

Monroe County Fair Board 2024 Building Project Unveiled

The Monroe County Fair Board is proud and excited to unveil the building plans for summer of 2024 and what is in store over the next three years on the Fairgrounds in Monroe County. This plan is not something that is new to board discussions. Committees and plans were in place back in 2020 to begin the process and then COVID hit, and all was halted at that time as was for many in the Fair Industry across the United States. The COVID epidemic, deemed a downfall for most, was a turning point for the Fair Board as they prevailed to hold a somewhat normal fair and the dedication of the members to gain momentum was tremendous and the rise has continued onward and upward. As the years have progressed and the board has grown and changed in so many ways the process and plans have finally become a reality.

The Board of Directors have approved a Three-Year Phase Plan to help guide and move forward to upgrade some of the existing structures and to build new structures. The board and officer team feel that we have grown to a place where we can move forward in so many ways. This has been made possible by a variety of great seasonal events such as the Albia Chamber Rodeo and newly added in 2023 the Country Music and Blue Grass Festival along with great additions to our longest running tradition and true passion the Monroe County Fair. The Monroe County Fair is the longest running established event held in Monroe County for over 70 years and is proudly housed on the Monroe County Fairgrounds. "The Monroe County Fair has a long-standing tradition and is the showcase for 4-H & FFA Members and their families to come together for 6 days each July to exhibit their projects and enjoy community involvement along with great family style events and food that is top notch." Says Angela Wilson, Secretary/ Treasurer. "The Fair Board has strived to enhance the experience for the youth members along with encouraging adult exhibitors in our Open Class Area in so many ways and also provide entertainment for all ages to come together to enjoy in their community and our efforts have seen great success. That success is only made possible by the tremendous support that we have received to help make each year better than the last and 2024 is lining up to be another great county wide event."

The Monroe County Fair Board has implemented a three-year proposed plan for building improvements and development. "The existing buildings have definitely served their purpose and weathered many storms over the years." States Board President Justin Rozenboom. "Improvements and new structures come with a hefty price tag, and we have a lot of work ahead of us. We feel that as a board we are in a good place financially to begin the process and with the dedicated donor's increased support we have had over the last few years along with the growth of the board itself, the momentum just keeps going to make great very necessary things happen."

The 3 Year Proposed Building Project Plan has been put together in stages.

Phase #1 – Fair Board Office Addition/ Public Restroom Renovation – Completion Fair 2024

Phase #2 – Roll Out Plans and Fundraising Efforts for New Livestock Pavilion - Fair 2024

Phase #3 – Demolition of existing structures and Construction begins on New Livestock Pavilion – August 2025

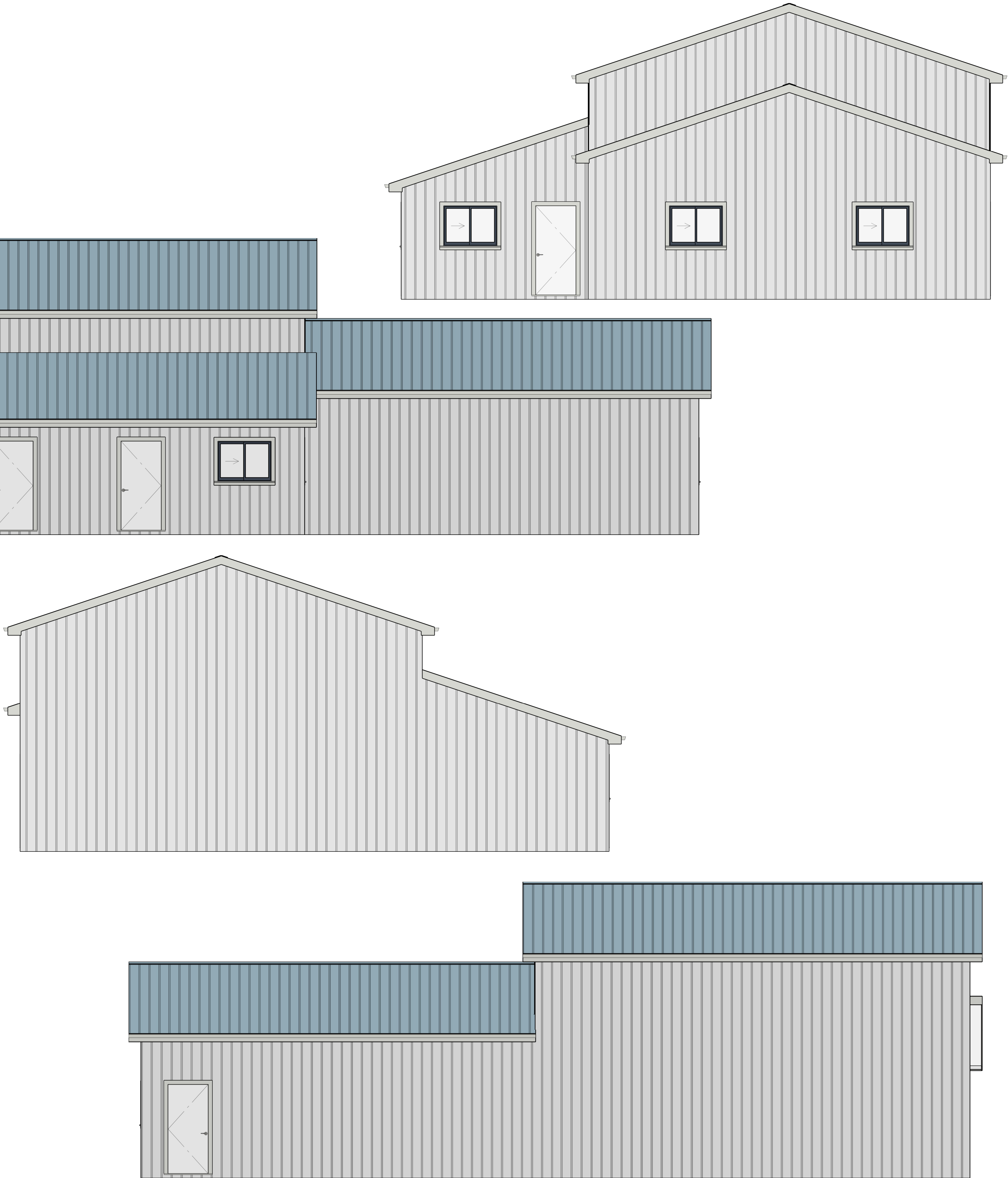
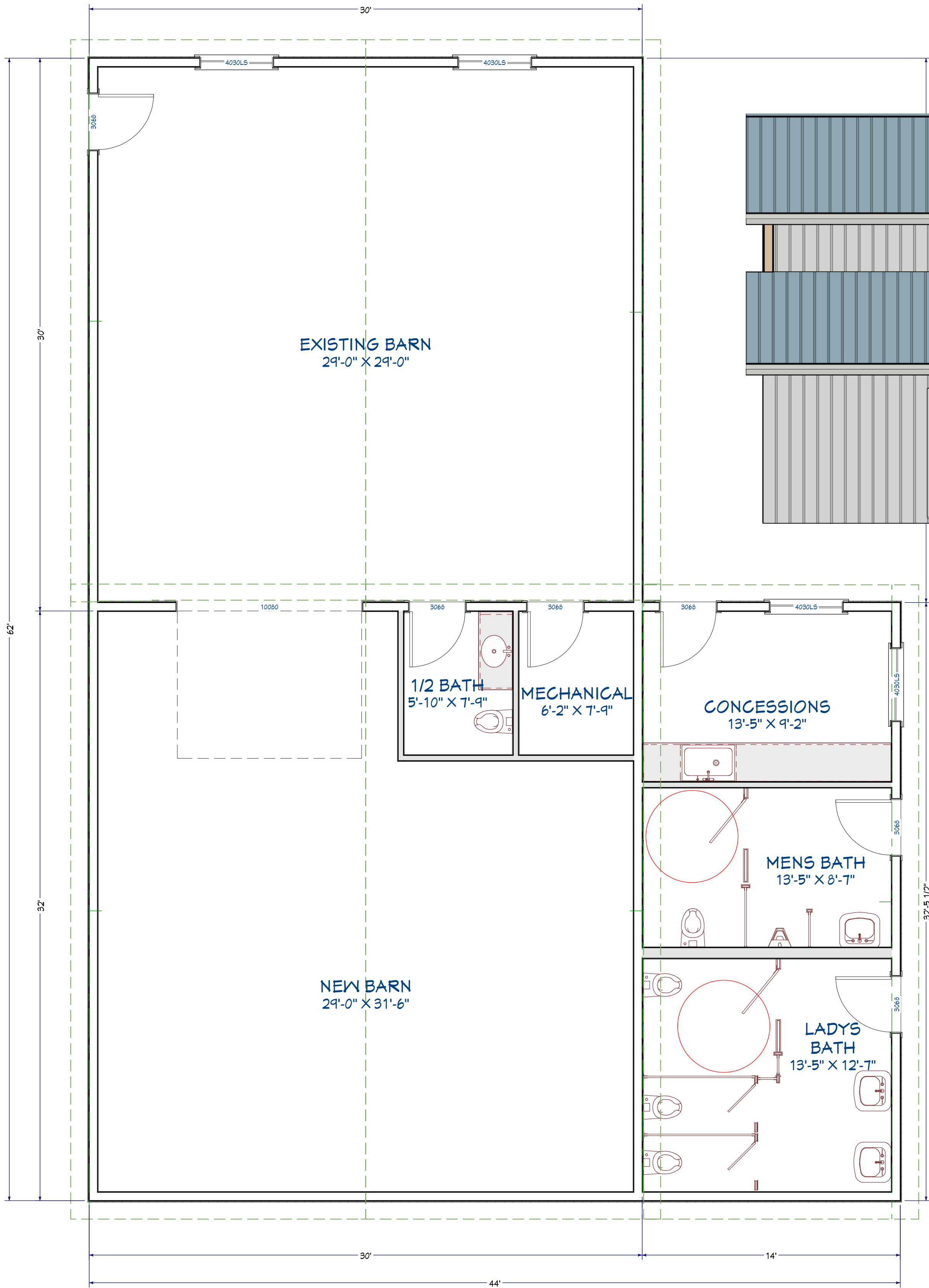
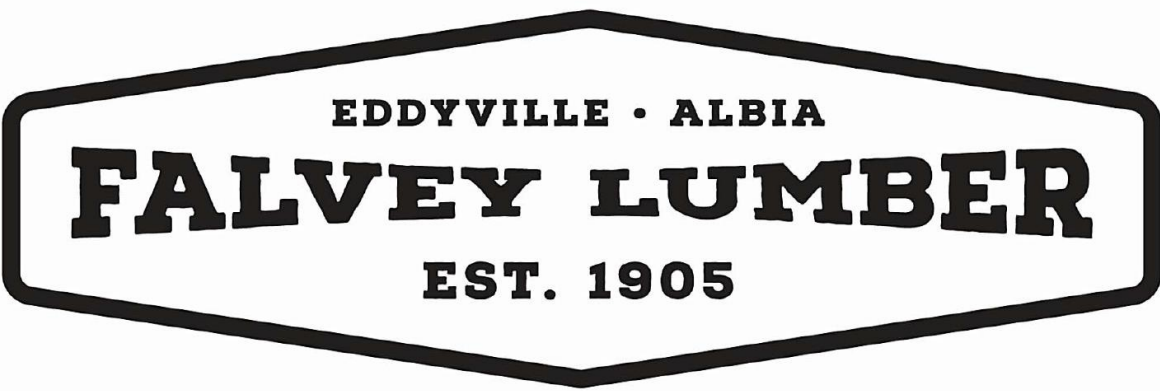
Phase #4 – Livestock Pavilion Construction Complete – Fair 2026

The summer of 2024 will be an exciting adventure with an addition to the existing Monroe County Fair Board Office Building that will include public handicapped accessible restrooms along with a concession serving area to be utilized during Grandstand Events all season long and will enhance and encourage others to hold new events there in the future. This addition will also provide much needed storage and help enhance the beautiful office space that was created in memory of Dean Bettis with generous contributions from his family through his memorial. Funds will also be utilized to do some major, much needed renovations to the existing public restroom facility on the grounds with dedicated board members doing the majority of the work to make this happen at a lower cost and utilization of funds from Deanie Walsh McDowell memorial that her family so generously dedicated to the board.

The need for new public restrooms is definitely not a new concept for the board. Twenty years ago, the St. Mary's of Albia Alter and Rosary group dedicated funds from their Lenten Lunches to just that. Two years ago, the board began the process again of looking into new restrooms where the existing ones are located. In this process it was brought to our attention that we would need to install a DNR approved septic system before any new restroom facility could be built which cost over \$50,000.00 to install and an enormous amount of government paperwork to tread through. That project was successfully completed and paid for, and the Albia Community Foundation Board had faith in us, and we were able to utilize funds applied for to help with the cost of this huge process.

The future of Phase #2 #3 and #4 is still a work in progress and will be unveiled during the Monroe County Fair in July of 2024. The board is looking at a new Livestock Pavilion that would replace the existing cattle barns on the grounds and would be able to house multiple species during the fair as numbers in livestock areas continue to change each year. This type of building would allow the Fair Board to ensure adequate spacious areas for the livestock exhibitors to showcase their projects and encourage families to join and show at our fair. It would also be utilized for other events such as large auctions and will almost double the Winter Storage that the board does each year in various buildings on the grounds. The Livestock Pavilion would also give our Fairgrounds the advantage of holding larger livestock shows for all species from across the state.

The Monroe County Fair Board would encourage any community member interested in more information to reach out anytime. One major component of this group is the concept of "Work together and work hard to leave it better than it was given to you for better tomorrows in the future for everyone."



Scale: 1/4" = 1'

Falvey Lumber / Eddyville-Albia Design Services by Kevin Carroll ph: 641.455.8422		Date: 02.16.24	Kevin Carroll
Owner: Montroe County Fair		By:	
SHEET			Draft #1 Barn Addition Floor plan & Elevations

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