010. To celebrate, everyone who loves old barns is being challenged to help increase membership in our organization by at least 15 percent during the celebration year. An invitation packet which will make it easier for you to introduce friends, neighbors, and colleagues to MBPN will be available on our website as well as at the Annual Conference in March 2010. We plan to award prizes to those who bring in the most new members. Stay tuned, and think about who might enjoy the spirit, friendships, and mission of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network.

Marcia Stucki, MBPN board member, Galesburg

revive that old barn's pulse!



Join the Kansas barn alliance!

Designer Bill Hagman's creative artwork leaves no doubt how Kansas barn lovers feel about their agricultural treasures.



Photos: Evelyn Johnson

## On the Right Path For the Quilt Barn Trail

Old Mission Peninsula now has a Quilt Barn Trail. This self-guided tour of ten barns feature quilt murals hung on the barns. The colorful and historic quilt squares serve as an eye-catching reminder of our pioneer and agricultural heritage.

Visitors can take in the beauty of our peninsula in a relaxing trek off the main roads.

The ten Old Mission Peninsula barn owners worked through the summer constructing the eight-foot square quilt frames. By painting on plywood which then was attached to the frame, the artwork can be maintained more easily, and the murals are expected to enjoy a much longer life. The Quilt Barn Trail is a community project with many willing helpers including the Youth Corp of Traverse City which spent two days building and preparing the frames. Barn owners paid for their own lumber and many painted the quilt squares themselves. The paint has been donated by the Behr Paint Company.

Alcona County in the thumb area of northeast Lower Michigan is the only Michigan county to have a Quilt Barn Trail prior to the completion of the Old Mission Trail on Labor Day 2009. Quilt barns are also popular in Iowa, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia. For more information about this project or for creating a Barn Quilt Trail, e-mail Evelyn Johnson at [EladybugTC@charter.net](mailto:EladybugTC@charter.net). More information and a tour map can be found at <http://mibarn.net/Events>.

Evelyn Johnson, MBPN board member, Traverse City

Evelyn is the author of *The Barns of Old Mission Peninsula and Their Stories*. Barns on the trail are featured in her book.



1924.

Photo courtesy of Russ Mawby and Tillers



2009. New life at Tiller's International.



Edison home, centennial marker, and SpringHill drinking-basin boulder.



2009. The barn today proudly shares its history.



Photos: Jan Corey Arnett

2009. SpringHill barn at work once more.

## SpringHill Barn Springs to Life

When developers acquire farm property, all too often, in a matter of minutes, bulldozers and fire departments erase generations of history. But instead, when determined people come together, life can spring anew for the benefit of future generations.

A 40'x60' barn that once stood at the northwest corner of Grand Rapids in Walker Township on land purchased from the government in 1841 (the deed is signed by President Tyler), now lives again on the grounds of Tillers International in Scotts.

The 1870s English bank barn was part of SpringHill Farm, a thriving dairy and fruit operation owned by the Arthur and Marian Edison family. The farm with its fields, orchards, and peony gardens, succumbed to development in 2002. Developers worked with Edison daughters Judy Paul of Iowa and Mary Tatroe of Grand Rapids, and their brother-in-law, Russ Mawby, Augusta, whose late wife, Ruth was a sister to Judy and Mary. The barn's five main hand-hewn beams, 10"x10"x60,' required special hauling. Some interior beams, roof boards, and siding were replaced. White oak was used for authenticity. A new cupola to match the original is nearing completion. Hay and grain are again stored upstairs. Milking shorthorn cattle and two teams of work horses share the downstairs just as their predecessors did many years ago.

The elegant Victorian style Edison home has also been relocated, just half a mile from the farmstead to become the Edison House Museum on nine acres of the farm given to the City of Walker by the family and named SpringHill Park.

Over the next few years, a replica of the original farmhouse and other outbuildings may also spring up anew at Tillers. A stone springhouse is being built and a fruit and root cellar are planned. Even the massive boulder with "SpringHill" carved into its side and a basin to catch drinking water from an artesian well chiseled into its surface, has been saved. Oxen, horses, and passersby of long ago could stop along the roadside for a refreshing drink. The boulder was moved with the barn, preserving forever, the legacy of SpringHill.

*The editor thanks Bruce Rolfe of The Climax Crescent, whose article provided background for this story. Tillers International emphasizes traditional farming methods relying on animal power and simple tools, the mainstay of third-world countries.*

*For more information about Tillers International and its barn-related projects, visit [www.tillersinternational.org](http://www.tillersinternational.org).*



Photos: Jan Corey Arnett

Panels along the walls of tobacco barns can be opened to allow the breeze to dry tobacco. Many barns remain in use but the one at Shaker Village is now a comfortable meeting place.

## Kentucky Hosts Barn Lovers

A hill-top tobacco barn at Shaker Village, Harrodsburg, Kentucky, provided the perfect setting for the 2009 annual conference of the National Barn Alliance (NBA) May 15-16. Conference sessions included presentations on the use of historic barns in sustainable agriculture, barn repair tips, surveying and telling barn stories, a focus on a historic Kentucky hay press barn, historic preservation tax credits, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's BARN AGAIN! program, and capturing heritage through a Kentucky "clothesline of quilts" project.

Attendees had the choice of two day-long motor-coach barn tours, May 16. One concentrated in Bourbon, Clark and Fayette counties, stopping at round barns, a 19th century Kentucky farmstead, tobacco barns, and Bluegrass horse farms. The other took barn lovers to Mercer, Boyle and Washington counties to visit a restored Jack Mule Barn, the Coleman horse stable, and tobacco barns. The day concluded with a melt-in-your-mouth beef dinner and traditional Kentucky music held at and hosted by the famous Anderson Circle Farm.

The 2009 NBA conference was co-sponsored by Preservation Kentucky and the Kentucky Heritage Council. For more information about the National Barn Alliance, visit [www.nationalbarnalliance.org](http://www.nationalbarnalliance.org).



Photo: Jan Corey Arnett

The 14-sided Goffland Barn in Bourbon County, Kentucky, was built at the turn of the 20th Century. Feed is dropped into troughs encircling the main floor. A silo rises in the center. The barn is still in use today.

## National Barn Conference to be Held in Kansas

The Kansas Barn Alliance (KBA) hosts the 2010 annual conference of the National Barn Alliance, June 10 - 12, 2010, featuring barns and historic landmarks in Atchison City and Doniphan County. KBA President and MBPN member Sally Hatcher who, with her siblings owns a heritage family farmstead in Grass Lake, Michigan, said visitors to Kansas will be in for some great discoveries (Kansas

isn't flat and it really doesn't have a yellow brick road). Additional information about the conference will be available in early 2010 on [www.kansasbarnalliance.org](http://www.kansasbarnalliance.org), [www.nationalbarnalliance.org](http://www.nationalbarnalliance.org), and [www.mibarn.net](http://www.mibarn.net) and at the exhibit room at the 2010 MBPN conference.



Photo: Charles Leik

While it might appear folks are in the dark about the 2010 NBA conference in Kansas, in fact, these figures are members of the planning committee visiting a barn in preparation for the barn tour!

## Omega Farms (and Barns) Thrive Again

Omega Farms, a 4,000-acre Angus cattle operation along M-52 in Williamston is back in business again after 18 years away from Michigan. The world-renown cattle business had moved from Michigan to Kansas but returned to mid-Michigan a year ago when the Kansas operation was sold.



Photo: Cecil Darnell

For barn lovers, this is exciting news because barns that stood vacant are being treated to repairs and renewed vigor. Omega is a collection of several once independent farms each of which had its own barns or barns. Often when farms are combined, barns die from neglect or destruction when no longer needed. But Omega's owners, Clifford Simmons and sister Christine West have already restored roughly a dozen of the two dozen barns on the farms with more online for repairs in the next few years.

"We are having a ball with this," said Simmons, son of the farm's late founder whose name he shares. "We are preserving a visible history and it is difficult to put a value on that."

For more information see [www.omegafarms.org](http://www.omegafarms.org).

The editor thanks Cecil Darnell, freelance writer, Mason, whose article in *Farmers Advance*, provided background information for this story.

# American Barn Draws Acclaim in ArtPrize Competition

An extraordinary image of an historic American barn drew public praise during the recent ArtPrize competition in Grand Rapids. The work, entitled "American Barn" by Colorado artist, Jennifer O'Meara, is 5'6" x 8'6" and depicts the Colby, Kansas, "Cooper Barn" circa 1936. It is the largest barn in Kansas. The barn itself is a permanent part of the Prairie Museum of Art & History.



Photo: Bill O'Meara

O'Meara's "American Barn" is composited digitally, then printed with pigmented inks on cotton archival paper and framed in distressed alder wood. O'Meara has been photographing and painting barns since 1991. "I feel like the heart and soul of the country resides inside these great American icons," she says.

Winners of the competition were chosen by the public in early October. There were nearly 1,300 artists in the competition. O'Meara's work placed in the top 100 resulting in a special invitation to return as a featured artist during the 2010 ArtPrize competition. During the competition O'Meara sold her "American Barn" to a very high profile art collector from Michigan and also signed gallery representation with LaFontsee Gallery in Grand Rapids. ([www.lafontsee.us](http://www.lafontsee.us))

O'Meara and her husband, Bill, will be photographing notable Michigan barns as subjects for new works of art. Barn lovers may send images of barns that Ms. O'Meara might consider, to: Jennifer O'Meara, 30846 Tanoa Rd., Evergreen, Colorado 80439 or email her at [art@barnlady.com](mailto:art@barnlady.com).

Visit [www.artprize.org](http://www.artprize.org) and [www.jenniferomeara.com](http://www.jenniferomeara.com).

## Barns & Byways Tour Draws 400

What a great success! The Ludington & Scottville Chamber of Commerce hosted in mid-October, its second annual Barns & Byways Tour, titled "Country Roads Will Always Lead You Back Home." This was the Chamber's second annual barn tour and drew more than 400 people from all over Michigan. Eight barns along Conrad Road were featured. In addition, tour-goers could enjoy a threshers dinner, Quilters Guild display, horse and plow demonstrations, the Custer Boot Scooters country dancing, a barbeque cook-off and an opportunity to take an extended driving tour to Mason County Centennial farms. Randy Mouw, an MBPN member and barn contractor from Rockford, displayed a timber-frame barn made of wood salvaged from other barns. According to Committee Chairperson, MBPN member Marcia Hansen, a third Barns & Byways Tour is already in the works for 2010!

Visit [www.Ludington.org](http://www.Ludington.org).



Published in the Farmington Observer December 21, 2008 Page A-1.

## A Barn and a Couple of Acres

They had searched for property in Farmington Hills with all of their dream features – a creek, a pool, a barn, and a couple of acres, Stacy Jenkins' article in the Farmington Observer states (December 21, 2008).

More and more, people are looking for property, not because of its house, but because of the barn. A real barn offers far more creative, comfortable potential than other structures for creating workshops, studios, galleries, man caves, storage areas, gathering places, and more. For Joe and Judy Derek, the 30' x 60' gambrel-roof barn with peeling paint (close to a creek) was a diamond in the rough. They were astonished to find the barn along 10 Mile Road near Middlebelt in Farmington Hills and bought it in 1987.

The barn was built sometime between 1935 and 1945. Its original owners lived in it for a time during the Depression when metal that would have been used on their house was needed for the War effort and construction could not be completed.

The Dereks contracted Ken Brock & Associates, a Northville contractor and member of the MBPN, after realizing that water from adjoining properties was running under the barn's foundation, gradually destroying it. Brock reconfigured drainage and got the barn on solid footing.

The Dereks now call their restored treasure, the Derek Museum. It is a place to get together and collect "old stuff." That collection includes more than 100, early 1900s posters, primarily from businesses in the greater Detroit area, that had been tucked into the walls for insulation.

The editor thanks Stacy Jenkins, staff writer for the *Farmington Observer*, whose article provided background for this story.





*The "claw of death" wanted to destroy the Benedict Barn, Ionia. Instead, the barn was dismantled and salvaged to build a new/old barn in Augusta. Ideal? No. Better than destruction? Yes!*



*Photos: Jan Corey Arnett*



## Perseverance Pays Off

Readers were alerted in 2004 about a landmark barn, south of Ionia, destined for demolition. The 1922 Benedict Barn, was on a 197-acre farm, 31 acres of which were about to be bulldozed by WalMart for another box store. In the Benedict family since 1914, the 31 acres featured the main farmhouse set on massive posts and beams, the barn, a century-old corn crib, a machine shed, two newer homes and a metal machine shed.

The barn was 40' x 108' with a 50'x60' wing and was 60' to its gambrel peak, unique in its design. WalMart was called to task and promised to "dismantle, move, and rebuild the barn for anyone who wants it."

There were many ideas, among them that Walmart keep it as a beautiful garden center (the company said it could not deviate from its standards) or that it become a township office or restaurant. Others would have moved it for a landscaping business, a storage building for antique vehicles, or the gathering place heart of a subdivision built from former barns. It was also sought for a historical village and as a teen recreation center.

Prospective takers dropped away when WalMart back-peddled on its promise. It took four years of tenacious dialogue with various executives and persuasion from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, but ultimately a commitment of \$150,000 remained. Formal proposals were reviewed by a panel of individuals from the MBPN, the Michigan Historical Preservation Network, and National Barn Alliance. Three viable proposals remained: rebuild it to its original design to be a preschool, use salvaged wood to build three smaller buildings in a historical village, or reuse timbers and siding for a smaller barn at a YMCA.

The preschool project had to be withdrawn or it would likely have won as the best plan for the greatest preservation of the original structure. The vote went to the Sherman Lake YMCA, Augusta, where today a new/old 30' x 80' gambrel barn is a popular gathering place. The barn has already hosted square dances, weddings, fundraisers, and meetings.

Visit [www.shermanlakeymca.org](http://www.shermanlakeymca.org) for information or [www.barnlady1.com](http://www.barnlady1.com) for the full story and photos.

## MBPN Fall Tour held in Isabella County

A beautiful, sunny day in September brought 55 people from 13 counties to Isabella County for a unique barn tour of 14 "round roof" barns. The tour was organized by 4-H members who worked with MSU Extension educators, Vera Wiltse and Paul Gross. The teens explored career opportunities, learned organizational skills, interviewed the barn owners, and hosted visitors at the barns. The tour was also an opportunity to celebrate Isabella County's sesquicentennial and the prolific presence of round roof barns in the county.

Visitors started the day with a presentation by Steve Stier. Stier calls these barns "curved rafter barns" because this is the one constant in all of the barns. He interviewed Frank and Ben Graham of Rosebush who helped their dad build some of the barns in Isabella County. Frank is now retired but was present at one of the barns to share his expertise.

There is oral history that the first round roof barn was built in Isabella County. Stier noted that Floyd Fogle, wrote in *Agricultural*



*Photo: Jan Corey Arnett*

*Engineering* in 1927 that many of the area barns used the "Shauver Truss." John Shauver was an Ohio builder credited with inventing the ship-like truss made of 1"x4" layered boards, 5 layers thick with staggered joints. This style of barn roof is in abundance in Isabella County but there is still no concrete information on when and where the first round roof barn was built.

A mystery surrounds the questions, "Why a round roof?" Did it offer more storage space? Was it easier to build? Did it take less lumber? The answer seems to be:

because the owner wanted it. Once a jig was created for the rafters, it could be used for more than one barn and so we see the repetition of roof shapes that are related to the master builder on the project.

Vera Wiltse, MBPN vice president, Coleman



## Centennial Farm Calendars Preserve History

Calendars featuring 14 colorful photos and captions of Michigan Centennial Farms are ready for purchase from the Michigan Centennial Farm Association. The calendars are the hard work of Mary Lou Crumback, a member of the board of the Michigan Centennial Farm Association (MCFA), assisted by her husband, Ken.

This is the third calendar Crumback has compiled for the Association after doing five for the Gaines Township Historical Society. "It was Jack Worthington from the MBPN who started me on "The road less traveled," she says, photographing barns and farm homes in Gaines and Caledonia Townships. Worthington, a founding member of the MBPN is an avid barn calendar collector. The 2006 Centennial Farm Calendar featured the Leo J. Fitzpatrick Barn, Clare County. Fitzpatrick's barn is a winner of an MBPN Barn of the Year award, a national BARN AGAIN! award, and a MCFA award.

Crumback says when she began doing barn pictures in Gaines Township a decade ago, there were about 125 barns, many of which have since been lost. "Why the intrigue in old time barns and homes? I am drawn to these structures, they seem to represent the good old American apple pie way of life."

Calendars may be purchased for \$12.00 each, plus \$2.00 postage. Send payment to Michigan Centennial Farm Association, c/o Mary Lou Crumback, 9018 East Paris SE, Caledonia MI. 49316.

## Michigan Barns Selected for National Competition Cast your Vote Now!

Two Michigan barns, one in Bark River in the Upper Peninsula and a second in Bloomfield Hills are finalists in Barn Reviving competition sponsored by the National FFA Alumni Association in partnership with Campbell Soup Company. The five winners, from ten finalists, will be selected on the basis of votes cast by the public. Cast your vote at [www.HelpGrowYourSoup.com/barn](http://www.HelpGrowYourSoup.com/barn). between now and January 5, 2010. Each vote results in \$1 dollar being donated by Campbell's Soup (up to \$250,000) to the project.

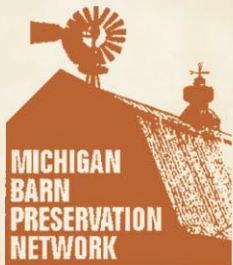
The project's goal is to raise awareness about the importance of supporting the future of American farming and agriculture. Winning barns receive three days-worth of repairs, painting, landscaping, and tidying up in preparation for appearing in Campbell's Soup promotions. FFA members and alumni and other volunteers will be involved in the hands-on Barn Reviving work.

Barn owners can nominate their own barns. Among the requirements are that the barn be structurally sound such that only minor mostly cosmetic work might be required, and that they be willing to have their barn painted red (Campbell's Soup red) with white trim. The barn also needs to be part of a working facility in production agriculture or part of a teaching operation.

Barbara Fudala Atencio who nominated her parents' barn in the UP, wrote, "Barns are unique pieces of architecture created by people who loved the land and farming. The beams are all hand hewn by homesteader Albert Konkle who built the barn between 1910 and 1920. Now called, the Augie Fudala Barn, the land is currently farmed by the Jorasz family who raise corn, rye and alfalfa.

The Bowers School Farm barn in Bloomfield Hills was built in 1920 by a businessman who planned to have a small dairy herd in his retirement years but did not live to fulfill his dream. In 1966 the land and barns were sold to the Bloomfield School District which chose to save the barn both for its historical and educational value.

The Barn Reviving projects are part of a broader program by Campbell's Soup called, Help Grow Your Soup. Winning barns will receive their special facelift in the spring of 2010 with the help of FFA students, alumni, and citizens from the local areas. For more information, contact Lucy Whitehead at [lwhitehead@ffa.org](mailto:lwhitehead@ffa.org). (317) 802-4420.



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