



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Request for Quote

Quotes for Dairy Barn Visitor Center at Johnson County Historic Poor Farm:

This request seeks quotes of total price including labor, equipment, materials & delivery.

Project Name: Dairy Barn Visitor Center
Quotes Due: April 21, 2026 at 4:00 PM CST
Contact Persons: Jason Grimm, HPF Farm Manager, jason@ivrkd.org
Ilsa DeWald, Local Food and Farm Manager,
idewald@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Purpose and Background:

The historic milking and animal stall areas of the Dairy Barn at the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm (HPF) have been preserved and cleaned up to provide community access to historic exhibits. The remaining unfinished room in the Dairy Barn, historically used as the milkhouse, has been proposed to serve as a welcome office and entry space. The office has been proposed as a space for educational pamphlets, signage, or other small exhibits, and as a meeting place for tours and tour guides in a covered space with a small heating unit. The remodel of the space will remove any unsafe conditions and unused wiring and equipment. The exterior walls will be insulated and the interior walls and ceiling will receive new finishes. The interior will also include a desk, benches and a display wall for brochures.



Site Analysis:

The Johnson County Historic Poor Farm is located at 4811 Melrose Avenue in Iowa City, at the south-east intersection of Melrose and Slothower Rd, and just west of the interchange with IA Highway 218. The property is owned by Johnson County and is located within the city limits of Iowa City. The decision-making authority for the property is the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, a five-member elected board. The specific area of building where construction will take place is identified by the blue rectangle in the image above. Reach out via email to Jason Grimm, jason@ivr.cd.org, to schedule opportunities to inspect the work site.

Construction Drawings

In October 2023, Johnson County entered into agreement with Vantage Architects to provide services for design and construction administration of the electrical and carpentry work needed to finish the Dairy Barn Visitor Center. Construction design and engineering drawings are attached in detail.

Review and Approval:

Proposals will be reviewed internally by Johnson County staff and a finalist will be recommended to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Response Format:

One signed proposal shall be emailed to Jason Grimm, HPF Farm Manager, jason@ivr.cd.org before 4:00 pm CST, Tuesday, April 21, 2026.