

Thinking About a Pole Barn?

Pole Barn homes and barns have become the new trend over the past several years. Michael "Doodle" Morris and Ashlyn Morris, owners of Morris Custom Post Frames. Morris says he builds three or four pole barn homes a year, sometime more, but most of his business is in metal garages, or party barns. "We've built 500 of those over the last few years, says Morris. "We have landscapers that need them too, but I'd say about 60% are party barns or places where you can have family get-togethers and things like that."

Michael Morris got started working for his dad, Jerry Morris, of Morris Construction, laying concrete and building houses with him up until about five or six years ago. "We did basements for JMJ and Joe Mattingly and all of them and then Dad slowly started to retire and I started doing barns on the side and it just took off from there," he said.

"We're averaging probably 150 to 200 barns a year. I do most of the selling and the billing and ordering everything and my brother-in-law actually does all my building for me; framing and metal and things like that, said Morris. "I have one brother Pete, who hauls the gravel to get the floors ready for concrete and another brother, Matt, who is one of the best trim carpenters around here. He does all my trim work, tile work, cabinets and things like that.

Morris Custom Post Frame will build in Nashville, Madisonville, Newburgh, Booneville, and Tell City, IN, Hancock and Ohio; all the counties that are close. "We try to stay as close as we can, but we venture out an hour or two away."

Morris said a lot of the traditional houses around here cost \$120 to \$150 a square foot, where a pole barn house usually goes anywhere from \$100 to \$105 a square foot; so it saves you about \$30 a square foot compared to a regular stick built home. "That helps out a whole lot in 2000 square feet; that can save you up to \$50,000. You can spend the same amount of money with a stick built home but with pole barns you can get double the square footage in some cases – that's why a lot of people are going with them."

Some of Morris' clients are do-it-yourselfers. Morris comes in to frame it all up and metals the exterior, sets the windows and doors, the roof and porches. They pour the concrete, stud the interior walls and frame them up. Then the homeowner comes in with a plumber and they take over from there.

M&M Properties another Morris business, builds traditional spec houses. He partners with Clint McManaway of Hagan's Outdoor Equipment. "They're brand new spec houses; on an acre or two. We build it brand new and



furnish it with all the appliances and then put it on the market," said Morris. The properties are located in Whitesville. "The last house we built was on the market for less than 36 hours," said Morris. "It was shown 10 times the first day and sold the first day for actually more than the asking price. The square footage of those houses range from 1500-2000 square feet."

by Linda Dillon

Pole Barn Homes



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per square foot**

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