

Event Barn Requirements Summary from Local Municipalities

Age of Building – Some municipalities have age requirements for a barn to be used as an event venue, ranging from 5 to 55 years old. Others require that the building must have been used as an “agricultural structure” prior to use as an event barn.

Alcohol – Restrictions generally state that alcoholic beverages can only be brought by the family booking the event and provided free of charge. Some municipalities allow on site alcohol sales if the alcoholic beverages are provided by a licensed vendor and served by a licensed bartender.

Code Compliance – Most municipalities have language indicating the venue must be in compliance with all federal, state and local building codes, as well as state and local fire and health codes.

Date/Time Restrictions – Some municipalities limit events to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 AM, or to the months of May through October.

Food / Catering – Requirements generally allow food brought by the family or provided by a caterer. On-site food preparation is generally not allowed. Some requirements state that a restaurant license must be obtained if food is to be prepared on site.

Garbage Disposal – Some municipalities require garbage to be removed by the Monday following an event.

Improvements to Structure – Municipal requirements range from not addressing improvements at all, to prohibiting furnaces, air conditioning or kitchens from being installed. Other restrictions include limiting additions to no more than 25% of the existing structure.

Insurance – Some municipalities require that “adequate” liability insurance be maintained.

Lighting – In general most municipalities address shielding lights from adjoining parcels, having minimum illumination for site safety, and restricting hours of illumination to events only.

Music / Noise – Regulations range from limiting noise to 75db at the property line to only allowing music and dancing inside the venue. Some municipalities allow for outdoor amplified music with special permit.

Outdoor fires / fireworks – Restrictions range from prohibiting outdoor fires and fireworks to allowing both within local ordinances.

Parcel size – Requirements vary from 3 to 20 acres.

Parking – Some municipal requirements include paved or gravel parking areas, no dust, no public right of way parking and restrictions on overflow parking. Some municipalities require paved disabled parking spaces that meet state standards.

Sanitation – Some municipalities require a code complying Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) and a private well. Others require portable toilet and pumping contracts be provided to the municipality.

Setbacks – Vary from not being addressed to 250' from any adjoining parcel.

Signage – Some municipalities address the location, lighting, and size of a sign.

Size and Number of Events – Restrictions on the size of events range from not being addressed to 300 people per event, or the maximum fire code allows for the structure. Restrictions on the number of events range from no limit to 5 or 12 per year.

Tents / Temporary Structures - Restrictions generally prohibited tents or other temporary structures.