

Floriani Red Flint Corn

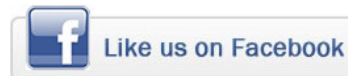
Sales of our Floriani Red Flint corn help care for the barn. This is an open pollinated corn that was rediscovered growing in Northern Italy. It is available seasonally through our website. We offer coarse grind (great for polenta) and fine grind (great for baking corn bread, muffins, pancakes). Read more about this amazing corn on our website, or just google it!



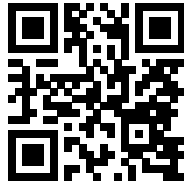
Visit the Barn

The Starke Round Barn is available for guided tours by appointment. We also host a variety of events and activities each year. These have included such things as live music, cider pressing, private reunions, meetings, children's programs and more.

Follow us on Facebook for up to date information on events.



Starke Round Barn Historic Site
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Other Area Attractions

National Willa Cather Center
Webster County Museum
Heritage Highway Byway
Hastings Museum
Walk Red Cloud
Stuhr Museum
Cather Prairie

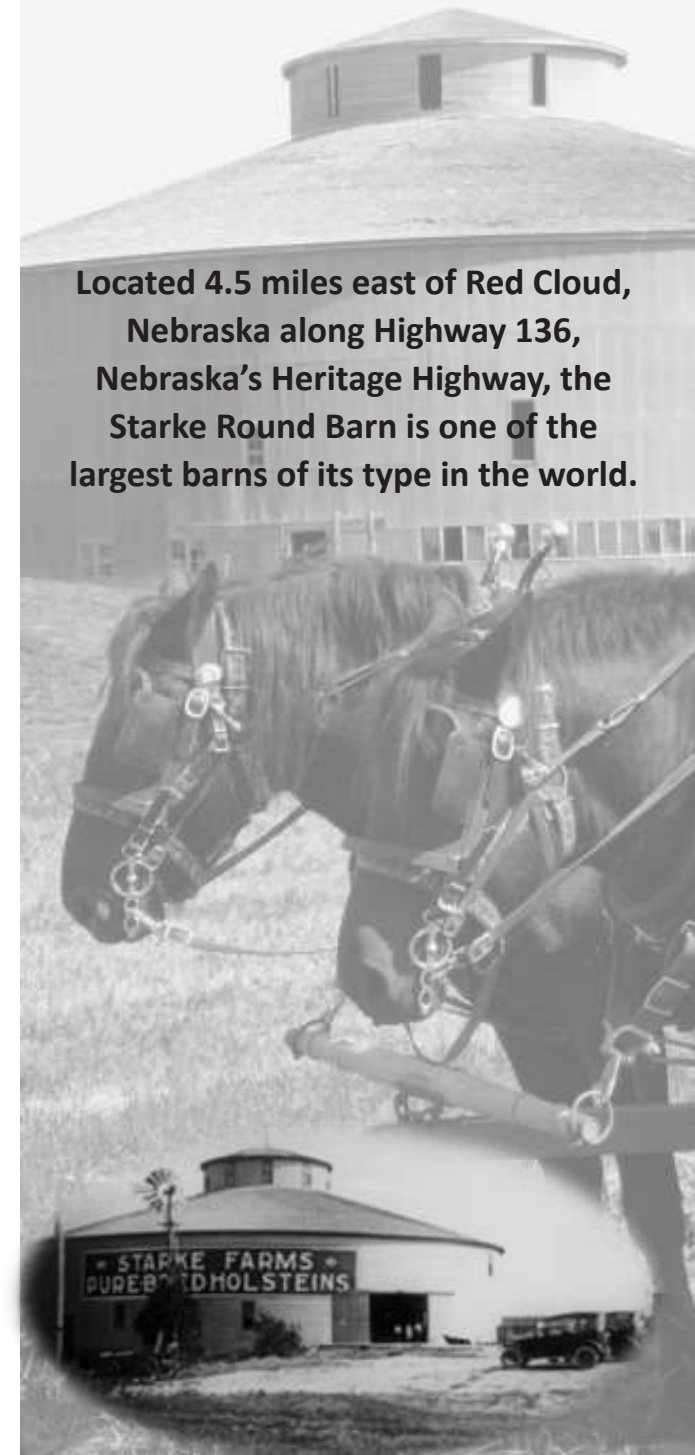
*America's
Most Famous
Small Town*
**Red
Cloud**



Red Cloud is 4.5 miles to the west on HWY 136

Starke Round Barn Historic Site

Located 4.5 miles east of Red Cloud,
Nebraska along Highway 136,
Nebraska's Heritage Highway, the
Starke Round Barn is one of the
largest barns of its type in the world.



The Beginning of the Barn

In the spring 1870 Gotleib, Christian and William Rasser left Milwaukee and came to Nebraska to homestead after serving in the Civil War. They settled near Elm Creek along the Republican River in the south-central part of the state. Ten years later Conrad Starke Sr., their brother-in-law, purchased land adjacent to the Rassers after hearing how productive and fertile the land was. The Rasser brothers then managed the property for a number of years.



The Building of the Barn

Construction of the barn began in 1902, and was not completed until 1905. At that time they were feeding cattle and hogs on over 400 acres of river bottom ground along the Republican River. The brothers also began building homes on the property. Around 1915 they turned to dairy farming. They improved the barn to accommodate this change. After building a highly reputable dairy farm, their herd contracted tuberculosis and was destroyed. Sadly, this also led to end of the dairy, as they went into foreclosure and the property was sold at a Special Master sale on the steps of the Webster County Courthouse in Red Cloud. The property was purchased by Walter and William Rasser, nephews of Conrad and Veronica (Rasser) Starke.

How Big is the Barn?

The dimensions of the barn are impressive. The circumference of the barn is 400 feet, giving it a diameter of 127 feet. It contains three floors with a brick silo in the middle. This silo is 28 feet in diameter and 65 feet tall. The unique style of the building boasts a massive 12x12 framework of timbers and cross beams held together not with nails or pegs, but with balance and the stress of the building's weight. The top floor was for hay, the middle level for machinery and tools, and grain storage. The lowest level was for livestock. When the barn was converted for dairy, the south half was given a cement floor including a drainage system and 2 rows of stanchions able to handle over 170 cows. Electricity and a pasteurization shed were also added at this time, powered by their own generator in the basement of one of the 5 residences on the farm. The barn was in use on the farm until the mid 1980's.

Maintaining the barn

Hosting tours and special events is a means to help care for the barn. Another source of raising funds for maintenance is our Floriani corn. This ancient open pollinated red flint corn is more nutritious than modern varieties, and also has a much more defined corn flavor. We hope to have this corn available again in early 2018.

