Bank Barn
This bank barn style is prevalent wherever dairy cattle are raised. It is a two-story structure that houses cows on the first floor, hay and sometimes grain on the second floor. By building the barn against the side of a hill or bank, a farmer could drive directly to the second-story threshing floor with a load of hay.

Gable Roof
This roof style is popular on barns and other farm buildings including the farmhouse. More traditional in its building design, this roof style has two planes that meet at the top and was thus easier to construct than the gambrel roof.

Swamp Road
Town of Barre

State Hwy 162
Town of Bangor

State Hwy 33
Town of Shelby

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Photography by Anita Taylor Doering (All photos taken from public right-of-way.)
As Wisconsin agriculture moved from growing wheat crops to dairy farming in the late nineteenth century, a new style of barn appeared. Gone were the ethnic style barns as the landscape ushered in larger barns with larger roofs for storing huge hay mows to feed the cows. The barn design may have been determined by the barn builder or perhaps the plan came from the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Take a scenic drive through the La Crosse County countryside to find these barns and many more.

**Arched Roof Style**
This roof style became popular in the 1940s and uses trusses and laminated beams instead of traditional pegged-beam construction. It also provided the space necessary for maximum storage of hay which is important when feeding hungry cows.

**Gambrel Roof**
The gambrel roof is probably the most prolific roof style on large dairy barns. This style has four planes. The two planes at the top have a slight pitch, and the side planes are longer and steeper than those at the top. This roof style allowed more space for hay storage under the eaves than the traditional style gable roof. A person can also stand upright under any part of the roof and the center area is open as the supports run alongside the eaves.

**English or Straight Gambrel Roof**
The eaves go straight down, and the plane is straight.

**Dutch Style Gambrel Roof**
The eaves turn up at the end, thereby catching rain runoff and directing that water to either end of the roof.