

Barry County stream officially named Cave Creek

by David DeDecker
Staff Writer

In 1964, Nick and Claire Wolterstorff purchased a piece of property, along with friends, as a place for recreation. After years of co-ownership, the Wolterstorffs bought their friends' share of property, becoming sole owners.

Recently, Wolterstorffs placed a conservation easement on their 77 acres. The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) worked with the Wolterstorffs to create the ease-

ment so it remains one of the special places that make Barry County unique.

Nick is a retired Yale University and Calvin College philosophy professor, and is now part of a University of Virginia think tank. His wife, Claire, is an Episcopalian priest. The couple has raised four children, and they split their retirement time between West Michigan and Virginia.

"When we purchased full ownership of the property, we set up a limited liability corporation (LCC) for the property, with our four children being the owners, each with 25 percent of the LLC," said Nick. "Then, we talked to the SWMLC about how the property could be protected."

The Wolterstorffs and the conservancy started talking about a conservation easement in 2007.

"One of the primary reasons SWMLC chose to protect this property is the creek

is very pristine," said Emily Wilke, SWMLC director of land protection. "It is a spring-fed, crystal-clear, rocky-bottom creek which meanders through the center of the property. This small stream, known locally as Cave Creek, begins as several small wetlands and flows west through the Wolterstorff property into Tamarack Lake and then into Fish Lake."

"I work with the land owners to construct an easement with which they feel comfortable," said Wilke. "We start talking about how to conserve the property. We go back and forth, making changes, to make sure they're happy with the easement. We want to know what they want to see happen, what their plans are for the future."

"We left an area out of the easement so they could build a house and outbuildings near the road, if they wanted," continued Wilke. "But it's stipulated that only one residence can be built on the property. The rest of the property is pretty much hands-off. This particular easement is pretty restrictive. But, like I said, every easement is different, and we work so all sides are happy with the arrangement. It's a legal document, attached to the deed, that runs with the deed forever. No matter who owns it."

"Their property is so fantastic," said Wilke.

The property has many dramatic topographical features. The main trail through the land winds down the hill, through the 70-foot-tall, oak-hickory forest, past pocket wetlands, and ends at the Cave Creek corridor.

The scenery changes with the passing seasons, starting with a carpet of spring wildflowers, giving way to a diverse variety of summer ferns, to an autumn foliage which is eventually covered by winter snows, before spring wildflowers poke through the ground once again.

Although the stream is locally known as Cave Creek, SWMLC discovered that the small stream actually had no



The caves that give Cave Creek its name can be seen along the leaf-strewn upper bank. They appear as dark spots (center) below a fallen tree. (Photo courtesy of Emily Wilke)

official name. The origin of the name Cave Creek is rumored to come from two large caves, at the headwaters, which were dynamited shut for safety reasons. Along the north bank of the creek are many smaller caves that have been studied by Michigan State University geologists.

George Foote of Middleville remembers playing in the caves as a boy. His father and grandfather farmed 80 acres in that area.

"My dad was born in 1913, in a house near the creek. In those days, it was used as a water source. He used to walk to the Falk School on Norris Road when he was a boy. My granddad built another house up near the road, and he dragged the barn up there with a team of horses. My dad used to tell me if you took a horse-drawn wagon over the hills near the caves it sounded hollow."

Foote went on to say, "My brother Charles, our friend Bob and me used to play in those caves before it was dynamited in the '50s, we would crawl into them to play. One was about four feet tall and 20 feet wide. The last time we tried to go in, Bob went first, and something growled. Need-

less to say, we didn't go in that time."

The Great Lakes region went through several periods of glacial advances and retreats during its geological history, and MSU studies indicate there are two places in Michigan which were not

glaciated — one of them along Cave Creek.

"I was curious, when I could not find the name of the creek on any map. So, I contacted Barry County's GIS technician, Rose An-

Continued next page



The newly named Cave Creek meanders through oak and hickory woodlands. (Photo courtesy of Emily Wilke)

COBB WELL DRILLING & REPAIR

- 7 Day Service
- Pumps Installed & Repaired
- Service On Submersible Pumps
- 2" - 5" Well Drilling and Repair

30 Years Experience

Estimates Available

517-726-0377

356 N. Pease Rd.,
Vernonville

Richard Cobb
David Cobb

MI Lic. #1740

Photo: Richard Cobb

KT coming Auctions

KENDALL TOBIAS

Hastings 945-5016

VINCENT VERDUIN

Assisting Auctioneer

★PUBLIC AUCTION★

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 10:00AM

LOCATION: From Hastings, take M-37 south 1 mile to M-79, east 2 miles to Barry County Christian School. (Heatings & Seating)

ANTIQUES & HOUSEHOLD: Freezer, Washer, Dryer, Sofa, End Tables, Gun Cabinet, Glass Front Cabinet, TVs, TV Stand, Waterfall Dresser & Vanity Dresser w/Mirror, Dressing Table with Mirror, Older 2-Door Cabinet, Cane Seat Rocker, Dresser w/Mirror, Small Oak Table w/3 Chairs, Breakfront, 4 Piece Bedroom set including Chiffonier, Wardrobe, Dresser & Bed, Singer Sewing Machine, Step Stool, Antique Plant Stand, Graniteware, Cameras, Pans, Food Grinder, Microwave, Kitchen Appliances, Dishes, Autumn Leaf, Tea Pots, Cookie Jars, Jewelry, Coin Rolls, Books, Kerosene Lamps, Crock, Toys, Storage Shelves, Quilt Rack, Guitar. **TOOLS, SPORTING GOODS:** 12' Aluminium Boat, Binocular, Sleeping Bags, Fishing Poles, Old Tackle Boxes, Coleman Lantern, Coleman Heater, Garden Tools, Wood Pulley, Stihl Weed Eater, Wood Planes, Skill Saw, Bench Grinder, Air Pig, Air Compressor, Battery Charger, Hand Tools, Torches, Post Hole Diggers, Wood Extension Ladders, Aluminum Ladders, Wind Chimes, Tool Box on Stand, Platform Scales, Wood Heater, Fence Post, Rototiller.

★ A NICE ESTATE ★

FAMILY HAS ALREADY PACKED MANY BOXES SO WE WERE NOT ABLE TO GET A COMPLETE LISTING.

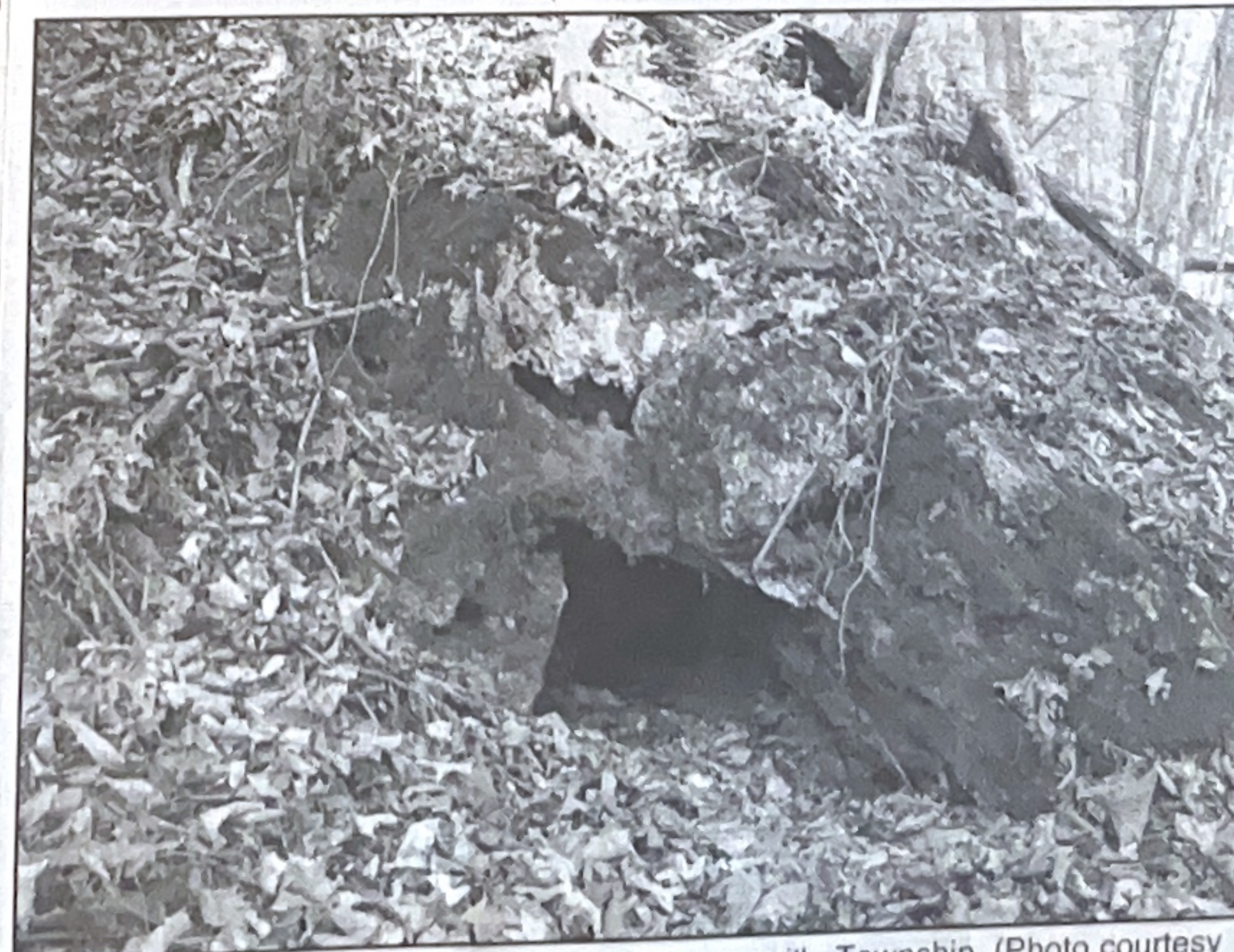
Go to [#23371](http://www.auctionzip.com) for pictures and more.

Estate of Harold & Judy Sias

Kendall Tobias, Auctioneer
1-269-945-5016

"Glad
you took
lots of
Ammo!!!"

From,
Your Colorado
Hunting
Buddies



This is one of the entrances to a cave in Orangeville Township. (Photo courtesy of Emily Wilke)

From previous page

ger," said Wilke. "Rose confirmed that the creek did not have a name. She gave me a brief rundown on how to officially name a creek, and then connected me with someone at the office of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names."

After learning about the naming process, SWMLC contacted Jennifer Goy, Orangeville Township clerk, to suggest officially naming the creek and secured the township's support at its April 6, 2010, meeting.

Working with Barry County Administrator Mike Brown, SWMLC presented the idea for review and approval by the Barry County Commissioners, who endorsed the name on July 20, 2010.

The proposed name was then presented to Michigan's Center for Geographic Information which oversees geographic naming at the state level and serves as the contact point for the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The application was forwarded to the Department of the Interior, where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs reviewed and supported the proposed name. Finally, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names voted in favor of officially naming



Gravel and small stones surround a cave entrance near the banks of Cave Creek. (Photo courtesy of Emily Wilke)

this unnamed creek Cave Creek on Dec. 9, 2010.

"What would be interesting," reflected Wilke, "is to find out how many geological features in Barry County have no official name. We named one stream, but I would be curious to find out how many more are out there. We have another property we are working on, which has a stream with no name, and we are going to officially name it after someone. It's just paperwork, but someone needs to

care enough to go through the process. It's a fun thing to do, and you can do it in honor of someone."

After an eight-month process of governmental review and approval at local, county, state and federal levels, what was once just casually known as Cave Creek, is now officially and nationally named.

"We are working on several other projects within Barry County to conserve land around the Barry State Game Area and the Prairieville Creek," said Wilke. "We have also signed a purchase agreement for 300 acres owned currently by the Ruffed Grouse Society in Barry County."

"We work in the nine counties of Southwest Michigan, but Barry County is our most productive. People in Barry County really

want to conserve their land. They see the value in conservation. It's not just the tax breaks and financial benefits; they want to see their land protected."

For more information about the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, call 269-324-1600 or go to www.swmlc.org.

Business Services

MARTHA CRISTY:
COUCH PIANO SERVICE:
Tuning, repair and regulating. Registered member Piano Technicians Guild, (269)945-4809

MINI STORAGE AVAILABLE, 10x10, 10x15, 10x20 units, space your storage place, 616-374-1200.

OWEN DRYWALL: I am a local drywall with 20+ years experience in repairs and new builds. Call for a free and fair quote. Scott (269)838-1838

POORTENGA ENGINE SHOP: Full machine shop services, builder of agricultural, industrial and performance engines. (269)367-4564.

CLIP THIS AD & SAVE IT!



Let us do the dirty work and you can have the fun of refinishing!

- STRIPPING
- REPAIR
- REGLUING
- REFINISHING

THE FURNITURE STRIPPING BUSINESS

538 Sherman, Nashville • (517) 852-0943

Stuart & Elaine Southworth, Owners

Mon-Fri 9:30-3:30 • Sat & Sun by appointment



2005 Chevy Impala LS 4-Dr.
Macanoot, 60,000 miles, sharp!
Book \$11,900 Asking **\$10,900**



1998 Buick Century Limited 4-Dr., only 33,000 miles, one of a kind!
Book \$6,000 Asking **Under \$6,000**



2008 Kia Optima 4-Dr.
49,000 miles
\$9,995



1999 Ford F250 Reg. Cab
Long Box, 4x4, w/snow plow, 97,000 miles.
Money Maker

Many more vehicles to choose from...
Ask for ART, MIKE, CHARLEY or JOE!

The only FULL SERVICE CAR DEALER in Hastings!

JOE WILLSON, Manager
Open Saturdays 9am to 3 PM
Weekdays 8am to 5pm

EXHAUST • HEATING & COOLING • U-JOINTS • SHOCKS
STRUTS • BATTERIES • TUNE-UPS • FRONT END ALIGNMENT
ALL MAKES OF NEW TIRES • TIRE ROTATION

BUY A NEW SET OF TIRES AND RECEIVE A FREE TIRE ROTATION WITH EVERY OTHER OIL CHANGE

FREE Loaner if qualifying, FREE Coffee,
Pick-up and Delivery inside Hastings City limits.

HOME OF THE...

OIL CHANGE \$19.95 UP TO 5 QTS. OIL
Auto Repair
• Exhaust • Tires & Repair
• Heating & Cooling
• U-Joints • Shocks & Struts
• Batteries
• Tune-Ups and MORE
STOP MONKEYING AROUND! BRING YOUR CAR INTO ART MEADE SERVICE CENTER!

DETAIL SHOP

JOE MEADE, Manager
Bumper to Bumper Detailing. Stop in and get a price!

SPECIAL... \$20
HAND WASH JOB & VAC

"The Country Dealer" ART MEADE AUTO SALES

1633 S. Hanover (M-37) Hastings 948-8111
Sale Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9:00-6:00; Sat. 9:00-3:00

91 Years
Art Meade
Joe Meade

RENT-A-CAR \$47 \$37 \$195
Special Rates for Vans
DAILY • WEEKLY • MONTHLY SINGLE DAY PER DAY 24 WEEKLY

Business Services

ROCKY'S CERAMIC TILE CONTRACTING: remodeling specialist since 1985. Serving Barry County. Licensed and insured. Free estimates. (517)490-9904.

SEAWALLS & MORE: Lake Property Improvement. Let us get your project going now. Permits can take 3 months. Be first on our list this spring. (269)838-5353.

SNOWPLOWING - Residential and commercial. Hastings, Middleville and Freeport areas. Call for estimate Tom Goggins 269-838-0213

SUNSHINE ELECTRIC: Free estimates, senior discounts 55 & over. Licensed and insured. Family owned & operated. (269)838-3899

BLEAM EAVESTROUGHING
Seamless gutter. 50 colors, free estimates. Since 1959 (269)945-0004.
www.bleameaves.com

DC BUILDERS: New construction, remodeling, additions, masonry & historical masonry repair. Licensed & insured. (269)908-0829
journeymanpcc@yahoo.com

WANTED: ALL CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S
RUNNING OR NOT
WRECKED OR JUST UNWANTED.
PAYING UP TO \$500 CASH!
FREE PICK-UP AND HAUL AWAY.
SAME DAY SERVICE.
CALL ANYTIME!
(269)967-4034.

CUT YOUR BEST DEAL!



600 and 800 Series MoCos

- Low-profile cutter with 3-year warranty
- No-tool adjustments to forming shields and swathboard for varying crop and field conditions (not available on 625 model)
- Range of sizes and conditioning systems
- Optional swivel hitch for greater maneuverability

UP TO **\$3,200 OFF!** -OR- **0%**
Fixed Rate for 48 MONTHS

USED EQUIPMENT SPECIALS!

HAY AND FORAGE

2000 JD	3070 HARVESTER	
2005 JD	3975 PTH	
1981 GE	750 PULL TYPE	
1998 JD	5PFH RWD	2245/1708 HRS
2005 JD	582 ROUND BALER	
1991 JD	348 SQUARE BALER	
1995 NH	2450 SPW SICKLE	2090 HRS
2002 JD	4895 WINDROWER	1352/1098 HRS
1990 NH	492 HAYBINE 9', ROLLS	
2004 JD	4995 WINDROWER	1286/994 HRS
2009 JD	635 MOCO	
2008 PT	8600/306 DISC MOWER	
2001 NH	HW320 WINDROWER	2300 HRS
2000 MI	1416 MERGER	
2007 VT	245 MERGER	

MISCELLANEOUS

2002 RM	414 TRAILER MIXER	
1995 JD	513 ROTARY CUTTER 5'	
OA	KING CUTTER 5' ROTARY	
1988 JD	780 SPREADER	
2000 OA	220 SEED TENDER	

PLANTERS

1999 JD	1560 15'X7.5 NO TILL	
1978 OA	MARLISS DRILL 15'X7.5"	
OA	TRUAX TRILLION TR-96 8' SEEDER	
2005 JD	1890 CCS 40' AIR DRILL	
2009 JD	1990CCS 40'	

TRACTORS

2010 JD	4720 4WD	1150 HRS
2010 JD	5075M 2WD	134 HRS
1999 JD	5210 2WD W/LDR	1043 HRS
2001 JD	5220 MPWD W/LOADER	870 HRS
1998 JD	5310 MPWD CAB TRACTOR	4950 HRS
1983 JD	750 MF, OS 3PT, W/ MWR	433 HRS
2003 OT	LB1914 MF, OS, 3PT	516 HRS
1978 JD	4640	4948 HRS
1969 JD	4020 2WD, OS, W/ 148 LDR	2301 HRS
1989 JD	4955 MPWD, PS, CAB	8152 HRS
1981 AC	7020 2WD W/LDR	8000 HRS
1994 JD	7800 2WD, PS	15900 HRS
2010 JD	7830 MPWD CAB	1500 HRS
1995 JD	8200 MF	4747 HRS
1998 JD	8200 MPWD	5600 HRS
2000 JD	8210 MF	4338 HRS
2005 JD	8220 MF	908 HRS
2010 JD	8225R	4100 HRS
2010 JD	8245R 245HP	800 HRS

For a complete list, please call us or visit Fillmoreeq.com.

Hastings, MI

2900 N M-43 Highway | (269) 945-9526

www.Fillmoreeq.com



JOHN DEERE

*Offer ends May 2, 2011. Some restrictions apply; other special rates and terms may be available, so see your dealer for details and other financing options.
*Offer ends May 2, 2011. Offer applies only to new John Deere mower conditioners. Valid in the United States only. 0% fixed rate financing or up to \$3,200 off mower conditioners valid at participating dealers only. \$3,200 based on purchase of a new 956 Mower Conditioner with added optional equipment. Actual cash back will vary by model and optional selected equipment. 0% finance offer subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Installation Plan. Some restrictions apply, see your dealer for details and other financing options.