

Round Barn Facts:

- Designed specifically as a show and sales barn.
- Contains two rings of stalls surrounding the open show arena.
- Originally, the barn had a manure carrier which consisted of a cable suspended from the rafters that held a bucket. It was pushed around the barn and then moved to another track which took it outside to be emptied. The system apparently did not work, as today it's back to the basics, a wheelbarrow and shovel.
- The Round Barn is more wind resistant because:
 - * Surfaces are curved.
 - * Walls are stronger because they use the lineal strength which is 20 times stronger than the cross grain strength of the lumber.



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*THE CENTRAL
WISCONSIN STATE FAIR
ASSOCIATION,
WOOD COUNTY
AND
THE CITY OF MARSHFIELD
PROUDLY PRESENT:*

The World's Largest Round Barn



Idea:

The idea for the Round Barn was conceived by the Central Wisconsin Holstein Breeders Association in the early 1900s. It was built as a show barn and arena, and it is still used for that purpose today. The Central Wisconsin State Fair Association, Wood County Board, and private donations paid for the construction.

Construction:

W. W. Clark designed the barn and the bid was awarded to the Felhofer brothers. Their bid of \$6,000 was approximately \$2,000 less than the nearest competitor, because they used a staging method of construction. Instead of using scaffolding, they started at the bottom of the building and worked their way up.

Construction started Thanksgiving Day, 1915 and was completed in the spring of 1916. Excavation work was done by using a horse drawn slusher. The cement mixing consisted of mixing cement, sand and water on a plank with a shovel until the desired

consistency was attained. The framework was done during the winter months and the floors and stanchions were done in the spring. In 1917, a second floor was completed.

Structural Statistics:

- The diameter of the barn is approximately 150 feet and is 70 feet high at the top of the cupola.
- The wood used is a combination of white oak, red oak, hemlock and pine.
- Wooden bleachers originally encircled the show ring, with seating for about 1,000 people.
- 188,000 shingles were used for roofing.

Early Uses:

Since it was built, the Round Barn has been used every year by the Central Wisconsin State Fair to house cattle.

In the early days, the upstairs of the barn was used to exhibit chickens and rabbits. Later, it was used for housing 4-H exhibitors. There is also a bandstand on this level which was used for barn dances.



Current Uses:

Every year, in addition to the fair, the Round Barn hosts:

- State and Regional Dairy Shows
- Craft Shows
- Church Services
- Many other community events

The upstairs is used for storage.

Round Barn Advantages:

The advantages of the round barn:

- More efficient for arranging stanchions making it ideal for showing animals.
- More wind resistant.
- Can house 250 head of cattle.
- Stays cooler in warmer weather.
- Stronger walls from the lineal, not cross grain strength of lumber, making it 20 times stronger.