

STRAWBALE HOME CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE

Tour Information



deBogden Home

This home was a family affair including Claude Sr and his wife Nancy, sons Claude Jr. and John, plus John's wife Genevieve. Nancy had a plan in her mind from which she built a cardboard model. They hired crews for the cement work and family all pitched in for placing bales



Not everything went smoothly with this project. The family dealt with major medical problems and the passing of Claude Sr. early in the summer of 2009.

The family applied determination and vast amounts of hard work — and their efforts built this beautiful 3000 square foot home.

It features radiant floor heat and a passive solar design to com-



All the homes in this program used the NON-LOADBEARING design. A wise choice by the builders because of the rapidly changing weather in the Ozarks. Lenders and Insurance companies were also reassured by the post and beam design.

Steffes Home

Shannon and Benji Steffes, with the help of family did everything from digging footers to the final finish, including plastering.



This house was built as a starter home with a design that can be easily added to.

The present floor plan is one bedroom with efficiency living area adding up to about 500 square feet. The house is built on an insulated concrete slab. Most of the window area is arranged facing the south for passive solar gain.



Straw Bale Home Construction Initiative proposed by Top of the Ozarks Resource Conservation and Development, Inc, Houston, MO. The project used a grant from HUD and was conducted in partnership with Missouri University Extension Center in Douglas County.

Travis Bentley Home

Travis built his straw bale house with family help and encouragement. He designed and built to utilize passive solar benefits.

Travis understood the benefits of baled straw for insulation, but liked the appearance of timber framing. He placed the massive timber frame completely inside the plastered bale walls, giving him the best of both worlds.



The house is built long facing east and west but is only 20 feet deep on the north/south aspect. Most of the window space is on the south side. Travis plans to build a green house and sun space on the south side in the near future.



Tom Bentley Home

Tom and Phyllis Bentley needed a new home. When Tom retired from MoDot last summer, they decided to build their own. Tom had gained a little straw bale experience while helping his son, Travis.



They liked the Southwest Adobe style, but had to consider the Missouri weather. They decided on a near flat roof to maintain the adobe style. Tom plans to build a masonry style heat sink on the south end for heat retention and passive solar gain.



Tom Arth Home

Tom has a career in psychology, but easily adapted to being a straw bale builder. He did his homework before starting.

A longtime interest in alternative building was basic inspiration, but the grant money helped Tom decide on straw bale.



Tom's is the only home in the project built on a crawl space. The design is a combination of passive and active solar. Solar voltaic panels on the roof, coupled to a matched storage battery bank and an OutBack inverter tied to the grid has nearly brought the electric meter to a halt.

The tankless water heater, high efficiency refrigerator and rain water catchment all make an energy efficient home.



Boisse Home

Mark and Gretchen's dream came true with the help of the grant money, careful planning and long days of hard work.

They had been collecting building materials for some time, anticipating building an energy efficient home in the future.

Gretchen has a degree in engineering which she put to good use in designing the home.

This little 1 1/2 story house uses every square foot of space available. With both bedrooms upstairs they have sufficient living space on the main floor.



Special aspects of this home include the use of an earth based plaster and blue denim insulation in the roof. This is the only home in the program to use a composting toilet and system to recycle gray water for irrigation of fruit trees.



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