Information about some of the Old Iron Club Demonstrations:

Antique Toys & Prairie Dolls

Rodney & Mary Meckley share the fun of old-time toys made of wood, metal, and fabric.

Apple Butter/Apple Cider Making

Who doesn't love anything made from apples??! See how the magic happens.

Barbed Wire in the Log Cabin

This replica log cabin is home to our collection of barbed wire that helped to tame the prairies. Lonnie Myers knows a lot of history about how the wire was made and the origins of the various designs.

Barb's Kitchen

Barb Stich Myers has quite a collection of cast iron cooking items to use in her kitchen. The wood-burning cook stove was purchased from the original owner.

Blacksmith Shop

Blacksmithing has been around since the beginning of the Iron Age. Back in history the blacksmith made a lot of everyday items like silverware, hinges & door latches, wagon hardware, and chains. The same machinery that was used 200 years ago can still be used today. Tyler Manahan enjoys working on his blacksmithing skills.

Broom Making

Watch Larry Vail make brooms using equipment that has been in Wilson County for well over 75 years. It originally belonged to the Hardy family and they were well known in the area for the quality of the brooms they made. The Wilson County Old Iron Club has a variety of high-quality brooms for sale each year at the show.

Candle Making

Barb Vaughn and Sandy Cox demonstrate how early pioneers made candles for daily use.

Clarence's Toy Shed

Long-time member Clarence Tharp loved all things "Old Iron"! Visit the Toy Shed to see some of the toys young people used to play with.

Corn Husk Doll Making

The early settlers and farmers had to be very creative and resourceful in all that they did. Corn husk doll making is demonstrated by Mary Jean Browne and Jean Robertson.

Sawmill

Watch Anthony Gonzalez and crew turn logs into useable lumber at the Wilson County Old Iron Days! If you have some logs to be sawed, contact Rod Vorhees (620-378-3631). The club-owned sawmill was manufactured sometime just after 1900 by the American Sawmill Company. The mill operates much as it did 100 years ago.

Shingle Saw

Byron Githens and Eric Studebaker demonstrate the shingle mill that is labeled "Lloyd Manufacturing Co., Kentville, Nova Scotia". No date is on the machine, but we believe it to be made between 1870 and 1890. There are very few of these mills that are self-feeders.

Soap & More!

Have you ever seen lye soap being made? Learn all about the ingredients and process from Tana McCarter.

Sock Knitter

Connie Vail demonstrates her circa 1920's Canadian Auto Knitter Sock Machine that she purchased on eBay. Until the Circular Sock Machines came along about 100 years ago, socks could only be made by hand knitting, a very slow process.

Spinning

Jean Luther demonstrates how animal fibers become yarn using an old spinning wheel and yarn winder.

Starbuck Pavilion

Kelley Starbuck is one of the largest Minneapolis Moline collectors around! Enjoy his collection.

Steam Engine

View the power of water when it is heated! These steam engines were used to power a variety of pieces of equipment.

Threshing Machine

Watch the threshing crew led by Tom Vorhees & Justin Gorton at work. The 1939 John Deere Thresher threshes the grain and separates the straw and chaff from the grain.

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Great gift items in the Gift Shop! Something for everyone!

The Wilson County Old Iron Club is a 501(c)3 organization
And your donation will be tax-deductible. ***Inquire at the Gift Shop***

Are you interested in the demonstrations and supporting what we're all about?
Club Family Memberships are $30. *Inquire at the Front Gate or the Gift Shop*

Show and Club Donors:

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THANKS to our 2025 Donors/Sponsors!

The generosity and support of many, many businesses and individuals have helped to make this show a possibility. Some of this support has come in the form of cash, some in the form of supplies and equipment needed, some in the form of deep discounts, and some in the form of donated labor. All has been greatly appreciated!

We couldn't have done it without you!

Student Junior Member Helpers:

Altoona-Midway FFA
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Neodesha FFA
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Wilson Co. 4-H Jr. Leaders & Members

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Janet Burke Memorial

Helen Donohue Memorial

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Jim Harkness Memorial

We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted any donations. All contributions help us achieve our mission of preserving our heritage and passing it along to the young people in our communities.

WILSON COUNTY OLD IRON CLUB EST. 1999

Wilson County Old Iron Days

Sept. 24-27, 2025

WELCOME

Case Tractor & Small Engine Collectors!

Show Opens at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday - Saturday

Food available on the grounds each day

Swap Meet each day

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

8:00 - 4:00 Demonstrations

Saturday:

8:30-3:00 pm – Demonstrations

1 pm - Musical Entertainment * – "Good Sam Club Band"

Sponsored by the First National Bank In Fredonia &

Fredonia Arts Council

3 pm - Parade of Power

Sunday:

8:30 am – The show closes with the Church Service

Thanks for coming! See you next year!
Sept. 23 – 26, 2026

www.oldironclub.org

Honaker Homestead

Learn about the "Dirty Thirties" and the Dust Bowl. Could it happen again??

Ice Cream

Everyone's favorite! This popular area, led by Sandra Gorton, features freshly-churned ice cream, made in large freezers powered by an antique small engine.

Laundry

Nancy Timmons and Eva Studebaker demonstrate quite a collection of old washing machines and ways to clean clothing. From the wash board beginning around 1797, to hand powered machines in 1865, to early electric powered machines in 1911, to gasoline engine powered Maytags in 1928 and more – you'll see it all here!

Machine Shed

Dale Tharp has quite a collection of "old iron" used to power all sorts of projects. Stop by for a visit and a tour of the variety of items the old machine sheds used to hold.

Open Fire Cooking

Marty VanFossen enjoys open-fire cooking and demonstrating the methods to students. Pioneers and settlers practiced these methods out of necessity.

Plant Shed

Michael Olson's exhibit teaches about cereal grains (oats, barley, rye, triticale and wheat) – their growth, uses, and much more!

Power House

Stop by Kenny Tharp's Power House for a look at a band wheel that was in operation in Wilson County from 1901 until 1974. This band wheel was in use on an oil lease on the Joe and Lillie Snavely property east of Neodesha.

R Performance Horses and Training

Horses have long been working animals on farms and ranches. Learn more about the training process from Taylor Reed.

Rock Crushers

Owner Kenny Tharp has amassed what is believed to be the mid-west's largest collection of vintage rock crushers. His collection includes a Rogers Iron Works rock crusher (circa 1930), an Aurora rock crusher (circa 1890-1900), a 1935 Rogers Iron Works crusher, and a Jeffry Lime Pulver, which is the machine that made lime cheap. 2 cycle and 4 cycle Superior engines from the 1920's are used to power the rock crushers.

Rope Making

Everybody loves to help make a rope! Ropes of various lengths and thickness can also be purchased at the show. Jeff Walker heads this demonstration.

Corn Processing

The Johnny Eck family, and others, demonstrate the various methods that corn was processed for consumption by humans, cattle, hogs, and other animals with various corn choppers, grinders, corn shellers, and grist mills making corn meal. Corn products for sale are: cracked corn, whole corn, ear corn, and cornmeal.

Country Church Old Time Music

Join Matt Kleopfer as he shares how music and churches were and are an important part of communities.

Engine Building

All kinds of engines were needed to power rural life. Visit the Engine Building to see a variety of power sources on display. Of special note is the 1888 Crossley-Otto Slide Vale Piano Base 2HP – Patent 1876.

Feed and Seed Cleaning

Mike Olson has amassed quite a collection of seed cleaning equipment and enjoys sharing it with eager learners at Old Iron Days. His collection of seed cleaners includes those used by individual farmers, as well as commercial models.

4-H Pavilion

This area features an egg hatchery that was used locally. Many thousands of eggs could be hatched at one time. In addition, you will learn how other animals were important to the daily life and livelihood of farm families.

4-Rivers

When electricity came to rural America, it changed how people worked and lived. Learn more about respecting the power of electricity.

Fredonia Portland Cement Display Area

Steam Engine "Dinky" has a new home! This steam engine and 2 of the cars were used to haul rock from the quarry to the crusher in the Fredonia Portland Cement Plant.

Furs/Trapping

Pioneers and settlers often depended upon the rewards of trapping for their food, the warmth of the furs, and for their value in trade. See local trapper John Borror's large collection of traps, as well as get "up close and personal" with his collection of furs. John is a member of the Kansas Fur Harvesters Association.

Hand Sewing/Spinning/Bobbin Lace & Tatting Demonstrations

Join our local artisans as they demonstrate the intricacies of the crafts that brought woman together and helped to turn their houses into homes.

Hay Press

Luke Hufford and crew run the antique hay press. This equipment demonstrates the labor-intensive work of turning loose hay or straw into bales after threshing. This is just one of the examples of how many of the tasks on farms of the past required people to work as a team.