

4th ANNUAL NATIONAL BARN CONFERENCE

Company Is Coming

KBA is hosting barn lovers from across the U.S. on June 10 through 12 in Atchison and Doniphan County. The opening event on Thursday, June 10, will be dinner in a barn, of course. The speaker will be a historian who will give an overview of the history of NE Kansas. Those who arrive at the AmericInn or Super 8 in Atchison earlier in the day will be able to board a trolley for a tour of the city before dinner.

Friday, June 11, many important topics will be presented in sessions at the Atchison Heritage Conference Center, a short walk from the motels. Marci Penner will kick off the day by sharing her work to reinvigorate rural Kansas and her love for barns. Following Marci, Caitlin Meives from the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office will present an overview of the statewide barn survey completed in 2008. This unique project covered nearly 350 barns and provides a valuable context for all National Register barn and farmstead nominations from Kansas. Caitlin will also tell about the Kansas Historical Society online data site that can be accessed by anyone interested in recording information about historic structures. The morning will be completed with Jan Jantzen's very informative presentation on 'Agritourism in Kansas'. These ideas can be used anywhere.

Lunch will be in a unique Missouri River view setting. The River House overlooks the mighty Mo near the Lewis and Clark Plaza. You will be treated to a fine repast and an original work from cowboy poet, Ron Wilson. Ron and his wife, Chris, own a historic farmstead near Manhattan.

We know that the best way to ensure a barn will be repaired and kept in good condition is to give it a job. After lunch, we will hear from a panel of people who are using farming methods compatible with pre-1950 barns. Hear about cheese-making, Katahlin sheep, and a general farm operation which produces pastured beef, pork and chicken. The panel will be followed by a representative from Heritage Foods USA. This company is 'committed to making wholesome, delicious and sustainably produced heritage foods available to all Americans'.

The afternoon will conclude with a presentation by Mike Woodford. Woodford Bros., Inc. is located in Apulia Station, N.Y. Mike will present several barn conversions his company has done.

There will be a couple of hours to shop and explore Atchison before we reconvene for dinner and guest speaker, Dr. Darrin Rubino. He is a professor of biology at Hanover College in IN. He is an expert in dendrochronology, the study of tree growth rings. He will include information on the timbers used in the historic barn that will be the subject of the 5-day workshop just prior to the conference. Information about the barn repair workshop can be found in another article in Rural Icon.

On June 12, attendees will tour 6 barns in beautiful Doniphan County, just north of Atchison. There will be a variety of structures including a stone barn, an octagonal barn and a barn used in raising mules for the U.S. Army at Fort Leavenworth. Lunch will be served in a barn which is owned by a family corporation formed to preserve these ancestral treasures.

REMINDER---members of KBA or the National Barn Alliance receive a \$30 discount if they register before May 10. Registration form is online at www.kansasbarnalliance.org

