

Press release: June 4, 2007  
For immediate release

***Old Barn Gets Second Chance at Schuster's Playtime Farm.***

In 1886, W. Lemke, C. Lemke, and H. Schmidt signed their names to a board claiming their latest mark in history—a new milking barn for the immigrant Lemke family that had settled in Cold Spring Township, just north of Whitewater, Wisconsin. For nearly 100 years, this 32' X 50' timber-frame barn served its purpose wonderfully, protecting the cows and their feed from the elements.

About 20 years ago, the barn became quiet and still—no more animals filled her walls and no more hay was stored in her loft. She, like so many others in Wisconsin, was told, “We don't need you anymore,” and stood waiting for Mother Nature to take her down. This is an all too common scenario throughout Wisconsin as herd sizes have gotten larger and the cost to expand original buildings is just too steep.

In 2006, Craig Roost, a local restoration builder of old barns, called Don and Theresa Schuster of Schuster's Playtime Farm, Deerfield, Wisconsin, about working on their 1903 round barn. The Schuster's own a century-old farmstead and have run a produce and agri-tourism farm for the past 14 years. They have been looking to expand their operation but have been concerned about keeping the old country feeling that so many of their customers appreciate. Roost explained how he finds old barns, takes them down and puts them back up again, making changes to enhance the building's usefulness while still competing with the cost of building a new structure.

A partnership was born. The Schuster's decided to look for an old barn to suit their needs and have Roost rebuild it on their farm. The barn in Cold Spring Township seemed to be a perfect fit.

For the past two months, Roost has carefully taken the barn apart one peg at a time and moved it to Schuster's Playtime Farm.

On June 23, Schuster's Playtime Farm is hosting an “old-fashioned” barn-raising party. With the help of many volunteers and a team of horses, the “Old Lemke” barn, complete with its signature board, will begin its second life.

The event is free and open to the public. Volunteers will be needed for construction and food preparation. If interested in volunteering, please contact Craig Roost at 920-728-0353 for building and Theresa Schuster at 608-764-8488 for food preparation.

Schuster's will open their play and animal area and accept a \$2 donated in the name of Habitat for Humanity. Concessions will be available.

For more information, please go to [www.schustersplaytimefarm.com](http://www.schustersplaytimefarm.com)