

One area in agriculture that has seen an increase in recent years is small scale diversified farms. Often "alternative" or organic, these farms are more likely to be direct marketers. Often new farmers, they may have another job and may not have been raised on farms. They may be bringing outside capital into agriculture to get started. These operations have the potential to use old barns in new ways.



Salt Springs State Park near Montrose, PA

Other Barns & Outbuildings

Tobacco Barns

Tobacco production occurred from the early 1800's up until the mid-1960's along the Susquehanna, Chemung, Tioga and Cowanesque Rivers and tributaries.



Rt. 220 South of New Albany, PA

Traces of tobacco farming can be found in remaining tobacco barns, identifiable primarily by vertical louvers and top vents or vented cupolas that allowed for air circulation while the tobacco was drying.

Potter County Potato Barns

In Potter County, from 1915 until the late 1960's, potatoes and vegetable cannery crops were widely grown. Specialized potato barns, often partially underground, can still be seen.



Granaries & Corn Cribs

While early barns incorporated a granary into the barn, many farms later built a separate building for grain storage. Granaries are usually small with a tight raised floor to discourage rodents. They may have very tall or widely spaced steps. Side walls will be very tight in order to keep the grain dry. Canted sided buildings are usually granaries. Corn stored on the cob is often stored in slat or wire sided corn cribs. Like granaries, corn cribs tend to be raised off the ground with minimal foundations. Sometimes one side of a granary will have a corn crib built into it, identifiable by a section of widely spaced boards.



Silos

Silage - a process of fermenting cut grass before it dries in order to increase nutrient retention - has been in use since the early 1900's but wasn't wide-spread until the last 30 years. Early silos were made of wood and ceramic tile, later of concrete and metal. On confinement farms where animals are kept inside year round, farms may have many large silos.



Davis-Young Farm LeRaysville, PA

Poultry Houses

After railroads came into the area in the late 1800's, many large poultry houses were built and regional farms exported eggs. Poultry barns can be identified by wire screening over a large number of windows for ventilation and light. They are often two or three story narrow buildings.



Sugar Shacks

Built for boiling maple sap in the spring, these buildings are readily identifiable when in operation due to a billow of steam emanating from them. Small in size, they will have a chimney and may have a large wood pile adjacent to them.



Back Achers Farm, North Rome, PA

Welsh Barns

In the LeRaysville area of Bradford County, there are a number of barns built by a Welsh man named Morgan Thomas from 1889 to 1905. Sometimes called "High Entry barns," they all have a trademark ramp and bridge entrance to the third floor in order to make use of gravity when unloading hay. These three-story barns may have been modeled after the coal breakers that lifted coal up several stories to be sorted on the way back down.



Davis-Young Farm, LeRaysville, PA

Round, Star and Polygonal Barns

Rare. Sometimes barns were built in unusual shapes. This was particularly true when farmers and builders were experimenting to find the best ways to house increasing numbers of animals in the most efficient ways.



Near Montrose, PA



King Barn, Sheshequin, PA

Want to learn more about the Barns and Agriculture of the Northern Tier?

Order our one-hour DVD documenting barns and farms across the region. Available at www.ntculturalalliance.org or at PA North Country Artisan Center and Store, 1 Washington St., Towanda PA 18848. 570-268-5055

Other Agriculture related Sites in the Northern Tier

Bradford County Heritage Association Farm Museum at Alparon Park, Troy, PA

www.troyfarmmuseum.org

Home Textile Tool Museum, Orwell, PA - 570-247-7175

www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org

Old Mill Village Museum, New Milford, PA - 570-465-3448

www.oldmillvillage.org

"The Quilted Corners of Wyalusing" a self-guided driving tour.

www.wyalusing.net



For information about events, exhibits and other places to visit in the region:

Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau

www.endlessmountains.org

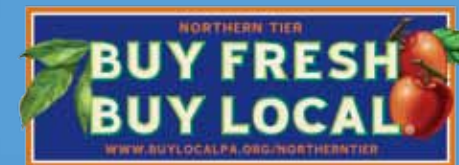
1-800-769-8999



Northern Tier Barns

Taste the Northern Tier! Seek Out Sources of Great Local Food...

For a listing of Farmer's Markets, Farm Stands, Vineyards and other Businesses that Serve and Sell Local foods, go to www.northerntierfbf.com



Or stop in at the PA North Country Artisan Center and Store located in the Washington St. Station at 1 Washington St., Towanda.

The store features a wide array of regionally produced food and craft items and you can also pick up a food guide and information about the Northern Tier Buy Fresh Buy Local chapter there.



Photo by Susan Fischer

A Guide To Barns in the Northern Tier Region of Pennsylvania

Includes Historical Background, Regional Map and information about ways to support Regional Farms and Agriculture

Produced by the Northern Tier Cultural Alliance www.ntculturalalliance.org

Funded in part by: Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau and Peoples State Bank

