

Small Farm Builder Barn Survey

Working with many small farms, I created a short survey to help farmers communicate their structural needs. This survey is limited to the barn, although I often give consultations on whole farm systems. Below is an image of a structure I designed and built for a farmer who wanted a birthing shed for his livestock that he could drag with his tractor to different paddocks. Utilizing timbers from his land and custom metal brackets fabricated in his shop, I created the shed and a matching grain bin that can be moved by the tractor as well.



Barn Design Questionnaire

The following series of questions are intended to help carve out the vision of what an agricultural barn could look like. Using the four basic topics – user(s), function, site design, and aesthetics – the goal is to create a structure that best serves its purpose as a working building that sits naturally on the land. Small Farm Builder is dedicated to creating durable, environmentally sustainable structures of timeless beauty.

User(s)

Who are the primary users of the barn? _____

Who are the secondary users of the barn? _____

Are there any other potential users? _____

Describe any other user considerations. _____

Function

What is the primary use of the barn? _____

What are the secondary uses of the barn? _____

Specifically describe the animal occupants of the barn

<i>Animal</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Seasonal Barn Requirements</i>

What are the stall requirements (free stalls, tie stalls, stanchions, various pens)?

What types of feed need to be stored in the barn? _____

How long do you want stored feed to last? _____

Describe any other storage requirements. _____

How is and how often is the barn be cleaned? _____

What mechanical systems are needed for the barn? _____

water? _____

electric? _____

What is the potential/interest in alternative energies? _____

photo voltaic? _____

wind? _____

How is the barn ventilated? _____

Will herd sizes increase? _____

How will the operation diversify? _____

What may be future uses of the barn? _____

Site Design

What is the barn's ideal proximity and flow pattern related to the following?

house? _____

garden? _____

fields? _____

barn yard? _____

other? _____

What natural features influence the site (sun, wind, hillside, trees, hydrology, etc.)?

Construction

How do you want the barn to look? _____

windows? _____

doors? _____

siding? _____

cuppola? _____

roofing? _____

How is the barn framed? _____

What is the foundation type(basement)? _____

Other . . .

