

## Beautiful Farm Home Created From Dairy Barn

An old white dairy barn has been slowly transformed into a beautiful four bedroom, 3,800-sq. ft. home for Ted and Lois Grier, Pella, Iowa, and their three teenagers.

Over a period of more than three years, the Griers gutted the old barn and added a second and third floor in what had once been the haymow. Though they'd hoped to be able to save some old interior beams or flooring from the haymow floor, there was really nothing they could re-use, so they started over with just the exterior skeleton and the six main support posts that ran from the ground floor to roof trusses in the barn.

Most of the family living space is on the second floor, where they added windows and skylights that allow sunlight to penetrate nearly every corner. A two story pentagonal addition at the front of the barn, with the look of a short silo, gives the house a focal point away from the roof peak and added plenty of space for windows.

The front door opens into a foyer located where the bulk milk tank once stood. Lois operates an interior design studio on the first floor which once held 10 stanchions and several small pens for various livestock.

A lean-to on the north side of the barn, which formerly provided loose housing for young stock, now serves as a garage. The area behind the garage - on the back of the building

- became a TV and exercise room.

The main feature of the second floor is the great room that includes a living room with cultured stone fireplace, dining room and kitchen.

Also on the second floor is the master suite, with coffered ceiling and recessed lighting in the bedroom. The master bathroom has a cathedral ceiling and makes use of one of the barn's original dormers and windows.

The Griers added a third floor above the great room and master suite to make three bedrooms and a bathroom for their children. This level slopes under the barn roof.

The Griers did most of the work themselves from gutting the old barn to pressure washing down the insides. "I hired a couple of high school kids to help us tear out the insides," Ted says. "And we had a construction company come in and raise up and level the barn and also repour the foundation on two sides of it."

The construction company also built the two-story silo-like addition on the front and framed in all the walls.

Before framing in the walls, though, Ted spent two weekends on a tall ladder power washing the entire interior of the old structure from roof peak to foundation. "That was one of the louisiest jobs, but it took care of most of the potential insect problems and got rid



Two-story addition at front of barn gives house a new focal point and also added space for windows. Barn's lean-to now serves as a garage.

of the dust," he says.

The Griers did the wiring and plumbing themselves, put up the sheet rock, and did all the finish work, too.

They say the planning and design was tricky because they wanted to make best use of the space and have as much natural lighting as possible.

"It came out out pretty much how we planned it," Ted says. "And it took about as much time as we'd expected. We started the

project in July and moved in the following March. It still wasn't finished, but we had anticipated moving in before it was all done."

They've been in the house for just over a year now and, so far, they've not found anything about their design they'd do differently.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ted and Lois Grier, 515 Woodlawn Dr., Pella, Iowa 50219 (ph 641 628-8150).

## On-Farm Weigh Scales

If you could use a weigh scale somewhere on your farm, chances are good that Elias Scale has what you need.

The North Battleford, Sask., company specializes in all kinds of weigh scales, including a portable scale for round bales, a pickup bale spear with scale, a front-end loader bale spear with scale, a scale for hopper feeders pulled by ATV's, stationary and portable crate scales, and truck and trailer platform scales.

"All of our scales are self-contained and operate without any electronics," says Gordon Elias. "Each scale consists of a single center-mounted load cell, with a hydraulic pressure line from the load cell to the gauge. The self-contained, sealed hydraulic system is not affected by the weather or barn acids. They work good in temperatures down to minus 40. Everything pivots toward the center, which eliminates the need for two or

more load cells. With this type of scale, you can stand on any of the scale's four corners and still get an accurate reading."

The portable bale scale is 4 ft. long and has a cradle that holds the bale.

"You can mount the scale on the ground, on a flat deck, or in the back of your pickup. Some farmers mount the scale on a homemade wooden base so that it won't sink into the ground. It's accurate to within one half of one percent or to within 5 lbs. on a 1,000-lb. bale."

Sells for \$1,395 (Canadian).

The pickup-mounted bale spear scale, which is equipped with an electronic winch, can accurately weigh bales weighing up to 3,000 lbs. The operator reads the weight on a 6-in. high dial that mounts right behind the pickup cab where the driver can easily see it. "It lets you spear the bale and weigh it at the same time," says Elias.



Portable cradle-type scale for round bales is 4 ft. long (left). Pickup-mounted bale spear scale is also fitted with scale (right). Operator reads weight on a 6-in. dial right behind the cab.

Besides weighing, the unit can be used for transporting bales from the field and also for feeding your livestock.

The bale spear scale sells for \$3,195.

The front-end loader bale spear with scale

sells for \$1,895.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elias Scale, North Battleford, Sask., Canada (ph 306 445-2111; fax 306 445-2197; Website: www.eliascales.com).

## "Best Buy" 1976 Patriotic Steiger

When Norris Hayman went shopping for a big tractor more than a quarter of a century ago, he was looking for economical, reliable power.

After looking at all the big four-wheel-drives available in 1975, Hayman decided on a Steiger Panther II, with a 310 hp Cummins engine. Having farmed with IH tractors all his life, Hayman joked to his dealer that he wasn't sure about owning a green tractor, not even Steiger green. "He told me I didn't have to have a green one since Steiger painted some of its 1976 tractors in red, white and blue to commemorate the country's bicentennial," says Hayman.

The patriotic paint job on the "Spirit of '76" Steigers was not done at the company's Fargo, North Dakota, factory. Instead, after the tractors came off the assembly line, they

were trucked to a body shop across town where they were repainted at a cost of about \$500 each. The company wanted to sell one Spirit of '76 tractor per state, but none were sold in states like Alaska and Maine while eight were reportedly delivered to Kansas. Most of the red, white and blue Steigers were Panther IIs, but a few Cougars were also repainted.

Hayman's Panther II was delivered in October, 1975. He paid \$43,200 for the tractor with a rear 3-pt. hitch and a front-mounted dozer blade. Overall maintenance costs have been minimal. "We overhauled the engine after about 10,000 hours and it's gone through three sets of tires," he says.

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Norris Hayman still uses his 1975 Steiger Panther II tractor, which is painted red, white and blue.

Photo courtesy Classic Tractor Magazine (www.classictractormagazine.co.uk)