





## **Synopsis**

With their classic barns and fences, American small farms, and the buildings that support these farms, serve a much-needed purpose as much today as they have in the past. Even with the advent of new technology frequently used on farms, these buildings have changed relatively little and are still used to house the animals that so many small farm owners work with and the feed, supplies, and equipment needed to maintain those animals. Every well-meaning farmer or property owner with livestock, small animals, or farming equipment has need of a barn or a series of outbuildings. Unfortunately, many farmers now rely on expensive contractors and construction companies to do a job many traditional farmers undertook themselves. Knowing how to build these structures is not only a lost American art form, it is also a skill that can save you thousands of dollars. This book has been designed to ensure that everyone who has ever thought of building their own barns, outbuildings, or animal pens knows exactly what is entailed from inception of the design to the final construction stages. You will learn exactly what you need to start building outbuildings, barns, farming equipment, and farm supplies. You will learn how each animal should be cared for, what space they need in a barn, and what other outbuildings might be necessary for the comfort of your animals. For each of the structures described within this book, you will learn the required dimensions, necessities to efficiently use your new building, and extra space you might not have previously considered, including space for your motorized machinery, a workshop for maintaining your equipment, and loft space for hay bales, feed, and farming equipment. Regardless of what you need for your small farm or property, you will have a complete list of detailed building design plans. You will learn which building materials are best for creating your needed items as well as the best designs, methods of building, and places to store materials. The companion CD-ROM contains design plans in PDF format for a variety of structures. Each design plan offers detailed instructions, supply lists, and diagrams. This book offers plans for building barns, storage structures, animal pens, storage sheds, and greenhouses. You will also learn how to build helpful structures such as icehouses, water tanks, cisterns, smoke houses, and root cellars. This book even offers plans for building gates, fences, wagons, farm equipment, irrigation systems, potting benches, beehives and frames, food dehydrators, and other structures and equipment necessary for the success of your small farm. If you are looking to save thousands of dollars by building your own farm structures and equipment, this book will walk you through every step of the design, preparation, and construction process, ensuring success and capturing the lost art of small farm self-sufficiency.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

I have a five acre farm and recently built two small barns this summer. I bought this book because I'm wanting to build another barn, fences, storage sheds etc. First of all the book only contains technical plans, the author does not include any sort of written instructions. My biggest complaint is that book has almost no pictures or drawings to accompany each of the plans. How are you suppose to build something if you don't know what it's going to look like??? Horse owners should know this book only contains one plan for a horse barn. There is not one plan for a run-in shed. I was hoping the C.D. contained more useful plans but it only contains what the book has.

You probably won't encounter many books with such a long title. The subtitle makes this volume sound even more useful: "A Step-by-Step Guide to Building Everything You Might Need on a Small Farm." As guides go, this one's much more "show" than "tell." It's chock full of detailed and precise architectural plans. Drawings of what? Here's a mere sampling: 200-cow dairy facility, hay rack and entry ramp, fence-line sheep feeder, 18' x 30' wood-framed general barn, 10' x 12' poultry house, 10' x 21' hoop greenhouse, storage shed, 50-head cattle corral, plus fences and gates galore. These designs aren't meant for amateur builders--at least not casual amateurs. They're primarily intended for individuals and crews who know what they're doing. That said, some of the smaller structures and simpler fences and gates could be "test projects" for a relative beginner. Bottom line, though, is that following through on the plans is meant to produce highly practical, long-lasting results. One

extremely important bonus is that this do-it-yourself guide can save you big bucks--especially if you're willing to invest the requisite "sweat equity." Having lived for a while on a hobby farm, I was struck not only by the utility of the various plans, but also by the old-fashioned beauty and charm of some of the larger structures. A well-designed and -built barn, for instance, is nothing less than a rustic work of art. Note that this guide comes with a CD-ROM containing all of the book's hard-copy plans plus a bunch of bonus designs. Overall, quite a package!

Complete waste of money. Terrible book. This book is a compilation of plans that are available for free, in the public domain, from the NDSU agriculture extension website. There is no added value in the book. Everything in the book, and hundreds more, are available there. I am amazed that this book is not some kind of copyright infringement.

Readable, easy to understand prints for many different projects. I will modify one of the ideas to fit my immediate needs but the book got me off the ground in a hurry, answering many of my questions on building construction.

Not one plan to build a barn with a mandrel roof. Pictures all over the book for this type of barn with zero info on it. The "researcher" that put this information together was clearly just looking to make a buck. Not sure if the author knows what a classic barn is, but it sure isn't a fence line sheep feeder or a circular crowding pen for swine. This the book covers. Don't waist your money.

I gave this book to a client that was buying a lovely farm house with a large barn. This book was a hit and they couldn't wait to check it out. It was the perfect gift choice!

Limited number of plans, but thorough instructions for each.

good book more barns than anything, but handy.

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