

Town's largest dairy farm continues to grow

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The Town of Saukville Plan Commission gave the green light to a host of agricultural projects last week — the closest thing to a building boom the community has seen in a long time.

Site plans for two large freestall barns were approved on farm properties owned by Jeff and Jean Opitz.

The largest of the buildings is a 7,000-square-foot barn to be erected on the 74-acre family farmstead on Shady Lane.

The estimated value of the barn is \$90,000.

The property, which has been in the Opitz family for generations, already has six freestall barns, two sheds and a milking parlor, along with the original farmhouse.

That proliferation of buildings raised some eyebrows with commission members, but Town Chairman Barb Jobs said the farm property is in compliance with the town's zoning restrictions.

"With A2, you can put up pretty much whatever you need as long as it is related to farming," Jobs said.

Jeff Opitz said the building project would incorporate a settling basin to collect stormwater runoff from the various building roofs.

After being assured the new barn meets all setback requirements, the commission unanimously approved the site plan.

The commission also approved the site plan for a 5,900-square-foot freestall barn the Opitzes plan to erect on a 140-acre property they own on Lakeland Road.

The building will be adjacent to an old hoop barn, which will be retained.

The value of the new barn is estimated at \$120,000.

The commission also approved the site plan for a more modest project, a 2,700-square-foot calf barn that will be built by Michael and Martha Eskra on a 78-acre property they own on Beech Lane.

The estimated value of the calf barn is \$10,000.