

**To: All Media**

**From: Iowa Barn Foundation Representative, Marlene Fenstermann**

**For immediate release**

## ***IOWA BARN FOUNDATION FALL TOUR 2011 ALL-STATE BARN TOUR***

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Historic restored barns, throughout Iowa, will be opened to the public during a free, two-day, self-guided, all-state barn tour Saturday and Sunday, October 15 & 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Most barns on tour have been restored with matching grants from the Iowa Barn Foundation. Other property owners received awards of distinction from the foundation for restorations they undertook themselves.

The Iowa Barn Foundation, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, raises money from individuals, foundations, and corporations to give matching grants to property owners to restore their barns. The property owner must sign a perpetual easement when receiving a grant. The foundation sponsors a spring "area" tour, a fall all-state tour, and publishes the semi-annual Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine.

The purpose of the tours is to encourage barn preservation in the state, to teach young people about Iowa's rich agricultural heritage, and to renew pride in this unique heritage. Owners will discuss the barns and their histories at many stops. Visitors are expected from around the country.

The tour is free although donations to support the foundation's work are appreciated.

For information: Roxanne Mehlisch, (641) 487 7690 or [mehlisch@netins.net](mailto:mehlisch@netins.net) or [www.iowabarnfoundation.org](http://www.iowabarnfoundation.org)

Below are listed the barns of Allamakee, Winneshiek, Howard, and Chickasaw Counties that will be open for viewing October 15 and 16. Persons interested in visiting barns on tour elsewhere in the state of Iowa should see the list under "2010 Tour" on the foundation's web site at <http://www.iowabarnfoundation.org> or see the list in the Fall 2011 issue of the [Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine](#).

**Chimney Rock Ranch, L.L.P., 1245 Chimney Rock Road, Waterville, (Allamakee, County).**

From stop light in Waukon, travel east on Elon Road (A 52) about 6.8 miles to Chimney Rock Road-T intersection. Turn right onto Chimney Rock Road and travel south. The farmyard is at the end of a long driveway. Large building is corn crib, granary, hog barn, and machine shed and was built in two parts in 1907-08. The corncrib/granary has a basement for hogs. The second part was added to the north end of the original building. This barn was first featured for the 2009 All-State Barn Tour.



**E. & E. Blazek Farm Barn, 1755 Ridgeway Boulevard, Lawler (Chickasaw County).**

Directions: Turn off Highway 24 into Lawler. Go north through Lawler to V46. Follow V46 three miles to farm.

The Blazek barn is a distinguished large barn with a drive-through center where teams of horses pulled and unloaded full loads of hay. Barn dances were held



in the hay mow in early 1900's. The barn was first featured on the 2007 All-State Barn Tour.

**Boeding milk house, 2390 Madison Road, Decorah (Winneshiek County).** From intersection of Highways 9 and 52 southwest of Decorah, go north on Highway 52 for .8 miles to Madison Road. Turn left and go 2.2 miles to 2390 Madison Road. (Award of Distinction)

**Buckley Barn, 12178 200<sup>th</sup> St, Elma (Howard County).** From New Hampton, go 12 miles north on Highway 63, turn left on 200th Street. The Buckley Barn is 2 miles on the left. Barn was built in 1915. It has the original steel roof manufactured by Tin Company, Cresco, that was founded in 1875 and still exists. Timbers framing it are 12x12 foot pine. Farm was given to a relative in 1858 by President Buchanan. The family has slips for materials used in building barn. This barn was first featured on the 2010 All-State Barn Tour.



**McMillan/Hotvedt barn, 1996 County Road A 14, west of Hesper on the state line (Winneshiek County).** Directions: From Decorah, at the intersection of Highway 9 and 52, travel 5 miles north on Highway 52 to the county paved road W34 (also called North Winn Road). Travel approximately 8 miles north to the T-intersection. Turn right (east) at the T-intersection for .8 miles to farm, which is on the left (north) side of road. The driveway is a quarter mile long. The farm is west of Hesper about 1.2 miles on the north side of County Road A14.

John McMillan bought this farm from the Government in 1852 for \$1.25 an acre. Nearby Mabel, Minnesota's steam engine days started on the farm. The farm was in family until 1990. Oscar Hutchins built the barn in 1906 for livestock. In 1954 the milk house was added to the southeast corner. The haymow still houses a granary and there is a lean-to-crib. The McMillan/Hotvedt barn was first featured for the 2008 All-State Barn Tour. The photographs were taken by Marlene Fenstermann on Sept. 2, 2008.



**Lea-Oakley Barn, 2279 County Road W42, Decorah (Winneshiek County).** From Decorah intersection #52 and #9, go east on Hwy. #9 for 4.3 miles to Co. Rd. W42, turn right, go .5 miles south. Native limestone Norwegian barn was built by John Johnson in 1862. Barn has a gambrel roof. Original roof would have been a gable roof. This barn has recently had the two-story native limestone repointed and the framework for the windows and doors have been replaced and painted. This barn was first featured for the 2009 All-State Barn Tour.



**Marlow-Saak Barn, 1431 Pole Line Road, Waukon, (Allamakee County).** From Decorah Hwy. 9 and Hwy. 52 intersection, take Highway 9 east 12.4 miles to Pole Line Road. Turn north (left) and go 2.2 miles (enroute cross Old Stage Road). After crossing Old Stage Road the road will be gravel.

First farm on right. Barn, built in 1890s, is 40x70, Saak family names are on the interior. "As an immigrant from England and recent American citizen, I have come to realize Midwestern barns are like the churches and cathedrals of Europe in scale and importance to the landscape," wrote the owner. This barn was first featured for the 2010 All-State Barn Tour.

