



# Hardin County Farm Museum

*Experience Our Agricultural Past*

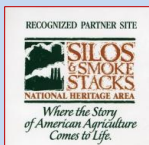
203 N Washington Street

PO Box 41

Eldora, IA 50627

One Mile North of the Stoplight

Established 1998



## 2023 Newsletter Volume 25, Issue 2

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### 2023 Board Members

Jason Reinertson	515-231-2377
Lonnie Balvanz	641-751-0922
Shorty Reinertson	515-520-9660
Kyle Cook	641-751-5386
Westhenry loerger	641-640-7275
Richelle Stowe	641-640-0487
Marilyn Reinertson	515-231-2379

**Board Meetings:** 7:00 pm  
First Tues. Feb – Nov in the Barn

**Membership Dues:**  
\$20 per year

### Like us on Facebook



We post our calendar, pictures, reminders, and updates.

### Email us at:

**hardincountyfarmmuseum**  
**@heartofiowa.net**

*The Hardin County Farm Museum Corp  
is an Iowa non-profit corporation under  
paragraph 501 (c) 3 of The Internal  
Revenue Service Code.*

## Notes from the Board

### We Can't Wait for YOU to See 2023

2023 at The Hardin County Farm Museum is going to be fantastic! We are looking forward to 2023 and celebrating the Farm Museum's 25<sup>th</sup> year. Come visit the Farm Museum and see how the museum has grown over the last 25 years. Come see the historic buildings, see the collections and displays, see the machinery and equipment. Enjoy our pancake breakfasts, enjoy our Threshing Festival/Power Show, enjoy the Tractorcade, enjoy the Harvest Moon Pancake Supper and Barn Dance. Come see and experience our agricultural past!

Plan now to attend our biggest tractor event ever! This is when you'll see the Farm Museum come alive! Be sure to mark SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, on your calendar. We are excited to be hosting the Iowa Cornbelt Oliver Collector's Summer Show during our Threshing Festival and Power Show. This will be a large display of Oliver, Hart-Parr, Cockshutt, and White tractors. Club organizers are planning for around one hundred tractors coming from all over the Midwest for this event. You won't want to miss this! Thank you to Matt Clark, owner of Eldora Tire & Alignment, who is an avid Oliver collector and member of the club, for presenting this opportunity to the Farm Museum. It will be quite a show for YOU to see!



We also invite all local owners of all tractor makes & models to bring your tractors to display at this Power Show. We encourage YOU to bring your tractors, engines, and equipment. Let's see if we can make this our best festival ever! There is no entry fee and no charge to the public so bring your friends & family and come enjoy the Festival!

We pause and remember three incredible HCFM friends who passed away this last year. Arvin Haywood was very instrumental in the early years of the Farm Museum and the Tractorcade, which he organized and cooked his delicious pork loin for many tractor drivers over the years. Marvin Granzow volunteered at the HCFM since the beginning and his enthusiasm and love for his IH/Farmall M tractor was contagious as he drove on the Tractorcade every year. Dan Drury will always be remembered as the one at the front of the Tractorcade driving his restored John Deere 3020. These fellas will be missed.

## 2022 TRACTORCADE

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 48 tractors, 48 drivers and 3 riders made their way on the back country roads from the Hardin County Farm Museum to Radcliffe, traveling a different route each way. Things look different when traveling at 12 miles per hour! The group stopped for lunch at the new Radcliffe American Legion catered by The Bakery of Radcliffe and served by HCFM volunteers. Door prizes donated by local businesses were given out. All riders posed for a picture in front of the Radcliffe Coop mural across from the Legion. Be sure to sign up for this year's ride to be held on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



## ☺ Thank YOU for 2022 ☺

### FOR SUPPORTING THE HARDIN COUNTY FARM MUSEUM IN ONE DOZEN WAYS!

1. For your membership
2. For your generous monetary donations
3. For your thoughtful memorials given in honor of your loved ones
4. For your donations to the new awning
5. For those who donated tables and benches for under the new awning
6. For donations to repair the windmill
7. For sending your Thrivent Dollars our way
8. For donating a hand and volunteering outside, in the field, or in the kitchen
9. For baking homemade pies
10. For coming to the pancake breakfasts, festivals and events
11. For donating your items to be on display
12. For sharing our passion and commitment to preserve our agricultural past.

☺ Thank YOU for your support ☺

The power of giving comes out of giving from your heart  
– not because you have a lot of money or time to give  
but because the cause is simply important to you.

~ author unknown

The Hardin County Farm Museum is available to rent for all types of gatherings: meetings, parties, family reunions, graduations, class reunions, weddings, receptions, church services. Contact us for more info about renting our facilities.

### Ready for Renting



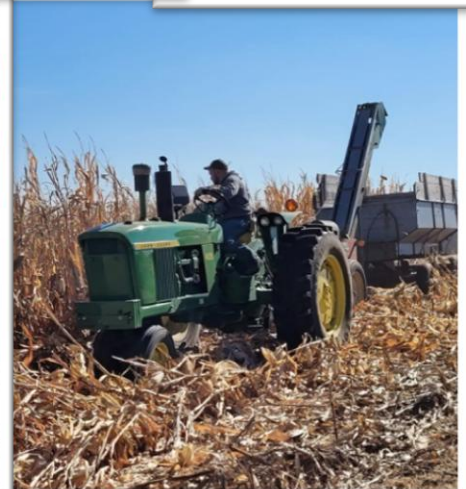
## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Please remember to choose the Hardin County Farm Museum when choosing where your Thrivent Choice Dollars go. We thank those who already do, and we thank those who choose us in the future! These funds help us out tremendously as the costs to run the Farm Museum continue to rise. All funds given go to the upkeep of the museum buildings and to the festivals and programs that we present throughout the season. Thank you! ☺





## A Picture ReView of 2022





## **The Windmill**

*What is a historical farm museum without a windmill? This question became real to us last September when our windmill head was literally falling off and our tail had broken in two. We were on the verge of being forced to take our windmill down completely. But instead, due to private donations, we were able to hire one of the only windmill renovators left in the Midwest, Great Plains Windmill Service from Kinross, Iowa, to totally rebuild our windmill. Thankfully, our windmill once again stands proud and tall and is ready to welcome visitors to the Hardin County Farm Museum. We are especially thankful for you who made this happen. Below is a very brief history of the Great Plains windmill that once was seen on every farmstead in Hardin County.*



The Great Plains were considered unfit for cultivation. The area was termed the “Great American Desert.” Droughts would follow rainy spells and the sun and wind would dry up surface moisture. On the Plains, early settlers could barely haul enough water for personal needs, let alone grow crops or water livestock. The majority of the water flowed deep underground, often more than 300 feet below the earth’s surface.

In 1854, the American-type windmill was developed. In contrast to the vast European style windmill, this one was small, inexpensive and could be shipped and built easily. Its cloth sails were held into the wind by a weight, which would rise slowing to reduce the area of the sails when the wind was too fast. Traditional cloth covered sails were soon replaced with smaller wooden blades. These new windmills were ideal for settlers on the plains. They could pump water from great depths at a steady rate. They could shift into the prevailing winds and functioned well in fast and slow winds. And to top it off, they required little maintenance. Self-governing water pump windmills soon became a staple on the plains. Pioneers, farmers, and ranchers were no longer dependent on natural water as they could drill wells and pump water. Windmills were often among a pioneer’s most prized possessions. The water pumped by windmills was used to cook, bathe, drink, water crops and livestock, wash clothes, and more. These first windmills were simple, well-constructed, and dependable.

Knowing windmills could be counted on for water helped speed up western migration. Ranchers could build up herds, farmers planted more, and railroads could pump water into tanks along their routes. The availability of water allowed the Great Plains to become the nation’s breadbasket.

By the 1870’s and 1880’s, there were hundreds of companies manufacturing windmills located on the eastern edge of the Great Plains or in the Midwest. Wooden solid-wheel windmills were widely produced in the mid- to late-19th century. They had a rigid wooden wheel that adjusted the angle of the entire windmill head to control its speed. In slow winds, the wheel pointed into the wind for maximum efficiency. In high winds, the wheel moved toward the vane to minimize surface area and prevent damage.

The first successful all-metal windmill was marketed in 1876, but metal windmills were not common until the 1890s. Self-oiling windmills became popular in the 1920’s. These windmills had an enclosed gearbox with an oil-bath that would lubricate the moving parts as they moved. This meant maintenance on these windmills was minimal. They only required cleaning and new oil about once a year.

Over time, windmills became visual icons on the Great Plains. Windmills were often the most obvious signs of civilization. Many people growing up on the plains have fond memories of windmills from cool drinks after working in the field to learning how to swim in livestock tanks that held the pumped water.

The business of windmills faltered following World War I. Electricity and gasoline became cheaper while agricultural commodity prices decreased. People could not buy new windmills and they had cheaper alternatives. The situation worsened for windmill manufacturers with general economic depression during the 1930s. The 1935 Rural Electrification Act enabled more farms to have electricity. They could now use electricity to operate electricity-power pumps. Decreasing demand for windmills almost eliminated the windmill market.

Today, in the Midwest, there are few working windmills that remain. The iconic windmill on every farmstead is no longer. The few who have maintained their windmills have a beautiful remembrance of years past.

# Hardin County Farm Museum

*Experience our Agricultural Past*

## 2023 SATURDAY PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

*Free Will Donation*  
Serving 7 – 9:30 a.m.

- May 6
- June 3
- July 1
- July 29 & 30
- August 19
- September 2



## Hardin County Farm Museum

203 N Washington St • PO Box 41, Eldora, IA 50627 • One mile north of the stoplight  
hardincountymuseum@heartofiowa.net • email: www.hardincountymuseum.org

## THRESHING FESTIVAL AND POWER SHOW

Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30, 2023

### OLD FASHIONED FUN

- All makes tractors, engines, trucks, and public welcome!
- Ongoing Activities for all ages both days

### FEATURING



OLIVER/HART-PARR/COCKSHUTT/WHITE TRACTORS



## GREENBELT TRACTORCADE

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Pancakes 7 - 9:30 a.m.

Tractors leave at 10 a.m.

## HARVEST MOON PANCAKE SUPPER & BARN DANCE



Saturday, October 7, 2023

Fundraiser Supper 5 - 7 p.m.

Barn Dance 7 - 10 p.m.



*Open first Saturday -  
May - October 7a-3p or by appt.*

# 19th Annual Fundraiser Greenbelt Tractorcade

In Memory of Drivers Marvin Granzow, Dan Drury & Dick Hazelwood

**Come View The Tractors and  
Enjoy the Pancake Breakfast  
7:00-9:30 in the Barn**

**Open to the Public - Free Will Donation  
Saturday, August 19, 2023**

**Hardin County Farm Museum**

203 N Washington Street, Eldora – One mile north of stoplight



## Tractor Driver Information

- At 10:00 a.m. the tractors will depart from Hardin County Farm Museum in Eldora.
- Public Pancake Breakfast from 7:00 – 9:30 a.m. in the barn is included in your registration.
- Check-in/Registration will be on the NE corner of the barn between 7:00 – 9:30 a.m.
- Trailer parking available onsite. Use north drive at museum grounds.
- There will be a driver's meeting at 9:45 am. Drivers must have a valid driver's license and be at least 16 years of age. All tractors must have a SMV sign visible during the ride, must have a rear view mirror, and must be able to travel at a minimum speed of 10 mph. There will be No Passing of other moving tractors along the route. Slower tractors will line up in the back of the line.
- This year's ride will travel 40 miles on mostly gravel but some paved roads, while enjoying the beautiful, scenic, winding back roads following the Iowa River south from the Farm Museum to Union, then head west to New Providence. The driver's lunch, included in your registration, will be served inside the historic New Providence Soda Fountain. Restroom will be available here.
- Ride will return before 3:00 pm to the Farm Museum in Eldora.
- This ride will be held rain or shine, unless dangerous storms are forecasted. Fees will be returned if cancelled or postponed due to storms. The route may be altered due to road conditions.
- Questions, please call Jason Reinertson at 515-231-2377.

## Clip and Mail 2023 Registration Form

**Pre-registration is requested by August 12<sup>th</sup> to reserve your lunch**

**Cost per tractor/driver is \$40; per passenger is \$10; and includes breakfast, lunch, snack, and the ride.**

**Please mail registration & check to: Hardin County Farm Museum, PO Box 41, Eldora, IA 50627**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Owners, drivers and passengers accept full liability for injury or loss to themselves or property while participating in the Greenbelt Tractorcade. The Hardin County Farm Museum Corporation is expressly released from all claims of loss, liability and injury. Hardin County Farm Museum Corp is an Iowa non-profit corporation under paragraph 501 (c) 3 of The Internal Revenue Service Code

Signature of Driver \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Buddy Seat Rider \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Tractor Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Experience Our Agricultural Past At The Hardin County Farm Museum's

# Threshing and Power Show

Sat. July 29 & Sun. July 30, 2023



## POWER SHOW

All makes tractors, engines,  
and public welcome!

**NO REGISTRATION FEE**

**FREE ADMISSION**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT

Jason 515-231-2377

FEATURING IOWA CORNBELT OLIVER COLLECTOR'S  
SUMMER SHOW: OLIVER.HARTPARR.COCKSHUTT.WHITE



## FREE ONGOING ACTIVITIES SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Oat Threshing and Combining Demonstrations, Baling Straw, Corn Shelling, Plowing,  
Boone Forks Forge Blacksmith, Petting Barn, Rope Making, Wagon Rides,  
Outdoor Games, Pioneer Activities/Crafts

### Saturday July 29, 2023

- 7:00 - 9:30 Pancake Breakfast in the Barn
- 7:00 - 3:00 Tractor and Power Show
- 10:00-3:00 Ongoing Activities Outside
- 10:00 BINGO in the Barn sponsored by HCSB
- 11:00-1:00 Noon Dinner Served in the Barn
- 11:00-1:00 Backporch Pickers Live Music
- 1:00 Old Fashioned Hymn Sing-Ellis Church

### Sunday July 30, 2023

- 7:00- 9:30 Pancake Breakfast in the Barn
- 7:00-3:00 Tractor and Power Show
- 8:30 Country Church In the Ellis Church
- 10:00-2:00 Ongoing Activities Outside
- 11:00-1:00 Noon Dinner in the Barn
- 11:30-1:00 Backporch Pickers Live Music

MORE ACTIVITIES TO BE ADDED  
[hardincountvfarmmuseum@heartofiowa.net](mailto:hardincountvfarmmuseum@heartofiowa.net)



**Hardin County Farm Museum**



203 N Washington Street  
Eldora, IA 50627



One Mile North at the Stop Light in Eldora

RECOGNIZED PARTNER SITE



Where the Story  
of American Agriculture  
Comes to Life.