

>> Barn Again

The NBA offers an online do-it-yourself free manual, “Barn Repair & Rehabilitation Toolbox.” The web site also includes such information as how to qualify for state and federal tax credits toward historic preservation.

Peckler cites lack of funds as the No. 1 deterrent to restoration, which frequently requires expertise. “We try to connect people with preservationists in their area,” she says. Any effort “is better than watching a barn rot and collapse or have it sent to a landfill,” she adds. “Our mission is to educate people about historic barns and help people preserve these beautifully crafted structures.”

The all-volunteer organization includes farmers, barn contractors, architects, preservationists, timber framers “and other barn-loving citizens. At least half of our board members still own their family farms and historic barns,” Peckler says.

The organization holds ties with state and local preservation groups throughout the United States, as well as the Timber Framers Guild, whose members are “well versed in mortise and tenon construction,” says Peckler.

Peckler offers one final bit of advice for those seeking help: “If you see a good-looking old barn that has been recently repaired, stop and ask the owner, ‘Who did the work?’” —*Nancy Dorman-Hickson*

■ For resources on all things barn in the U.S. and Canada, including restoration, selling, moving, transformation and more, visit myFarmLife.com/barnagain.



Rethink Roadway Rules

A new proposal may soon provide guidance to accommodate bigger, speedier farm equipment.

WHILE THEY MAY BE MORE EFFICIENT IN THE FIELD, larger, faster pieces of farm equipment can increase hazards on the road. So contend numerous organizations, including the 60-year-old Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO), which is calling for new safety precautions to address the potential dangers.

Some tractors now reach speeds of up to 60 km/h (37 mph). Along with the familiar triangle slow-moving sign, CFFO recommends a sign that warns other drivers of such speed potential. Since rigs now often exceed 25 meters (82 feet) in length, “long commercial vehicle” signs would alert drivers of passing hazards.

In addition, young drivers and seasonal workers are frequently asked to drive unfamiliar heavy equipment on roadways. CFFO advocates a brief, voluntary training program, sponsored by insurance agencies, government offices and farm groups.

The CFFO represents 4,000 family farms in 21 districts. Part of its mission is to develop and advocate public policy perspectives that encourage thriving, profitable, sustainable and responsible family farms. —*Nancy Dorman-Hickson*

■ For more information about this and other CFFO proposals, see the organization’s blog at www.christianfarmers.org.

WHO SAID IT?

“I had rather be on my farm than be emperor of the world.”

Visit myFarmLife.com/whosaidit to see who said it.



THIS ISSUE: A few cold, hard facts about last year’s “Winter-pocalypse.” For more, see myFarmLife.com/winterfive.

92.2 The percentage of the Great Lakes iced over on March 6, 2014. In records dating to 1973, only February 1979 had greater ice coverage. Compared to the past four years, when the peak ice coverage was about 40% or less, last March represented a sharp turnaround.