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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Historic Star Barn to be moved to new Lebanon County Site**

The historic Star Barn will soon have a new home in central Pennsylvania, just a short drive off the Interstate-81 Grantville exit where many passing motorists may still be able to see it at its new location.

The Star Barn will be the center attraction for Agrarian Country, a new agriculturally-themed destination conceived and planned by Dr. Robert S. Barr, *President*.

Barr announced in December 2007 that Agrarian Country purchased the historic Star Barn now located in a land-locked site in Lower Swatara Township, Dauphin County, from Preservation Pennsylvania, the non-profit group that helped preserve the landmark barn for many years.

Barr is now announcing that he found a new home for The Star Barn - a 300+-acre site in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County, accessible from Interstate 81. Barr signed an agreement of sale on the parcel of land that is within one mile from the Penn National Race Course.

“We are pleased to inform the public that The Star Barn will live on for generations to come and that it will become the centerpiece and icon of a showcase for Pennsylvania agriculture, highlighting our rural heritage and the importance of agriculture to the Commonwealth,” Barr said. “The Star Barn will be preserved as it looked in 1872 and

then utilized as a public building for concerts, dinners, shows, a tourist attraction, and a community theater. The Star Barn is listed as a National Historic Landmark with the National Register of Historic Places.”

Barr made the announcement at a 10:00 a.m. news conference today at the present site of The Star Barn. He said that the land under The Star Barn/ancillary buildings would be sold after the move. Barr plans to lead the media on a 1:00 p.m. tour of the new site in Lebanon County. He made the first public acknowledgement of his plans at the East Hanover Township supervisor’s meeting held Monday night (June 30).

Agrarian Country, a nonprofit organization, was established to preserve Pennsylvania farmland and farm buildings and to provide a place where people of all ages can visit and/or participate in the operation of numerous agricultural enterprises in a real-life farm setting. Through farmland preservation and hands-on agricultural educational activities, Agrarian Country hopes to rekindle interest in America’s agricultural heritage and a self-sufficient way of life, and provide a refreshing escape from everyday stresses.

Agrarian Country plans to operate numerous agricultural enterprises as part of its educational experience. In addition to The Star Barn complex, early plans include a horticultural center and botanical gardens, a Faith, Farm, and Family Museum, a 1906 restored chapel, and a park where community events can be held.

“We have some ambitious plans for Agrarian Country,” Barr said. “Planning is underway for the dismantling of The Star Barn and its ancillary buildings, expected to begin in early 2009. The schedule will be finalized this fall.”

Barr said the landmark nineteenth century Star Barn will be re-erected by the Timber Framers Guild using 1872 construction methods. This includes the use of oxen, mules, draft horses, and early period tools.

Each barn beam will be labeled with a steel plate as it is disassembled so that expert barn restorers and builders can precisely reassemble it. Barr said he plans a 10-day barn-raising festival that will include a Civil War reenactment, a music festival, and an agricultural foods festival.

He said interest has been shown in documenting the dismantling and re-raising of the landmark barn by both local and international filmmakers. Barr plans to spend the next several months lining up financing for Agrarian Country from both private and public sources. Those interested in volunteering and donating to the project can make contact at [www.TheStarBarn.com](http://www.TheStarBarn.com).