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Memo from Jack Imholte to Saddle Club Officers Re: Future of the Dairy Barn

UMM Saddle Club

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota

30 March 1973

Memo to: Jeff Melander, Linda Baumgartner, Vicki Brown

From: Jack Imholte

Subject: Future of the Dairy Barn

This is a response, as I promised, to your letter of late February or early March requesting that the Dairy Barn remain as is for the use of the UMM Saddle Club. I have met and discussed various aspects of your request with Ralph Smith, Superintendent, West Central School and Experiment Station, Harold Fahl, and Steve Granger. Below are my decisions and observations:

1. It remains our intention to tear down the Dairy Barn at some time in the indeterminate future. I say the "indeterminate future" because a new ingredient has been added. I have learned within the past few days that Ralph Smith may wish to continue to use the loft of the barn for feed storage and a portion of the east side for feed mixing. This is contingent upon how successful his unit is in fulfilling its building request with legislative funding. If insufficient funding is provided, Ralph will want to continue to use the building for an unspecified length of time. If his needs are funded, he will give up the building altogether, with the exception of the frame loft which he will attempt to sell. We should have more definite information along this line after the conclusion of the present legislative session or by late May or early June. Again, our decision to destroy the structure eventually remains, but its destruction may be delayed for some time. I should also mention again to you, at this point, we do not have funding to destroy the building. Our basic reason for destroying it is its unadaptability for any other purpose. I feel that it is unwise for it to continue to function as a barn because only a portion of the structure would be used for that purpose.
2. As you know, the frame barn structure at the eastern most end of the four buildings along the northern tree break is scheduled for demolition. It was to have been destroyed last fall, but Ralph asked us to delay taking that action until this spring. Our plans have been to destroy it this spring or early summer. We have the funding to accomplish this. However, we are willing to consider keeping the building for use as a barn for the Saddle Club. Water is available and there is a haymow in the structure. It would require some interior

remodeling which you would have to accomplish at your own expense or perhaps through Activity Fee funding. I realize that this frame barn is not as desirable as the Dairy Barn, but it is more removed from the housing area and could meet at least your basic needs. I would appreciate your reaction to the possibility of using the frame barn. If you are uninterested, we shall proceed with its demolition.

It is assumed, of course, that you are free to use the Dairy Barn for as long as it remains. We would provide you with as much advance notice as we could before tearing it down. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

pt

cc: Harold Fahl
Steve Granger

early March, 1973

Dr. John Q. Imholte, Provost
University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota 56267

Dear Dr. Imholte:

On behalf of the membership of the UMM Saddle Club, we request that the Dairy Barn be left in tact for our use as a horse barn rather than being torn down as planned. The following reasons are given for this request:

- 1) The barn is structurally sound and in quite good condition. Upkeep costs are minimal. It is much too valuable to destroy.
- 2) The facility is almost ideal for our purposes. No significant remodelling is necessary and the location is convenient.
- 3) There seems to be, at least at present, no available alternate facility that we could use. It would probably cost about \$20,000 to build a new facility of much lesser quality and size than the Dairy Barn.
- 4) There are no plans, as far as we can determine, to use the space now occupied by the Dairy Barn for something else within the next few years.
- 5) The existing building is adequate in size for our purposes for the foreseeable future. It has all of the necessary storage space and stall space that we will ever need.
- 6) The Dairy Barn also serves, incidentally, as a good wind-break for the parking lot to its east.

The club members have spent a considerable amount of time and effort getting the club going and working on the Dairy Barn to convert it from a cow barn to a horse barn. Please don't let it turn into a waste of time and effort.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Committee, UMM Saddle Club

The UMM Saddle Club
by:

Jeff Melander

Linda Baumgartner

Vicki Brown