

ALBERT CITY
THRESHERMEN
& COLLECTORS SHOW

August 6-9, 2026

2026 Official Show Guide



Old Power Round-Up
& Wheat Run



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ALBERT CITY THRESHERMEN & COLLECTORS SHOW

2026 Official Show Guide

It's an exciting year for visitors to the 55th annual Threshermen and Collectors Show. An all-new feature awaits with a unique line-up of field activities.

If you ask visitors what they enjoy most about the annual show, the top two responses are the field activities and the homemade ice cream. (And not always in that order!)

This year the west field will host an old-time wheat run featuring many combines in the field along with all of the other support equipment that would have been used in a typical large-scale wheat run operation. These are some of the things we see each year, but the number of combines expected along with all of the other machinery will be a unique demonstration.

In the feature area, old power prior to the 1930s will be on display. Take in the steam engines, large kerosene and gas tractors and other machinery gathered here. Organizers have worked hard to host some very rare and unique machinery coming from Iowa and area states.

As you enjoy the show, please take a moment to share your appreciation to the many volunteers who have given of their time and talents to put on such a great event.

As always, we appreciate those businesses who continue to contribute to the annual show with their support of this publication.

I offer my thanks to those who have shared their time, their talents and of course, their stories.

See you at the show.

Connie J Reinert

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Threshermen Present Old Power Round-up and Wheat Run

The Albert City Threshermen and Collectors Association invites you to the 55th annual show. The Association welcomes pre-1930s farm power to be part of the special feature. There will also be a wheat run demonstration.

Visitors and exhibitors will find many of the traditional hands-on activities during this special four-day show that runs Aug. 6-9, 2026.

The Threshermen's Tractor Ride will leave the grounds at 1 p.m. Thursday. The ride is open to all makes of tractors.

In the field you can expect to see around 20 combines running to give a visual of what a custom harvest crew might look like. The Wheat Run will not be done on Thursday but will be done Friday through Sunday. Bleachers are provided for guests to enjoy watching all of the field activities and trolleys are ready for rides to and from the field areas.

Be sure to stop in at Freedom Hall to check out the new displays and memorabilia that have been organized by members of area veterans' service organizations.

The Civil War reenactment group, Army of the Southwest, will be demonstrating life in the period of the Civil War. Stop by to visit with them at the south end of the grounds.

Grandma's Farmhouse will have many displays to remind you of family life in the early to mid-1900s. There is a great line-up of musical entertainment under the shelter.

Field demonstrations will include corn shelling, combining, baling, discing, raking and threshing – demonstrations done with both tractors and horses.

Remember to stop by and get a cup of the homemade Threshermen's Ice Cream.

Regularly scheduled exhibits include a toy show, carpenter shop, Grandpa's barn, craft vendors, stationary gas engines, vintage military vehicles, antique cars and trucks, Ridge Runners, blacksmith shop, broom factory, flour mill, saw mill, school house, farm house, Svenska Stuga, and many horse activities.

Kids can enjoy driving garden tractors both Friday and Saturday or they can try the pedal pull Saturday morning. There are old-fashioned games and face painting for kids each afternoon and of course the potato patch event is each afternoon.

All events are weather-permitting and may change. Please listen to announcements during the show.

The 55th show officially begins with Opening Ceremonies at 9 a.m. Thursday. Admission for those 12 years and older is \$10 per day. A four-day pass can be purchased for \$30. Children 11 and under are admitted free.

A complete schedule of events and show grounds map can be found on pages 20-21.



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Old Power is New Feature for the 2026 Threshermen's Show

An all-new feature concept is planned for the 55th annual Threshermen & Collectors Show set for August 6-9, 2026.

It's the Old Power Round-up and according to Director Brady Bonin, the idea has been developing over several years to do a unique feature event like this.

It will highlight the big power used on the farm through the 1930s.

Visitors to the show can expect to see big and small steam engines, huge prairie tractors and of course, horse power.

"We are organizing about 20 combines that will do a demonstration of a wheat run," said Bonin.

"The show is going to be stretched to four days, starting Thursday and running through Sunday.

"We plan to have seven to 10 separators doing threshing all four days. There will be big plowing days Friday through Sunday."

What is unique to this show is that all makes will be a part of the feature rather than the typical focus of just one make of machinery.

From the late 1800s to the 1930s, farming machinery underwent a dramatic transformation that reshaped agriculture and rural life. In the late 19th century, horse-drawn implements such as plows, harrows, and seed drills were widely used. The mechanical reaper and grain binder allowed farmers to harvest crops faster and with less labor.

By the early 20th century, gasoline-powered tractors began replacing horses and big prairie tractors were used to bust up the Midwest sod. These machines reduced the physical burden on farmers and significantly boosted productivity. The 1920s and 1930s saw further advancements in combines, threshers, and corn pickers, which allowed for greater efficiency and larger farm operations. This era laid the groundwork for the modern, mechanized farming that would dominate the Midwest in the decades to come.

See this history come to life at the 55th annual Threshermen & Collectors Show.

Upcoming features include the National Rumely Collectors Show in 2027.

Threshermen: you have built a great show over the years. Congratulations!

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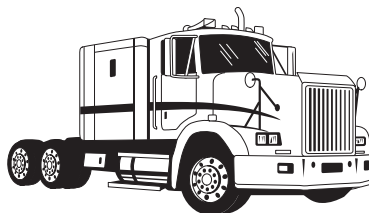
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Bodie Turner will Exhibit One-of-a-Kind American Tractor

Bodie Turner of Dunkerton, Iowa, has been passionate about antique tractors for nearly half his life. A self-employed farmer, Turner first discovered the hobby at just seven years old while attending tractor shows, auctions, and swap meets with his grandfather, Kenny Kass. Fourteen years later, that early fascination has grown into a collection of unique and historic machinery.

This year, Turner is bringing one of the rarest tractors visitors will see – a 1913 American gas tractor built by the Diamond Engine Works of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The tractor is believed to be the only known surviving example. It features a three-speed transmission. In an unusual design, the operator sits near the front with the majority of the machine behind him.

Turner says countless hours have been spent restoring it to its original condition. It was in 2013, when he was just eight years old, that he went with his great-grandfather to an estate auction in South Dakota. Among the tractors was the Diamond American 40-70 and that day it came home to the Kass farm.

Although he collects a wide variety of antique equipment, one of his personal favorites is a 30-60 Square Radiator Aultman-Taylor tractor. He regularly attends several Midwest shows, including Antique Acres, his local show, and often travels to White Pine (Minn.) or Charles City over Labor Day weekend.

Turner previously attended the Albert City Threshermen & Collectors Show when John Deere was the featured brand and is excited to return this year. More than anything, he enjoys reconnecting with friends, meeting fellow collectors, and sharing stories about antique machinery. He will also be joined by several friends traveling from across the region to enjoy the exhibits together.

Preparing a tractor for a show is no small task. Turner and his crew carefully clean, grease, inspect, and load each tractor onto a lowboy trailer, coordinating closely with show organizers to ensure everything goes smoothly.

At this year's show, Turner is especially looking forward to seeing familiar faces, making new connections, and putting the rare 1913 American tractor to work in the plowing demonstrations.



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For Chuck Bos, Early Prairie Tractors Bring History to Life

For Chuck and Diane Bos of Geneseo, Illinois, collecting antique farm machinery is about much more than restoring old iron. It is about preserving agricultural history, educating future generations, and sharing the stories of early farming with visitors at tractor and threshing shows across the country.

This year, the Bos family will bring two impressive Minneapolis Threshing Machine Co. tractors to the Albert City Threshermen & Collectors Show: a rare 1913 model 40/80 and a beautifully restored 1921 model 22/44.

Chuck's fascination with farm machinery began during his childhood on the farm. Growing up, he attended threshing shows and developed a strong appreciation for the mechanical ingenuity of early agricultural equipment. When he began collecting on his own in 1989, he quickly became involved in the show circuit, participating in exhibitions throughout the Midwest and beyond.

Today, Chuck owns Bos Machine Tool Services, Inc., but much of his spare time is devoted to researching, restoring, and demonstrating early farm machinery. His passion for preserving agricultural heritage even led to the creation of the Bos Brothers Fall Harvest Show, an annual event that he and his brother founded 11 years ago. The show focuses on accurately demonstrating historical farming methods and providing educational experiences for visitors. The Bos Brothers Fall Harvest Show will be held this year on Sept. 25-27.

Among the tractors Chuck will display at Albert City, the 1913 Minneapolis Threshing Machine Co. 40/80 is especially noteworthy. As one of the company's early models, it features several engineering characteristics that



The 1913 Minneapolis Threshing Machine Co. model 40-80. (Submitted photo.)

disappeared on later tractors. Unlike modern engines, its cylinders do not have removable heads. Chuck explains that gasket technology of the era was not yet advanced enough to reliably seal removable cylinder heads.

The tractor was also specifically designed to burn kerosene rather than gasoline. Its water manifolds, intake manifold, exhaust manifold, and carburetion system were all engineered around that fuel choice. Much of Chuck's work on the tractor has focused on restoring and maintaining its unique kerosene carburetion system.

His second exhibit, a 1921 Minneapolis Threshing Machine Co. 22/44, represents a smaller version of the classic prairie tractor. Completely restored, it showcases the type of machine that helped power agriculture during the early twentieth century. While many collectors and showgoers are familiar with the larger 30/60 prairie tractors, the 22/44 is a less common sight at today's shows.

Chuck's collecting interests center primarily on tractors built between 1907 and 1925. In addition to tractors, he collects machinery that would have worked alongside them, including moldboard plows, road graders, threshing machines, and sawmills. Together, these pieces help tell the complete story of early mechanized farming.

The hobby has become a family affair for the Bos family. Diane, their three children and five grandchildren all participate in various aspects of collecting and attending shows. Over the years, they have traveled to events from California to North Carolina, making friendships that span the country.

Although Chuck still enjoys studying and operating



A view from the operator's platform of the 1921 Minneapolis Threshing Machine Co. 22-44.



The beautifully restored 1921 Minneapolis Threshing Machine Co. 22-44 belted up to a thresher at the show in 2022.

antique machinery, he says the people have become the most rewarding part of the hobby. He especially enjoys visiting with friends and visitors and explaining the history and significance of old farming practices.

His advice to fellow collectors is simple: collect what interests you and don't view the hobby as a financial investment. Instead, he encourages collectors to see themselves as caretakers of history.

"I try to look at it as a way to preserve this equipment so future generations can learn from it," Chuck says.

Transporting large antique machinery is never easy. While many of his exhibits can be hauled on a trailer behind a pickup truck, this year's two tractor exhibits will make the trip to Albert City aboard a hired semi-truck. The extra effort is worthwhile, however, for the opportunity to share these rare machines with fellow enthusiasts.

As the show approaches, Chuck is looking forward to reconnecting with friends in the hobby and introducing visitors to some of the unique features of early Minneapolis tractors. Through exhibits like his, the history of mechanical farming remains alive, helping new generations appreciate the innovation and hard work that shaped agriculture more than a century ago.



Chuck Bos has exhibited his 1921 model 22-44 at Albert City and it is always busy. From powering the thresher, the sawmill or the shingle mill. At right is an early 1900s Chase shingle mill. It runs at 1,000 rpm with a 40" blade/edger.





The 2025 show featured J.I. Case and a highlight was having the Case 150 hp steam engine on exhibit. There was a total of 324 featured Case exhibits. There were 520 tractors, 68 garden-yard tractors, 78 implements, 91 antique autos, 13 antique trucks, 18 horses, 9 large gas/kerosene tractors, 44 stationary gas engines, 27 military exhibits, 22 crafters, and 9 vendors selling toys and farm-related items. Registered at the campground were 94 camping units. Total attendance at the show held Aug. 8-10 was 13,009.

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Horsepower



The Threshermen & Collectors Show is fortunate to have a large group of horse owners willing to bring their beautiful animals to the show each year. They can be seen in various horse-powered activities including powering the hand-fed separator, walking plow demonstrations, plowing potatoes, raking, binding and discing. And of course, they are seen throughout the grounds pulling wagons and trolleys.

Plan now for the 2028 show featuring Horsepower, show dates are Aug. 11, 12, and 13.

Grandma's Farmhouse Brings Back Lots of Memories

Just like other areas of the show, Grandma's Farmhouse brings back lots of memories.

As soon as a visitor steps up into the porch, the conversations start and they continue as folks walk through the well-decorated kitchen, dining room and living room before walking out on the front porch.

Kathy Sangwin from Laurens and Theresa Erickson from Marathon started heading up and organizing Grandma's Farmhouse in 2011. They enjoy doing the work together and they enjoy visiting with the guests.

"What I enjoy the most is visiting with the people," said Kathy. "They all have interesting stories and they tell us their memories."

Theresa added, "They see something here that brings back memories. They remember that their grandmother or mother used it. Sometimes we have something and we aren't sure what it is or how it was used. But they tell us about it and that helps us learn more. It is fun to hear the stories."



Theresa Erickson of Marathon (left) and Kathy Sangwin of Laurens started as volunteers at the Farm House in 2011.

Their work starts long before show time. Each year there is extensive cleaning to do and typically a few repairs.

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Around the outside of the farmhouse, beautiful flower gardens are planted and maintained to welcome visitors.

The entire house gets a makeover each year with updated displays and different household items. Some belong to Kathy and Theresa, while others are on loan for the show. Each year's design of the house is unique while keeping with the goal of sharing just how grandma maintained the family home.

They also have cookies available for anyone needing a quick snack.

Plan some time to visit the farmhouse and enjoy a few "Oh, I remember" moments with your family.



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Albert City Invites You to Stop By and Visit



Anyone wishing to take a short break from the action on the showgrounds is invited to visit Albert City for some air-conditioning and shopping!

Enjoy shopping at the downtown stores for antiques, gifts, hand-crafted items and home decor. Take a break for a warm or iced beverage or slip into the air-conditioned library for a break from the action.



Located just north of downtown in Albert City, visitors will find the Albert City Museum. The complex includes six buildings with about every type of historical artifact on display. The Museum was chartered in 1974 and opened for business on July 4, 1976 with just the house. It was one of the first homes built in town. Visitors can walk through the house and see it as it would have appeared over 100 years ago. The Depot building was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Other buildings to enjoy include the Heritage House, Anderson Mercantile, Country School, and Freight Room that holds a rare collection of restored cars.



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City of Albert City

Worth the visit: Buena Vista County Freedom Rock in Albert City

The Buena Vista County Freedom Rock is located in downtown Albert City and for anyone visiting the area, is definitely worth checking it out.

As a way to thank service men and women, Ray “Bubba” Sorenson put his artistic talents to work painting a Freedom Rock in every Iowa county. His main goal was to honor those who have served this country.

Painted on the broad side of the rock facing the street is “Rosie the Riveter.” Ed Sundholm owned a dairy farm two miles west of Albert City. In 1924, he was also busy starting Superior Manufacturing where he designed and patented grease guns along with other products.

As the U.S. went into WWII, young men enlisted by the tens of thousands. To support their sons, brothers and husbands, and to help keep the country running smoothly, women across the country joined the labor force. Ed Sundholm converted his manufacturing company from making grease guns to 20-mm shell casings, shell primers and bomb parts. Local women joined in helping to push his workforce to 300.

On the opposite side is Edmund Bristol Gregory, a Storm Lake native. Gregory graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and rose to the office of Quartermaster General during



WWII. He was responsible for development, procurement, and distribution of billions of dollars worth of supplies and equipment as well as training thousands of quartermaster soldiers and civilian personnel.

Bubba, in keeping with his own tradition, draped a flag over the top of the rock. A bald eagle faces the street.

For fun, Bubba often hides the names or initials of his wife, Maria and children, Independence and Michael in the paintings.

Notice the ten rock seats that surround the rock, each representing a town in Buena Vista County.

Following the Wheat: The Era of the Big Threshing Runs

The 55th annual show brings a new twist to field activities. For over 12 years, visitors have become accustomed to watching the Year of Farming Demonstration which shows many of the typical field activities done over one year on the farm.

This year, organizers are putting together a demonstration of a wheat run which will take place Fri., Sat., and Sunday afternoon starting at 1 p.m. Plans are to have 20 to 30 combines – from pull-type to self-propelled – running in the field for the wheat run. Grain carts will run alongside the combines and following that there will be rakes, balers, and plows all working in the field. There will be many threshing machines running each day of the show as well.

Long before self-propelled combines could harvest hundreds of acres in a day, wheat harvesting was one of the most labor-intensive jobs on the farm. Across the Great Plains and prairie regions of North America, entire crews of men, horses, wagons, steam engines and threshing machines moved from farm to farm in what became known as the “wheat run” or “threshing run.”

The Origins of the Wheat Run

Threshing – the process of separating grain kernels from the straw and chaff – had been done by hand for centuries. Early farmers used flails and other hand tools to beat grain loose from the stalks. The work was slow, exhausting and often continued into the winter following harvest.

The invention of mechanical threshing machines during the 19th century revolutionized grain farming. By the 1850s and 1860s, portable threshing machines were becoming common across the Midwest and Great Plains. The machines could process grain much faster than hand labor, but they were expensive and required considerable power and manpower to operate.

Most farmers could not justify owning their own threshing machine. Instead, groups of neighbors often pooled resources or hired a professional threshing outfit. As wheat production expanded westward into states such as Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Montana, specialized threshing crews began traveling from farm to farm following the ripening wheat crop.

These crews would start in southern areas where wheat matured first and gradually move north as the harvest season progressed. In some regions, custom operators traveled hundreds of miles each season, harvesting and threshing grain for dozens of farms.

The Equipment of the Threshing Crew

The centerpiece of every threshing outfit was the threshing machine, often simply called the separator. The machine received bundles of grain and mechanically separated the kernels from the straw. Grain was cleaned and dropped into wagons while straw was blown into a growing stack nearby.

Powering these machines required substantial horsepower. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, steam traction engines became the preferred power source. These huge engines burned coal, wood or straw to heat water and create steam pressure. A long drive belt connected the steam engine to the threshing machine, transferring power to the separator.

Steam engines from manufacturers such as Case, Reeves, Advance-Rumely, Nichols & Shepard and Minneapolis were common sights on threshing runs. Some of the largest engines developed more than 30 horsepower and weighed many tons.

The threshing crew needed numerous grain wagons, water wagons and horse-drawn equipment. Before threshing could begin, grain had to be harvested with binders that cut the wheat and tied it into bundles known as sheaves. These sheaves were gathered into shocks and allowed to dry in the field.

When the threshing crew arrived, teams of horses hauled rack wagons into the field where workers loaded the bundles. The wagons then hauled the bundles to the threshing machine.

By the early 20th century, gasoline and kerosene tractors began replacing steam engines on some threshing operations. Tractors required fewer workers and less maintenance, though steam remained popular on many large outfits well into the 1920s.

A Day on the Wheat Run

A threshing day often began before sunrise and continued until dark.

The crew itself might include 15 to 30 men, depending on the size of the operation. Every worker had a specific task. Bundle pitchers stood on wagons and tossed bundles into the feeder. The feeder carefully guided bundles into the threshing machine. Grain haulers hauled filled wagons to elevators or storage bins. Straw stackers managed the growing straw pile.

Others supplied water, coal or fuel to the engine. A skilled engineer monitored the steam engine’s boiler pressure and operation. A fireman maintained the firebox and ensured a constant supply of fuel.

The pace was harsh. A stoppage at any point could slow the entire operation. Experienced crews took pride in maintaining a smooth flow of grain through the machine.

Meals became important social events. Farm families prepared enormous dinners for the crew, often serving roasted meats, potatoes, vegetables, fresh bread and a variety of pies and desserts. It was not uncommon for dozens of people to gather around long tables during the noon meal.

For many rural communities, threshing season was as much a social occasion as it was a harvest activity. Neighbors exchanged news, shared labor and strengthened community ties while ensuring everyone’s crop was harvested before bad weather arrived.



Taken between 1910 and 1920, a five-man crew riding a wheat combination harvester pulled by a team of twenty or more horses. Photo credit: Library of Congress.

The Great Wheat Bonanza Farms

Some of the most famous threshing runs occurred on the enormous bonanza farms of the northern Great Plains during the late 1800s.

In the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota, investors assembled farms covering thousands of acres. These operations specialized in wheat production and required unprecedented harvesting systems.

Some harvest crews became migratory operations, following the wheat harvest from Texas through Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and into the Dakotas. These harvesters represented one of the earliest forms of large-scale custom harvesting.

The seasonal movement of crews, machinery and workers created an important part of the agricultural economy.

Why the Wheat Runs Disappeared

The decline of the traditional threshing run began during the 1920s and accelerated through the 1930s and 1940s.

The primary reason was the development of the combine harvester. Unlike the binder-thresher system, a combine could cut, thresh and clean grain in a single operation. Farmers no longer needed to harvest grain in bundles, shock it in the field, haul it to a separator and then thresh it days or weeks later.

Early combines were pulled by horses or tractors, but self-propelled combines transformed grain harvesting. One machine could accomplish the work that previously required dozens of workers.

Labor shortages also contributed to the end of threshing crews. As rural populations declined and young people left farms for urban jobs, it became increasingly difficult to assemble large crews.

Steam engines disappeared as tractors became more reliable and economical. Improvements in machinery allowed individual farmers to own equipment capable of handling their own harvest without relying on neighborhood threshing crews.

By the 1950s, traditional threshing runs had largely disap-

peared from the American countryside. The once-familiar sights and sounds of steam whistles, belt-driven machinery and large harvest crews became only memories.

Preserving the Legacy

Now, antique tractor and steam engine shows keep the history of threshing runs alive. Across the country, volunteers restore steam engines, threshing machines and other harvesting equipment to demonstrate how wheat was harvested a century ago.

Visitors who watch a threshing demonstration gain an appreciation for the tremendous labor required to produce grain before modern agriculture. They witness the teamwork, coordination and mechanical ingenuity that made large-scale wheat farming possible.

The wheat run remains a symbol of rural cooperation and agricultural progress. Although modern combines have replaced the old threshing crews, the legacy of those hard-working men, powerful machines and community-centered harvests continues to fascinate collectors and farming families alike.



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The 1915 30 hp Avery steam traction engine owned by Tristan Klontz. (Submitted photos)

Tristan Klontz Brings a Rare Avery to the Albert City Threshermen's Show

For Tristan Klontz of Finlayson, Minnesota, restoring and operating antique machinery isn't simply a hobby – it's part of his family's heritage. A fourth-generation steam enthusiast, Klontz has spent his entire life around antique farm and construction equipment, and this year he'll share one of the most impressive steam engines ever built with visitors to the Albert City Threshermen & Collectors Show.

Klontz, who owns a trucking and excavation company, will be exhibiting a beautifully restored 1915 30-horsepower Avery undermount traction engine. The massive machine holds a special distinction as the largest traction engine ever produced by the Avery Company.

"I've been in the hobby since the day I was born," Klontz said. "I collect antique farming and construction machinery because I enjoy keeping the hobby alive and teaching people how they work."

That passion is evident in the restoration itself. Bringing a 111-year-old steam engine back to operating condition is no small undertaking. Klontz estimates that countless

hours have gone into the project.

"Every nut and bolt has been taken out and repaired or replaced," he said.

The Avery Company, founded in the late 1800s by inventor and entrepreneur B. D. Avery, became one of America's leading builders of traction engines and later gasoline tractors. Based in Peoria, Illinois, Avery earned a reputation for producing reliable, innovative machines that were popular throughout the Midwest. Among its distinctive designs was the undermount traction engine, in which the boiler sat lower in the frame than traditional engines. This lowered the machine's center of gravity, making it more stable and easier to operate over uneven ground while also improving visibility for the engineer.

During the early 1900s, engines like Klontz's Avery provided the power that helped transform agriculture. They pulled heavy tillage equipment, powered sawmills and corn shellers, and most famously operated threshing machines during harvest. Before tractors became common, these giant steam engines were the workhorses that allowed

Midwest farmers to harvest grain more efficiently than ever before.

Klontz has attended the Albert City show once before as a visitor and quickly decided he wanted to return with an exhibit of his own.

"I enjoyed it, so I'm coming back with an exhibit to put it to work," he said.

Each year, he attends three or four shows with his collection. Getting there is part of the adventure. The enormous traction engine is loaded onto a semi-truck and lowboy trailer for the trip, attracting attention wherever it goes.

"Traveling to shows with exhibits is part of the fun," Klontz said. "We load them up on a semi with a lowboy and travel across the country, turning heads at every intersection and starting conversations at the fuel stations."

For Klontz, however, the machinery is only part of the experience. Antique machinery shows offer an opportunity to reconnect with longtime friends, meet new enthusiasts and introduce younger generations to the technology that helped build American agriculture.

"I enjoy the shows because I meet new people and put smiles on people's faces," he said.

Visitors to this year's Albert City show will have the opportunity to see one of Avery's largest and rarest traction engines doing exactly what it was built to do more than a century ago. For Klontz, sharing that experience is the reward for years of careful restoration—and another step in carrying on a family tradition that spans four generations.



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Threshermen Recognize all Veterans as 2026 Parade Marshals

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, the Threshermen and Collectors Association is recognizing all veterans as 2026 Parade Marshals. As we reflect on the 250 years of America, let's take a moment to consider the lives of those lost or wounded as they sacrificed for our freedom.

The **American Revolution (1765–1783)** was an ideological and political movement in the Thirteen Colonies in what was then British America. The Declaration of Independence in 1776 served to inspire, formalize, and escalate the war, which ultimately ended British colonial rule over the colonies, permitting their independence and the establishment of the United States of America.

The **War of 1812** was fought between the United States and Great Britain from 1812 to 1815.

From 1817 to 1898, the United States waged a series of conflicts known as the **Indian Wars**, which were driven by the nation's westward expansion.

The **Mexican-American War**, fought from 1846 to 1848, was a conflict between the United States and Mexico that arose from territorial disputes and expansionist ambitions.

The **American Civil War**, fought between 1861 and 1865, was a defining moment in U.S. history. The conflict arose primarily over deep divisions concerning slavery and states' rights. The Southern states, fearing that the growing political power of the Northern states would threaten their way of life and economy, which heavily depended on enslaved labor, seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. The Northern states, or the Union, led by President Abraham Lincoln, sought to preserve the United States as a single nation and eventually moved to abolish slavery.

The **Spanish-American War**, fought in 1898, began after years of rising tensions between the United States and Spain over Spain's colonial rule in Cuba.

Although **World War I** began in 1914, the United States did not enter the conflict until 1917. The war started in Europe as a struggle among powerful nations, including Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia. The war ended in 1918 when Germany agreed to an armistice.

In the early days of **World War II**, the United States remained on the sidelines as conflict engulfed Europe, Africa, and Asia. However, the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 brought the U.S. fully into the struggle. The Allied victory in 1945 wasn't just a triumph of military might—it was a global effort that drew upon the courage, resilience, and unity of people from around the world, ending the war and setting



the stage for a new chapter in human history.

The **Korean War** began in 1950, when North Korean forces, backed by the Soviet Union and China, crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea, aiming to reunify the peninsula under communist control. An armistice came in 1953 with Korea still divided.

The **Vietnam War** was a long and bitter conflict that unfolded over several decades, though the most intense fighting occurred between the early 1960s and 1975.

The **Gulf War**, also known as Desert Shield and Desert Storm, began in August 1990 when Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, invaded neighboring Kuwait. Desert Storm ended in victory for the Allied forces in 1991.

Global War on Terror (Oct 2001 – Sept 2021). The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), was an ongoing conflict. It ended on September 11, 2021, the twentieth anniversary of the attacks.

*U.S. Military Service during wartime, 1775-1991:	41,892,128
Battle Deaths:	651,031
Other Deaths (In Theater):	308,800
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater):	230,254
Non-mortal Woundings:	1,430,290
Living War Veterans:	14,918,000
Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace):	19,210,000

**VA facilities in Iowa include: two National/State Cemeteries, 1 VBA regional office, 2 inpatient care sites, 3 veteran centers and 25 outpatient care sites.

In 2024 in Iowa:

Number of Veterans	177,099
Percent over the age of 65	49.4
Number over the age of 65	87,527
Percent of women veterans	9.5
Number of women veterans	16,904

In Buena Vista County as of Sept. 30, 2023:

Number of Veterans	805
Number of Female Veterans	59
Number of Veterans age 17-44	147
Number of Veterans age 45-64	226
Number of Veterans age 65-84	351
Number of Veterans over age 85	81

*Source: America's Wars Factsheet Nov. 2023. Numbers do not reflect Global War on Terror (Oct. 2001-Sept. 2021)

**Source: National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Steins to Serve as Feature Parade Marshals

Ron and Esther Stein of Woolstock, Iowa are being recognized as the Parade Marshals for the 2026 Feature Parade.

Ron started attending the show with his family in the 1970s. The UDLX Comfortractor owned by his father, Curt, was featured on the show button for 1988.

"I like threshing, plowing, and visiting with everyone," said Ron. "Esther and I like to travel, so we try each year to go some place new and old. We have been to the Red Power Round Up, Charles City, Illinois, Wisconsin, Belmond even to the Florida Fly Wheelers."

He says all of his equipment is a favorite but a couple that top the list are the 30-60 Aultman-Taylor with a square radiator and a 1974 I-H 1568 V-8 DV-550.

Ron says they always enjoy the show and a couple things he enjoys most is the homemade ice cream and helping others with their tractors.

The Steins have been married 51 years and have one



Esther and Ron Stein with the 1918 40-80 Minneapolis.

son. Ron is semi-retired from farming and his nephew Grant Stein and their other nieces and nephews do most of the work.

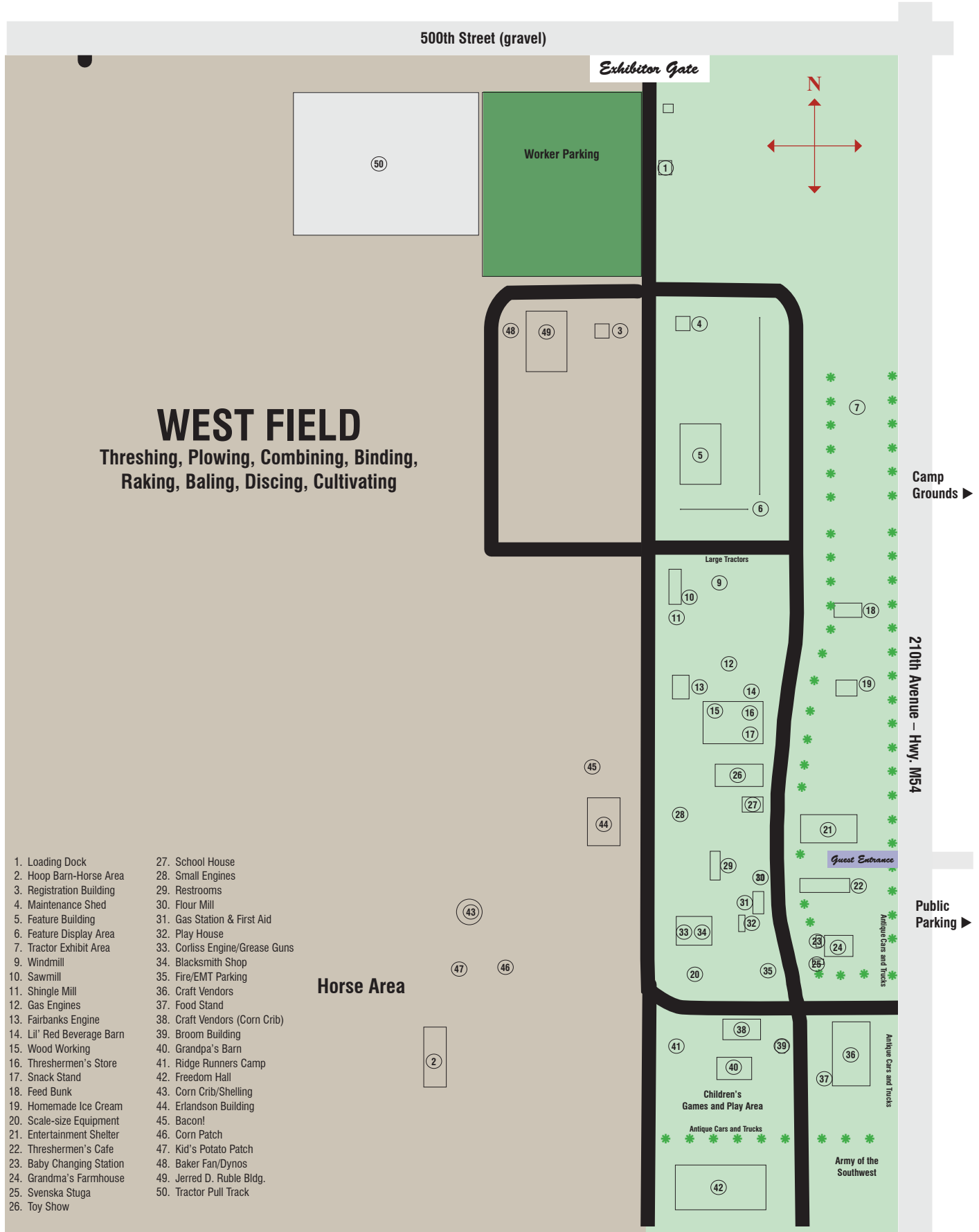
Esther is retired and helps with lunches and rides during the busy farm seasons.

"We were totally surprised and honored for being named the Feature Parade Marshals," said Ron. "I enjoy the gathering of family and friends around our campers and of course checking out the different tractors and equipment each year."



Ron Stein with his father, Curt in the 1914 30-60 Aultman-Taylor at the Threshermen's Parade in 2009.

ALBERT CITY THRESHERMEN & COLLECTORS SHOW GROUNDS



1. Loading Dock
2. Hoop Barn-Horse Area
3. Registration Building
4. Maintenance Shed
5. Feature Building
6. Feature Display Area
7. Tractor Exhibit Area
9. Windmill
10. Sawmill
11. Shingle Mill
12. Gas Engines
13. Fairbanks Engine
14. Lil' Red Beverage Barn
15. Wood Working
16. Threshermen's Store
17. Snack Stand
18. Feed Bunk
19. Homemade Ice Cream
20. Scale-size Equipment
21. Entertainment Shelter
22. Threshermen's Cafe
23. Baby Changing Station
24. Grandma's Farmhouse
25. Svenska Stuga
26. Toy Show
27. School House
28. Small Engines
29. Restrooms
30. Flour Mill
31. Gas Station & First Aid
32. Play House
33. Corliss Engine/Grease Guns
34. Blacksmith Shop
35. Fire/EMT Parking
36. Craft Vendors
37. Food Stand
38. Craft Vendors (Corn Crib)
39. Broom Building
40. Grandpa's Barn
41. Ridge Runners Camp
42. Freedom Hall
43. Corn Crib/Shelling
44. Erlandson Building
45. Bacon!
46. Corn Patch
47. Kid's Potato Patch
48. Baker Fan/Dynos
49. Jerred D. Ruble Bldg.
50. Tractor Pull Track

Three Generations with a Passion to Bring History to Life

For Brian Pennington of Lucas, Iowa, collecting antique farm machinery has never been just about owning old iron. It is about preserving agricultural history, sharing it with others, and most importantly, putting those machines back to work in the field where they belong.

Joining Brian at this year's Albert City Threshermen and Collectors Show will be his son, Tyler Pennington of Chariton, Iowa, along with longtime friend and fellow collector Verne Book, also of Chariton. Together, the trio has built a collection that spans nearly six decades of farm machinery and reflects a shared appreciation for the ingenuity of generations past.

The Penningtons make their living much the same way their ancestors did—working the land. Brian farms row crops and hay while also operating an agricultural excavation business specializing in tiling, terraces, and ponds. Although modern equipment fills the workday, vintage machinery has occupied his free time for nearly 45 years.

"My first tractor was a 4-H project," Brian recalls. That purchase sparked a lifelong hobby that has grown into a family tradition involving three generations.

Today, the collection includes tractors, plows, combines and a grain cart that visitors will see both on display and, more importantly, in action during the show's field demonstrations. While John Deere equipment makes up the majority of the collection, it also features Minneapolis-Moline, International Harvester and Case machines. The equipment ranges from a 1931 model to machines built as recently as 1988.

Rather than focusing on a single manufacturer, Brian says they appreciate good farm machinery regardless of its color.



Brian Pennington (center) with his dad, Harold, at right and his son, Tyler and two grandchildren, Kullen and Kennedy. (Submitted photo)

"We really don't have a preference," he explains. "If it's an interesting piece of farm history, we enjoy it."

What sets their collection apart is their dedication to originality. While many restorers strive for flawless paint and showroom finishes, the Pennington group takes a different approach.

"We try to make everything as close to original as possible," Brian says. "Sometimes they may not look the best because painting is the last step, or we leave them in original paint if it's still decent."

That philosophy means preserving as much history as possible, even if every machine isn't gleaming with fresh paint. Mechanical reliability comes first, allowing the equipment to perform the jobs it was designed to do decades ago.

That is exactly what Brian enjoys most.

"We enjoy operating and watching the equipment in the field the way it was intended to be used."

Those field demonstrations are the highlight of nearly every show they attend, and that is especially true this year.

The Pennington crew is particularly excited about participating in the Albert City wheat run, where combines and harvesting equipment once again roll through golden grain just as they did generations ago.

"We're looking forward to the wheat run," Brian says. "We really enjoy showing our harvest equipment in the field."

The group has attended several Albert City shows over the past decade and has exhibited during each of the last four years. Like many collectors, they also enjoy supporting other events across Iowa. At home, they have even



A side view of the 1969 John Deere 105 combine.



The Penningtons brought the 1969 John Deere 105 diesel hydraulic combine and the 1957 John Deere 45 combine to the Albert City Threshermen and Collectors Show in 2024 and visitors this year can look forward to seeing them in action again.

hosted their own fall demonstrations featuring corn picking and shelling, giving visitors a chance to experience another chapter of Midwestern farming history. They also attended a collector show near Ellston, Iowa, for many years before it concluded after a successful 10-year run.

Behind every polished tractor and working combine are countless hours of labor.

Brian admits there is one secret to enjoying the hobby. “We figured out not to keep track of the time,” he laughs.

Restoration work often includes stubborn broken bolts, tracking down hard-to-find replacement parts and solving mechanical problems that haven’t been addressed in decades. Yet those challenges become part of the reward.

“The enjoyable part is talking to and meeting other people with the same passion for older equipment.”

Transporting the collection is another major undertaking. Making the trip to Albert City requires more than simply hitching up a trailer. The Pennington group typically arrives with several semi-loads and multiple goose-neck trailers, making the three-hour drive from southern Iowa in five or six separate trips.

It also becomes a true family effort.

“We all travel together when we’re show-bound,” Brian says. “It’s one of the only times of the year the wives be-

come equipment haulers because the final loads come up on the first day of the show.”

For the Penningtons, the hobby has always been about family. From Brian’s father to the youngest grandchildren, everyone finds a role in preparing equipment, hauling machinery or simply enjoying time together at the shows.

When asked what advice he would give to someone considering the hobby, Brian smiles.

“It is very addictive,” he says. “But it’s also rewarding seeing what you’ve spent hours getting ready for not only on display, but out in the field doing what it was intended to do.”

Of course, every successful show has its own traditions, and Brian already knows how he plans to celebrate after the trailers are emptied and the equipment is lined up.

“I’m looking forward to getting everything unloaded and into the field,” he says. “And definitely the homemade ice cream.”

For visitors attending this year’s Albert City show, the Pennington family’s exhibit promises more than a display of well-preserved machinery. It offers a chance to see agricultural history come alive—one pass through the field at a time.

Annual Quilts of Valor Presentation Recognizes Area Veterans

For eight years, volunteers have presented Quilts of Valor during the Threshermen's Show. Sandra Otto is a quilter and organizer of the annual event.

"The mission of Quilts of Valor is to honor our service members and veterans who have been touched by war with Quilts of Valor, and we feel all service personnel have been touched by war," she explained.

It is a national organization founded in 2003 by "Blue Star" mom Catherine Roberts literally with a dream. Catherine's son Nate was deployed in Iraq. She said she was "ten seconds away from panic" twenty-four hours a day.

She had a dream as vivid as real life. In her words she said, "I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The overall feeling was one of utter despair. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and wellbeing. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing."

Since then, over 419,700 Quilts of Valor have been awarded in the United States, and in Germany, Iraq and Afghanistan. That means that 25,700 quilts were made, donated and awarded since the last Threshermen's event!

Sandra tells the veterans, "On each quilt is a label that tells a little about it. As of today, the story of this quilt becomes your story. We hope you will keep this quilt with you, use it and be comforted by it, as a reminder that there are thousands of women and men across these lands that are forever in your debt.

"Though we may never know the depth of your sacrifice to protect and defend the United States of America, as an expression of gratitude from a grateful nation, we are humbled to be awarding you a Quilt of Valor."

At the presentation in 2025, two veterans were honored:

Samual Aronson was drafted into the United States Army after graduating high school in May 1966. He was sworn in after Labor Day in September 1966 and reported for Basic Training for eight weeks at Fort Bliss, Texas. After basic training he was sent to Fort Huachuca, Arizona for training in his Clerical MOS. Upon completion of A-School and a two-week furlough, he was sent to Vietnam where he was assigned to the Joint Service Command, which was an administrative command in support of military operations. He served there until February 1968, leaving Vietnam and reaching the states just as the Tet Offensive in February 1968 was beginning. He completed



Quilts of Valor volunteer Sandra Otto presented quilts in 2025 to Samual Aronson (left) and Steve Jessen (right). (Submitted photo)

his enlistment as an E5 in North Carolina before being discharged August 29, 1968. During his service he earned the Joint Service Command Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Steve Jessen entered the United States Army May 2, 1968, and was sent to basic training at Ft. Lewis, Washington. Upon completion of basic he was sent to Ft. Huachuca, Arizona for training as a field wireman. Upon completion of his training, he was sent to Ft. Jonathan M. Wainwright, Alaska, where he was attached to B-Battery, 2nd and 15th Field Artillery, 171st Infantry Brigade as a field wireman.

B-Battery is a 105 towed Howitzer unit. They did summer and winter training.

Summer was hot and dirty. Winter was cold, extremely cold. They slept in tents at -60 degrees.

He served as the Commo or Communications Chief from October 1968 until his discharge, during which time he was promoted to E-5 in June of 1969. Steve was discharged April 27th, 1970. Steve received multiple achievement awards, including one during Exercise Golden Husky II in December of 1968. He also received the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal and Expert Rifleman Medal.

Freedom Hall Honors Members of Service with Military Displays

Volunteers from the area service organizations work throughout the year to update and expand on the various military displays at Freedom Hall.

There are over 24 vintage military vehicles in the building. Other displays include uniforms, photos, weapons, and other memorabilia. Each includes a detailed explanation of who manufactured it, the features, use and costs.

Stop and see the 944 Cushman Model 53 Airborne Scooter with a 1944 M-3A4 General Purpose Utility Hand Cart. In the later stages of World War II in Europe, Allied paratroopers used these scooters to maintain contact between units, increase their mobility and haul small loads.

Other displays that visitors will want to see include a replica of a 16-inch projectile that would have been shot from a USS battleship, the "super-heavy" 2,700 pound APC (Armor Piercing, Capped) Mark 8 shell. Large caliber guns were designed to fire two different 16 inch shells: an armor piercing round for anti-ship and anti-structure work, and a high explosive round designed for use against unarmored targets and shore bombardment.

Check out the Clinometer on display. Clinometers are used for measuring list of a ship on still water and the roll in rough water. The angle of list is the degree to which a ship leans or tilts to either port or starboard. The vessel is stable, but the distribution of weight aboard (often caused by uneven loading or flooding) causes it to heel to one side.

Also on display are a 5-inch projectile, Zippo Lighters, a battle lantern, Navy dress uniforms and teak wood from the Battleship USS New Jersey.

Freedom Hall opened in 2014 and was designed to honor all members of service, both past and present. The 64' x 128' building and all related items were made possible thanks to generous donors and volunteers who have covered all expenses.

In 2015, volunteers added more display space and a collection of military patches. That year they featured items from WWI.

In 2016, the display case for the Navy Target Kite was pur-



chased along with two additional display cases. Volunteers created a flag display along the road for show days. The flags, poles and materials were purchased with funds from the Sundholm Foundation.

Veterans take turns staffing the building in an effort to answer questions. Freedom Hall is also open Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other times by appointment. For additional information, contact Garland Otto at 712-574-5762, Trent Christensen at 712-790-3653, Ron White at 712-289-2251 or Sandra Otto at 712-574-5760.






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Enjoy the Threshermen's Tractor Ride Thursday

The annual Threshermen's Tractor Ride will leave the showgrounds Thursday, Aug. 6 at 1 p.m. The ride is open to all makes, ages and models of tractors (and riders). This is the 11th year for the ride, which has brought as many as 50 participants.

Enjoy lunch from the Threshermen's Cafe before heading out on the ride.

The tractor ride will head to Albert City for a visit at the Albert City Historical Museum, which is a large six-building complex.

Next, riders will head to L M & O Railroad Museum in Marathon. The museum features a depot from Pocahontas that is fully outfitted including the tools, ticketing and passenger areas. There is 1,000 feet of train track with working lights and switches. Visitors can actually take a ride around the track.

The museum includes an all-wood executive car from the 1880s and much memorabilia from Marathon including an original ice house and shoe shop.

Participants will get a coupon to enjoy some Threshermen's homemade ice cream during the show. The ride is typically back to the grounds at about 4 p.m.



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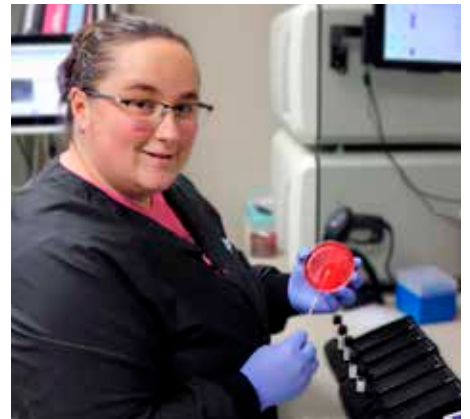
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Many Transitions of Farm Power Sources Prior to the 1930s

It is difficult to imagine farming without tractors, combines and self-propelled machinery. Yet before the 1930s, farmers depended on a variety of power sources to plant, cultivate and harvest crops. The transition of power sources was gradual and spanned several decades. It involved everything from oxen and horses to steam engines and the first gasoline tractors.

For much of the 1800s, the primary source of farm power was livestock. Oxen were among the earliest animals used by settlers moving westward. Oxen were strong, dependable and relatively inexpensive to keep. On the farm, they pulled plows, wagons and breaking equipment as farmers converted prairie sod into productive farmland. They were slow-moving, but well-suited for pioneering conditions.

By the late 1800s, horses were the dominant source of farm power. Horses were faster and more versatile and allowed farmers to work more acres more efficiently. Most farms maintained several work horses, while larger operations owned teams numbering a dozen or more.



The 1996 souvenir button featured Ben & Jerry, a team of oxen owned by Jacklyn Johnson of Brighton, Iowa.

Horse-powered equipment transformed agriculture from slow, backbreaking hand labor to a mechanized, highly efficient industry. Walking binders, plows, mowers, seed drills, cultivators, and wagons were designed to be pulled by horses. Manufacturers developed machinery that required fewer animals while completing more work. The size of a farm was often limited by how many horses a farmer could feed and maintain. Horses and mules must be fed and cared for year round, and farmers needed to set aside nearly six acres of land to harvest feed per animal, per year.

Horse-powered treadmills and sweep-power systems were also common. With this equipment, horses walked in a circle or on a moving platform, turning gears and shafts that powered equipment such as small threshing machines, feed grinders, corn shellers, and water pumps.



A demonstration of horse-powered sweep giving power to a hand-fed thresher at the show.



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The next advance in farm power came with steam power. Beginning in the late 1800s, steam engines became more important on larger farms. Portable steam engines were used to run threshing machines, sawmills and other stationary equipment.

As steam technology improved, traction engines appeared. Self-propelled steam engines could move under their own power and could travel from one place to another. Manufacturers such as J.I. Case, Reeves, Advance-Rumely and Minneapolis produced large engines that became symbols of agricultural progress. Their primary role was belt work during threshing season but some were big enough to pull multiple plows across the field.

The desire for a simpler source of power led to the development of gasoline and kerosene engines. By the early 1900s, small stationary engines began appearing on farms. These engines powered cream separators, feed mills, water pumps and electric generators. They were much more convenient compared to steam engines because they required less labor and could be started relatively quickly.

The first successful gasoline tractors soon followed. Early manufacturers included Hart-Parr, Waterloo Boy, Rumely, Twin City and International Harvester. These machines were often heavy, noisy and expensive, but they demonstrated the potential to replace teams of horses.

With more than 150 companies manufacturing various tractor makes and models in the 1910s, competition became fierce while tractor technology improved rapidly. The introduction of smaller and more affordable machines, allowed average farmers to begin adopting mechanical power. Tractors



A Rumely OilPull tractor owned by the Jondle family parading at a Threshermen's Show.

could work longer hours, pull larger implements and eliminate the need to feed large numbers of horses year-round.

For a time, animal power and tractor power worked side by side. It was common to see tractors handling plowing and doing belt work while horses continued to pull wagons, cultivators and other equipment. By the early 1930s, however, the transition was well underway. Improved tractors, coupled with economic pressures and advances in farm machinery, gradually reduced the need for large horse teams and the use of horse power was phased out on most farms by the mid 1940s.

The farm power demonstrated at the Albert City Threshermen's Show serves as a reminder of the remarkable evolution of power on the American farm.

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Rumely is the Feature Tractor for the 2027 Threshermen's Show

The Rumely Product Collectors will hold their annual expo at next year's show set for August 6-8, 2027.

The national organization holds the annual show at different locations across the country.

The mission of the organization is to preserve the heritage of the Rumely Company and the other companies it accumulated over the years, including: Advance Thresher Co., Aultman-Taylor Co., Gaar-Scott, Northwest Thresher Co., American Able, Olds Gas Engines and others. The organization also works to educate others on the history of agriculture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Rumely was founded in 1853 and was sold to Allis-Chalmers in 1931.



Serving as president of the organization is Keith Kuhlengel from Palmyra, Penn and vice president is Jim Greif of Monticello, Iowa. There are about 180 families that belong to the organization with the majority of them from the Midwest.

The Rumely Product Collectors were last at Albert City for the show in 2009.

The 2026 Rumely Product Collectors Expo will be held at the American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville, Ill. July 24-26. In 2028, they head to the National Threshers Association, June 22-25 at Wauseon, Ohio.

To join the Rumely Product Collectors, visit their website: www.rumelycollectors.com.

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2026 Show Toy is a John Deere 730 with Grain Drill

This is the 12th year for the Threshermen collectible toy tractor sale. This year's tractor is a



John Deere 730 with a grain drill, 1/16 scale die cast.

Each toy tractor includes a serial number. The #10 tractor is donated by Le Mars Toy Store and will be included as a prize in the large tractor raffle. With the purchase of a ticket for that raffle, buyers are automatically included for a chance to win this toy tractor.

One hundred tractors are available at a cost of \$165 (includes \$20 for shipping).

Raffle tickets can be purchased at the show. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20.

Bill Riley Talent Show is Saturday, Aug. 8

The Bill Riley Talent Search competition event will be Sat., Aug. 8 at 6 p.m. in the entertainment shelter. There are two divisions: Sprouts are age 2-12 and Seniors are age 13-21.

Contestants may register at the Albert City Threshermen's website. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in both age divisions will receive a cash prize, trophy, and a ribbon. The 1st place acts in both divisions will compete at the 2026 Bill Riley Talent Search competition at the Iowa State Fair in the same age group in which they qualified. If the act has multiple individuals, the oldest individual in the act will dictate in which division the act will compete.

The act that qualifies for the 2026 competition at the Iowa State Fair must have the same performers as those who performed at Threshermen's. The act may change their performance from the local competition to the state competition but cannot change the class of their competition. The competition is organized by Ron Hott, 712-299-4402. The event is sponsored by Community State Bank.

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Golf cart/UTV policy

Golf carts are available to rent every day during the show. They are 2-seater golf carts, and it costs \$125 per day. Reservations can be made with a call or text the show office at 712-843-2076.

Attendees bringing a personal golf cart or side-by-side vehicle must purchase a permit and adhere to the rules set in place by the Albert City Threshermen Board of Directors.

Permit cost is \$100 for the weekend or \$50 for the day.

Handicap permit is free (must provide matching valid handicap driving permit and photo ID).

Permits must be purchased from the Registration building located on the north end of the showgrounds or in the parking lot located east of the showgrounds.

Rules:

- Operators must be 18+ and have a valid driver's license.
- Proof of insurance is required.
- Speed limit is 5 mph.
- Golf carts or side-by-side vehicles may not be used to enter into buildings.
- May not transport more individuals than the number of seats available.
- No ATVs or 4-wheelers allowed.

In situations where questions arise relative to any aspect of these rules or rules are not followed, the Board of Directors shall be responsible for all final decisions.

Catch a ride on a trolley



In an effort to make sure all guests can get around comfortably to the many activities on the grounds, the Threshermen provide trolleys to carry passengers around the grounds and to the field.

On-site camping available

Primitive campsites are available on the show grounds for \$10 a night and reservations may be made before the show by filling out a Primitive Camping Registration Form. (No camping is allowed in the main parking area.) Camping at these sites is available beginning on Saturday, August 1, until Monday, August 10. You must pay for every night your camper is parked at the campsite. If you have a generator, you will need to park along the north fence. Generators must be off by 10 p.m. - this will be strictly enforced. If you have a medical reason that requires you to keep your generator/inverter running, we ask you to park towards the east of the campgrounds.

Electrical with water and electrical only campsites are available for the show. Camping at these sites is available beginning on Sat., August 1 until Monday, August 10. It is a \$200 flat fee to camp at the electrical with water sites and \$150 flat fee for electrical sites (no matter how many of these nights you stay).

Please see the Campground Host upon arriving. Campground Rules are available online, as well as at the campground. For more information, please call the show office at 712-843-2076.

Visit the Albert City Historical Museum while in town

The Albert City Historical Museum is located at 212 North Second Street and features six buildings packed with historical items from the Albert City area.

During Threshermen's weekend, the museum is open Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Regular hours are Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. during the summer. Or make an appointment to visit anytime by calling, 712-843-5858 or 712-843-5684. Admission for adults is \$5.

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Share your skills in these show contests

The Flower Power contest will take place again this year. Drop off your containers of flowers on the south side of the farmhouse either Tues., Aug. 4, until 5 p.m. or Wed., Aug. 5 between 9 a.m. -12 noon. Cut-off for registering is Wed. at 12 noon. Judging will take place Wednesday afternoon and winners will be announced on Thursday.

There will be two categories: buckets and other containers. Buckets do not need to be 5-gallon buckets. Age divisions are 8 and under, ages 9-12, ages 13-18, and 18 and over. If you have any questions, please call or text Denise Huskamp at 712-730-0857.

There will also be a Flower Power Coloring Contest. Pick up the sheet at a local business or during the show on Thurs. or Fri. in the children's play area. Turn them in to the Broom House before 4:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7. Winners will be announced Saturday morning.

Saturday morning is the Cinnamon Roll contest. Bring at least three cinnamon rolls to the main lunch stand by 9 a.m. for judging. Prizes this year are sponsored by United Bank of Iowa: \$500 for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd place and \$25 for 3rd place.

Sunday is the Bring Your Pie to Church contest. Bring your homemade double-crust pie to the main lunch stand by 9 a.m. for judging. Pies will be judged and the winner announced at the end of the church service. Fareway is sponsoring the contest this year, and will be providing \$500, \$50 and \$25 in grocery cards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Get your Tickets for the 2026 Raffle



The Albert City Threshermen and Collectors continue the tradition of a tractor raffle.

The tractor raffle is a 1941 Farmall H. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20, and can be purchased from board members or during the show. Look for the raffle display in the feature area.

A second prize in the tractor raffle is for the #10 John Deere toy tractor. The drawing for all raffle items will be at 4 p.m. Sunday before the Threshermen parade and you need not be present to win.

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Army of the Southwest will bring Civil War Era to life

The Army of the Southwest will return with an encampment that demonstrates the period of the 1860s. The Army of the Southwest is an organization of Iowa Civil War Reenactors and living history enthusiasts dedicated to educating people of all ages about the Civil War. They do this through reenactments, school programs and historical events.

The non-profit organization includes over 40 members from throughout Iowa. The unit consists of Confederate and Union infantry, artillery and cavalry. The Army of the Southwest boasts of having a knowledgeable and viable group of civilian reenactors in addition to female soldiers.

Unlike most units, the civilians take an active role in camp life, display and skirmishes.

Like most things on the show grounds, the encampment provides a chance for hands-on activities and close-up demonstrations. While at the show, the members are dressed and living in the period the entire time.

Members of the organization recreate camp life by living in period tents and when time allows, they prepare food over a campfire and eat as the soldiers did during the war.

Visitors can expect to see arms, photos, diagrams and drawings at the encampment. Participants are very knowledgeable and are eager to share and visit with guests.

Members will arrive on Thursday and Friday. The encampment is located at the southeast end of the showgrounds and the area is open with displays throughout the day.

Learn more about the Army of the Southwest by visiting their website at www.armysw.com.



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Enjoy the Sweet Corn Feed and Greased Pig Contest set for Friday

The Sweet Corn Feed and Greased Pig Contest will return for the fifth year. Both events take place Friday, Aug. 7.

The Sweet Corn Feed will be held at the Feed Bunk from 5 to 6:30 p.m. All-you-can-eat sweet corn, hamburgers and drinks are all available for purchase.

The Greased Pig Contest will start at 7 p.m. There will be four age groups, age 5-8, 9-12, 13-17 (2-person team) and over age 18 (2-person team). Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd places in all groups. Advance registration is required and can be done by visiting www.albertcitythreshermen.com.



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Enjoy a Variety of Musical Entertainment under the Shelter

As has been the tradition, the annual Threshermen's Show offers a great line-up of entertainment and unique talent for the 54th annual show.

The entertainment will feature big band, acoustic, jazz, rock and piano all performing under the entertainment shelter. The entertainment line-up includes:

Malek Fisherman Band will perform Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and again from 2 to 4 p.m. The modern Malek's Fishermen Band plays a wide range of dance music that includes the traditional old time polkas, waltzes, two-steps, and schottisches as well as country, big band, dixieland, and other dance hall favorites. Malek's Fishermen Band has its own distinctive sound that is a favorite of dancers and listeners throughout the Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin region. Over the years, they have recorded many albums, and can be found at dance halls, polkafests, and parties in this four state region.

On Friday, **Sara Routh** will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This Iowa-born singer/songwriter will gift you an energetic and heartfelt performance every time. Sara embraces musical growth yet stays true to her jazz & folk roots.

South 71 returns to the Threshermen's Stage and will perform Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are an acoustic trio with second to none vocals and expert guitar and flute playing country, rock, folk and original music.



The **Jacob Austin Band** includes Jacob, his father and mother. Enjoy traditional country, ballads, gospel music, oldies and show tunes as well as original material. They perform from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The **Bill Riley Talent**

Search will be held Saturday evening starting at 6 p.m.

Sunday entertainment starts at 12 noon with the **Albert City Community Band**. From 2 to 3 p.m., the band **Jive for Five** will entertain.

Jennifer Schaff will close out the afternoon from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. with a selection of piano music.

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The Threshermen and Collectors Show celebrates its 55th annual show this year. It's a happy history of shows and there are many exhibitors and guests yet today who can recall attending all or almost all of the shows over the years.

Only through hard work, dedicated volunteers, generous exhibitors and loyal visitors has the show been able to enjoy spectacular growth over those 55 years.

Karl Lind and Keith Sundblad, farm neighbors living near Albert City, organized an event to show their children how an old threshing machine worked. Little did they know, that was the start of a tradition that would carry on for years to come.

Karl's wife Mary and Keith's wife Mary Ann, their children, other neighbors and volunteers joined them in the effort. About 200 people heard about it and attended. Equipment for the show included: five tractors, one threshing machine, one horse-powered elevator, a pair of Welsh ponies, one bundle rack, and one oats wagon. A total of three acres of oats were threshed.

The first show organized by the Association was held Aug. 8 and 9, 1975 at the farm of the late Mable Fredrickson. There were 38 antique tractors on display. The admission button featured the 30-60 Aultman-Taylor gas tractor owned by Mark Erickson.

On October 31, 1975, the Association voted to accept a land gift of 15 acres from the late Ed and Agnes Sundholm for the development of a "Heritage Site." The first show held there was in August 1976 with 2,500 attending and 59 tractors on exhibit.

By the 10th annual show, attendance was over 4,500 and there were 103 tractors and 140 gas engines on exhibit.

In 1986, just two weeks before the 16th annual show, a tornado struck the area and caused major destruction at the grounds. The Old Depot was destroyed, the broom building was moved about one foot and the craft building needed all new siding.

Attendance at the 20th annual show was 12,850. Exhibits included 212 tractors, 18 teams of horses and 149 gas engines.

The 30th annual show was held Aug. 11-13, 2000. There were 341 tractors, 121 antique cars and trucks, 32 horses and 130 gas engines. Attendance for the show was over 10,400.

In 2010, the 40th annual show had an attendance of 11,534. There were 507 tractor exhibits, 25 gas engines, 35 horses and 85 vehicles. Many recall this year with the big flood just days ahead of the show. Millions of gallons of water were pumped out of the ditches and the show grounds in order to prepare for the show.

Those who attended the show Aug. 13, 2016 will not forget the world record attempt for plowing with the greatest



number of draft horses. Following days of heavy rain, the attempt was made that afternoon as a thunderstorm rolled in. The event had 122 draft horses plowing for 1:22 minutes with a furrow depth of seven inches.

On Sunday, the record attempt for greatest number of mules plowing was made with 27 mules plowing for one minute with a furrow depth of six inches.

The year 2020 was to be the celebration of the 50th annual show for the Association. As for most things, the pandemic brought plans for the show to a halt. That show was celebrated in 2021 with a total of 832 total exhibits registered. Over 520

gallons of ice cream were served while the kettle corn stand went through 900 pounds of popcorn.

Since the Association was formed in 1975 with its first annual meeting held that December, the Board was originally composed of nine members. At the 2024 annual meeting, it became a 12 member board. Since forming, there have been 58 persons serving on the Board of Directors.

The first year for a "feature" club to be hosted was in 1994 when the Iowa Chapter 5 IH Collectors held their annual show here. They returned in 2013 and 2021. Since then the Association has hosted national, state and regional clubs including: J.I. Case Heritage Foundation (2004, 2011, 2017, 2025); John Deere 2-Cylinder Club and Northwest Iowa Tractor Collectors (2005, 2008, 2014, 2024); National Rumely Product Collectors, (2009) Gathering of the Orange, (2010, 2023); National Minneapolis-Moline Collectors (2012, 2022); National Hart-Parr Oliver Collectors (2015), J.I. Case Collectors (2017, 2025); National Ford-Fordson Collectors (2018), Iowa Massey Collectors (2019); Northland Case Collectors (2017, 2025); Mid-Iowa J.I. Case Collectors (2017, 2025); The Missouri Screamin' Eagles Case Club (2017); Heartland J.I. Case Collectors (2017) and the Illinois J.I. Case Collectors (2017).



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Meet the Threshermen & Collectors Board

Karl Lind

Is a co-founder. Works primarily with military, antique tractors, vehicles and field events. Enjoys bringing memories of the past to the present.



Branden Otto

Is serving his eighth year on the board. He oversees antique cars, first aid/security, flour mill, Freedom Hall, golf carts, insurance, parade, small gas engines, sound/electrical, tractor raffle, area parades, tractor ride and traffic control..



Angie Smith

Is serving her seventh year. She oversees tractor pull, Svenska Stuga, insurance, mother's room, website, food board, garbage, farm house and grants/fundraising.



Randy Koenig

Is serving his seventh year. He oversees the Army of the SW, gas station, signs, post pounding, sanitation, school house, tree maintenance/planting.



Loren Booth

In his third year, he oversees craft/toy/ other vendors, parade, mechanics, building & grounds maintenance, radios, entertainment, playhouse and signs.



Grant Stein

Is serving his third year and is the board president. He oversees big tractors/steam engines, camping, fuel, feature building, threshing, and grants/fundraising.



Jim Nelson

Is in his second year of board service, (this time around). He oversees the Corliss engine, crop ground, tree maintenance/planting.



Brady Bonin

Is serving his second year on the board. He oversees crop ground, advertising, feature bldg., field activities, parade, scale-size equipment, store, straw sales, tickets/parking, upcoming features.



Peter Huskamp

In his second year, he oversees the broom building, children's games, diesel engine, dyno, hay sales and garden tractors.



Travis Mullenger

Is serving his second year. He oversees big tractors & steam engines, crop ground, mechanics, scale-size equipment, trolleys/people movers and tractors.



Tyler Wiseman

In his second year, he oversees Grandpa's Barn, horses, potato patch, Ridge Runners, saw mill, well drilling and shingle mill.

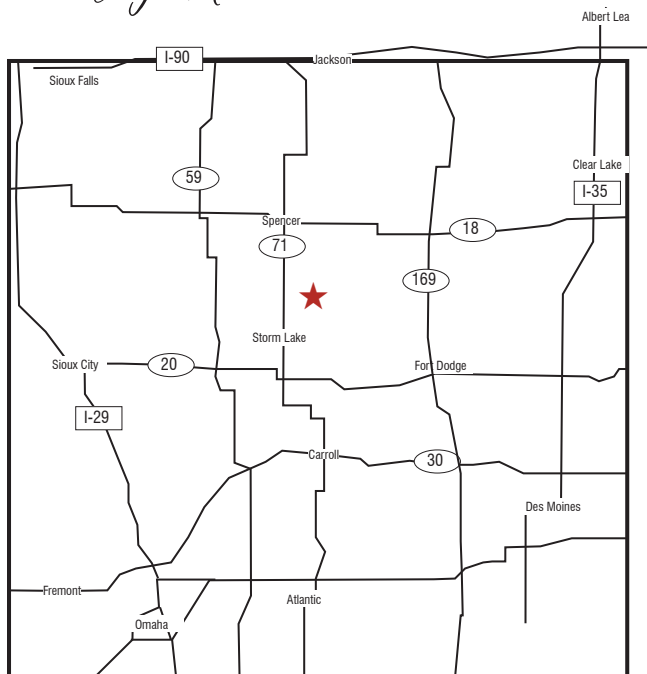


Dale Haan

Is serving his first year. He oversees the blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, ear corn/corn shelling, mechanics, parade..



How to find us:



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Matt Anderson

serves his first year on the board. He oversees crop ground, flower beds, parade, tickets/parking, and UTV permits.



Emily Bonin

Serves as executive secretary and is in her fifth year of doing so.



Become a Member:

If you are a current member of the association and already have a 2026 membership card, please present that at the gate to gain free admittance to the show. Membership monies received at the Registration Office during the 2026 show will be applied to the 2027 year.

Membership amounts are \$25 for a single and \$35 for a couple. This is a great value if you plan to attend the show every day! Members are invited to the annual meeting the first Saturday in December where a delicious catered meal is served before the business meeting.

Contact us:

By mail: P.O. Box 333, Albert City, Iowa 50510

Our site location: 5015 210th Ave., Albert City, IA

By phone or fax: 712-843-2076

By e-mail: info@albertcitythreshermen.com

On the web: www.albertcitythreshermen.com

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