



The Prettiest Farm in Iowa

CLASSIC COUNTRY. “Barn red” outbuildings retain the traditional look of the early 1900s. So does the big white farmhouse (above).



*Nothing symbolizes our state like
proudly primped and painted farmsteads.
We’re showcasing one of the
prettiest in each issue.*

By Denny Eilers

STACY and Dan Knight had a goal—to restore the family farm where Stacy grew up back to the days of her youth...right down to classic red barns with white trim, the stately farmhouse, sprawling beds of lush flowers...and a vintage orange tractor from the late '50s.

With the help of steel siding, the barns were reclaimed and placed in maintenance-free condition. The country home was expanded to include 1,200 more square feet of living space,

OUR IOWA

DRIVING FORCE behind this restored farmstead are Stacy and Dan Knight, plus Adam and Kaylee on the fixed-up "Allis". At right are roses Stacy's grandma planted in 1918.



TRADITION RINGS in another way on this farm—with bells that Stacy's dad collected from country schools and churches. Several add an old-time tone to the flower gardens (below and at right). Plus there's a brass bell from an old locomotive up at the house that's used as a dinner bell.



making room for her mother's antique cupboard, an heirloom spinning wheel and an old-fashioned fold-down ironing board.

Even her dad's threshing machines are on proper display, along with his collection of bells, gathered from old country schools and country churches.

Then, Stacy's brother showed up with the tractor she remembers as a child—an Allis-Chalmers of the same era as the D15 and D17 that were used on the farm in those days.

To top off the restoration project, the Knights moved an old summer kitchen to create a special "kids' cabin" where Adam, 11, and Kaylee, 8, enjoy time together and



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THE OL' SUMMER KITCHEN was moved to the yard and turned into a "kids' cabin", where Adam and Kaylee cook up lots of fun. It even has bunk beds for sleepovers with friends.



SHADY LANE. A tree-lined driveway greets visitors, and at the end of it they'll find a restored Allis-Chalmers D14. It's similar to tractors that worked the fields (left) years ago.

Side Note: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.





ROOM FOR TREASURES. The Knights added 1,200 square feet to the farmhouse, making room for heirlooms like a spinning wheel in the loft that belonged to Stacy's grandma.



FLOWERS EVERYWHERE. At every turn, you're surprised by another flowerbed—and special guests like this butterfly. The old hand pump at left was salvaged from the farm's cistern.

Side Note: The biggest step you can take is when you meet others halfway.

often camp overnight with visiting friends. The cabin is complete with bunk beds and a loft to store toys and games. "They love it and spend half the summers out there," says Stacy.

The Knight farm is located high on a ridge along Locust Road northeast of Decorah in scenic Allamakee County. It's been in Stacy's family for three generations. "We really wanted to make it a special place for the family," she says.

Dan and Stacy lived in the Cedar Falls area before moving "home" about 8 years ago. Their farmland is rented out, and both work in nearby Decorah. Stacy teaches third grade while Dan works for Deco Products Company.

"We have 13 threshing machines that Dad collected," Stacy explains. "He found interesting uses for them—windbreaks for the large beef cattle herd during the cold winters, and in the summer, they protected electric fence controllers."

The home has a roomy porch on three sides surrounded by colorful flower and plant beds. A rosebush, planted by Stacy's grandmother in 1918, has survived and blooms right on schedule every year—appropriate for this Prettiest Farm in Iowa. 🌹

AND THE SEARCH GOES ON...for the "Prettiest Farm in Iowa". If you have an attractive farmstead (or know of one in your area), send us a few snapshots and a letter describing it. If we choose to feature it, we'll send out a professional photographer to take pictures for a future issue.

Mail to: "Prettiest Farm", *Our Iowa*, 2501 North Loop Drive, Ames IA 50010. Or E-mail: editors@OurIowaMagazine.com and put "Prettiest Farm" in the subject line.