



*The state's Barn Trail, the first in the country, celebrates historic barns.*

Bellamy-Ferriday property barn in Bethlehem.

The cows supply milk for the UConn Creamery Plant, which produces the ice cream and cheese sold at the UConn Dairy Bar in Storrs, is open to the public. Visitors also can walk through the horse and livestock animal units, home to 85 horses, sheep and beef cattle.

**The Thames River Valley and New London County tour**, a winding route from Stonington to Lebanon, has seven numbered sites, including B.F. Clyde's Cider Mill in Old Mystic, the only steam-powered cider mill in the country. In the mill's Victorian-era barn, cider-making demonstrations take place on weekends in October and November.

Other sites on this tour include the Denison Homestead Farm Market in Stonington, the Nathan Lester House and Farm Tool Museum in Ledyard, Heritage Trail Vineyards in Lisbon, Blue Slope Country Museum in Franklin,

Zagray Farm Museum in Colchester and Wadsworth Stable in Litchfield, a building that was moved from the former Hartford estate of Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth, commissary general for the Continental Army. Today, Wadsworth Stable contains a replica of the stall where Gen. George Washington's horse, Nelson, recuperated from an injury, as well as antique oxcarts and changing exhibits. It's open mid-May through mid-October.

**The Connecticut River Valley North tour** is an 11-site tour beginning at the East Hartford Historical Society's Burnham Blacksmith Shop in East Hartford and ending at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, featuring the 1901 mansion and carriage barn designed by Theodate Pope Riddle, one of the first American women architects. Don't miss the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum in Windsor, a former tobacco shed with exhibits



Story and Photos by Valerie A. Russo

**T**he Connecticut Barns Trail is the first statewide Barns Trail in the country. Launched in 2013 by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, the trail consists of seven self-guided driving tours featuring Connecticut barns – working barns with animals and barns used as museums, farm stands, gift shops, wineries and special event venues.

The Connecticut Barns Trail brochure contains photographs and descriptions of different barn types found in

Connecticut, such as Gambrel roof barns, polygonal barns, carriage barns and tobacco sheds. To request the Connecticut Barn Trails brochure, contact the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation by calling (203) 562-6312 or, print the brochure at [www.connecticutbarns.org/barns-trail](http://www.connecticutbarns.org/barns-trail). The brochure also lists 50 sites and includes seven regional tour maps showing the location of each site. Below are highlights of each regional tour.

**The Quiet Corner tour**, a five-site route in northeast

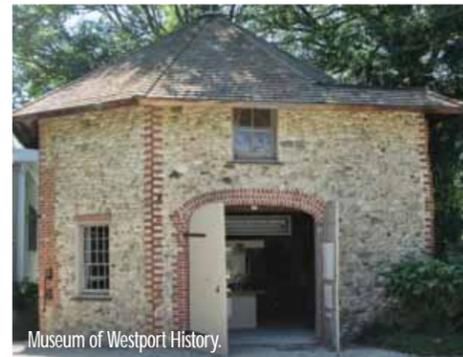
Connecticut, begins at the Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry and ends at Roseland Cottage in Woodstock, a museum with an 1846 carriage house containing the nation's oldest surviving indoor bowling alley. Stop by Buell's Orchard in Eastford for apples, cider and a look at the post-and-beam barn. Visit the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Department of Animal Science Kellogg Dairy Center in Storrs, a modern free-stall dairy barn and home to about 90 Holstein and Jersey cows.



Holstein cow, Storrs dairy barn.

on the local cigar tobacco agricultural heritage. Located in Windsor's Northwest Park, the tobacco museum is open Tuesdays through Thursdays and Saturdays, March through December.

Other sites on this tour include the Noden-Reed Barn and House in Windsor Locks, Phelps-Hatheway House and Garden in Suffield, Hastings Family Farm in Suffield, Garlic Farm in West Granby, Holcomb Farm in Granby, as well as the Simsbury Historical Society's Phelps Barn, Tulmeadow Farm and Flamig Farm, all in Simsbury.



**The Connecticut River Valley South tour** has five numbered sites, starting with the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield and ending at the Deep River Historical Society's Stone House in Deep River. At the Welles Shipman Ward House in Glastonbury, see examples of three classic barns of the Connecticut Valley. There's a 1790 English bank barn, the type of barn often built against the side of a hill, with one entrance on the higher side and another entrance on the lower side. There's a 19th-century New England barn, featuring a ground level gable entrance on the short side of the barn. And there's a renovated tobacco shed from the 1870s. Barn tours are offered in the summer and during the annual Farm Festival in late September. Other sites on this tour are the Smith-Harris House and the East Lyme Historical Society's Thomas Lee House, both in East Lyme.

**The New Haven and the Shoreline tour** has six numbered sites, starting with Brewster Estate in New Haven and ending at Bishop's Orchard, Guilford. At the Dudley Farm Museum in Guilford, learn about farm life a century ago on a farmhouse tour and go inside the 1890 Munger Barn, a

traditional bank barn with a stone foundation, used for farmer's markets from December through May.

Three other sites on this tour are Rose Orchards in North Branford, the Madison Historical Society's Allis-Bushnell House in Madison and Lakeside Feed and Llamas in Guilford.

**The Fairfield County and the Western Shore tour** features seven numbered sites. The first site is a seven-sided cobblestone Victorian barn, which houses the Museum of Westport History in Westport. Other sites include the Weston Historical Society's Coley Homestead in Weston, Weir Farm National Historic Site in Wilton/Ridgefield, Keeler Tavern Museum and Garden House in Ridgefield, Sherwood Farm in Easton, Wilton Historical Society in Wilton and the Jones Family Farm Winery in Shelton, featuring a wine-tasting room in the renovated 1876 cow barn.

**The Northwest Hills tour**, a circular route in the Litchfield Hills, has nine sites. The first site is the Bellamy-Ferriday House in Bethlehem, a 1754 Georgian house built by the Rev. Joseph Bellamy, Bethlehem's first minister. On the property are several barns, including the 18th-century carriage house, which was moved and attached to the main house in the 19th century and currently serves as the visitor center.



Other sites on this tour include White Memorial Conservation Center and Bunnell Farm, both in Litchfield; Action Wildlife Foundation in Goshen; Freund's Farm in East Canaan; Old Farm Nursery in Salisbury; Averill Farm in Washington; and Hunt Hill Farm and Sullivan Farm, both in New Milford. ■



Artisan Lobster Rolls Recipe from Artisan, the on-site restaurant at the Delamar in Southport, Conn., at [AAAJourneys.com/WebExtras](http://AAAJourneys.com/WebExtras)

### Did You Know?

Go to <http://connecticutbarns.org/barns-trail> to access a database of 8,000 Connecticut barns, many of which can be seen from the road but are not open to the public.



To See More Photos of Connecticut Barns, Visit [AAAJourneys.com/SlideShow](http://AAAJourneys.com/SlideShow)

### Did You Know?

There's a free iPhone app to guide you along scenic routes with roadside views of barns between the numbered sites of the Connecticut Barns Trail. Get the free app at the iTunes App Store. Search for CT BARNs.



To Read About "Barns of Connecticut" History Book, Visit [AAAJourneys.com/WebExtras](http://AAAJourneys.com/WebExtras). Enter to Win This Book at [AAAJourneys.com/FreeInformation](http://AAAJourneys.com/FreeInformation)