



We Love Your Barn

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is working to create and promote barn “quilt trails” to stimulate rural economies by increasing tourism! To accomplish this goal, we are reaching out to people with special barns.

Barn quilts can be hung anywhere—a public building, business, school, garage, house, garden shed, fence, as a free standing sign, or hanging from a mailbox. We’d love to see more barn quilts on amazing structures, like your barn!

What’s a barn quilt and a barn quilt trail? A barn quilt is a quilt pattern painted on MDO outdoor sign board and hung on an outside structure. The “Barn Quilt Movement” began in Ohio when a daughter honored her mother by hanging a painted quilt pattern on her barn. Now, there are over 7,000 recorded barn quilts hanging in 48 states and Canada, which have been identified on maps and organized into driving trails! This is called The American Quilt Trail.

Oklahoma is one of two states in the U.S. not having mapped barn quilt trails. Extension Educators are teaching people to paint barn quilts and explaining how a collection or “trails” of barn quilts become a destination for tourists, who spend new money in rural towns when they eat at local diners, fuel up at gas stations and buy in local shops!

Why are we contacting you? *We’d love to see a barn quilt on your barn!* To become part of the Oklahoma Quilt Trails a barn owner must agree to have a picture and location of their quilt posted on an Oklahoma State University website, and their barn quilt must be viewable by tourists from a public road or highway.

How do you get a barn quilt? Some people watch “how to” videos on-line and then paint their own quilt. Another option is to contact an Extension Educator below to learn when their next barn quilt painting class is scheduled. A third option is to ask the Extension Educators if it’s possible to have trained volunteers paint a barn quilt for you.

How big are barn quilts? Barn quilts are square. Sizes vary...2’, 3’, 4’, 6’ and 8’ are traditional sizes. In Extension barn quilt painting class, you learn techniques on a 2’ by 2’ of primed wood, not rated for outdoor use. We call it a sample board. Samples display well indoors or outdoors in a protected area such as a covered porch or patio. For barn quilt trails significant enough to attract tourists, we’ll focus on 4’ and 8’ barn quilts, but smaller sizes may also be listed.

What do barn quilts cost? Costs vary with size. To make an 8’ barn quilt, costs of MDO boards (two 4’ X 8’ sheets), primer, paints and supplies are \$150 to \$175. Because some quilt patterns are intricate and labor intensive, to buy a high quality ready-to-hang 8’ barn quilt can cost around \$850 in many states.

We’re working to establish a “demonstration quilt trail” prior to a rural development conference **“Cash in on Quilt Trails – An Affordable Path to Stimulating Rural Economies”** to be held in Woodward on October 26th. We’d love to hear from you as soon as possible, if you’re interested in hosting a barn quilt on your amazing barn! Thank you for considering this opportunity to enhance economies of local communities in your area.

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