

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Always a work in Progress!

How big of a wedding or event can you accommodate?

Our most frequently asked question! And, strangely one of the most complex to answer. Let's break it down.

Just seating – seats in chairs:
Inside the barn 175
On the porch 75
Lawn behind the barn 300
(Tents may be set up behind the barn)

Dinner Service –We have beautiful, rustic farmhouse tables, chairs and benches for 150. We can comfortably seat and serve 175 with the use of additional banquet tables and/or tables on the porch. Each table is 8 feet long and seats either 8 or 10 people depending on table arrangement. There MAY be an additional charge for tables and chairs beyond the 175 included in your package.

Dance, party or open house type event – The beauty of Shaggy Dog Farm is that there is so much room to roam. People tend to spread out on the lawn, the gardens, at the firepit, the porch and the barn so we have a lot of flexibility and can visit with you about the size and type of event and see what will work.

We have a big family and I really want my wedding to be at Shaggy Dog Farm. Is there any way to accommodate my 250 wedding?

The limiting factor is dinner seating. You have the option of renting tents, tables and chairs for outdoor dining service. There are a number of local wedding rental vendors you can work with. The barn can still be the focal point of your event serving as an entry point, guest book sign in, gift table, mingling space before the ceremony, cocktails and appetizers during the social hour and cake service and dance/reception space after dinner.

Do you have restrooms?

We have two modern, unisex restrooms. One has a baby changing table. This easily accommodates events of about 150 with minimal wait times. As you inch above 150 guests, you may want to consider renting a port-a-john. There are several local vendors including one that provides luxury port-a-johns.

What about parking?

We have a variety of parking areas and a guest drop off point. We supply a parking attendant as needed as part of your rental package and have good luck with events of 175 or smaller. That said, we highly encourage carpooling. Many of our clients also use a shuttle to pick up and drop off guests at local hotels. It really helps with parking and is a favorite with guests. We can designate handicap spots.

Our policy on leaving cars overnight is pretty simple (and maybe a little unique). If you need to leave your car – leave it. If are wondering or questioning whether you should leave your car – leave it. If someone asks if you think you should drive your car – leave it. Just lock it and pick it up before noon on Sunday.

What is the cost and what is included in the Shaggy Dog Farm rental package?

Our rental package include use of the barn, bathrooms, porch and bridal parlor and grounds; time for rehearsal, set up and photography; tables and chairs for up to 175 guests; on-site parking with attendant; trash and recycling receptacles and licensed bartender(s).

What is the operating season at Shaggy Dog Farm?

We are a seasonal venue. Our operating season is mid-June through the first weekend of October. Of course, weather is always a consideration when planning an outdoor event and the shoulder seasons can be the most fickle in the northland. The barn provides shelter from rain and wind, but it is not heated. Heaters rated for indoor spaces can be rented locally. They must be pre-approved by Shaggy Dog Farm. Tents can be set up at the ceremony site if the day turns to rain. The bridal parlor is air conditioned. That said, summer and fall are so beautiful here and the barn and grounds provide the opportunity to have a perfect day even when the weather isn't perfect.

What is your policy on food?

Shaggy Dog Farm is a fully licensed and insured restaurant and bar. We can work with you to plan the perfect meal to meet your budget and the tastes of your guests. Choosing our in-house catering not only assures a delicious and unique dining experience but streamlines your planning process and provides seamless delivery. Additionally, you can use a caterer of your choice - however, you must use a licensed and insured caterer. We don't allow potlucks or home prepared food to be brought in. You would work directly with your caterer to plan and pay for the meal and service. Outside caterers are responsible for all food handling, service, cleanup and storage. The kitchen is not available to outside caterers for prep, storage or clean up. We charge a \$100 trash/ recycling fee if disposable dinnerware is used by outside caterers unless they take the trash with them.

You are responsible for your cake.

What is the policy on liquor?

Shaggy Dog Farm is a fully licensed and insured bar. By law, we cannot allow any alcohol to be brought in. This includes for the rehearsal, reception or clean up. We offer very competitive drink prices and packages and provide experienced, friendly bartenders. We can have the bar open anytime during your weekend that you choose – whether it is a cold beer for the rehearsal, a champagne toast at dinner, bloody marys and mimosas for Sunday morning cleanup or none of the above, we can work with you to create the experience you want!

What is the policy on music and entertainment?

You are responsible for arranging music and PA system for your ceremony and reception. Both live and recorded music are permitted, however the music must end by midnight to comply with local noise ordinance.

Do you allow pets? In general we do not allow pets though pets of the bride and groom can participate in the ceremony and photograph sessions with a signed waiver.

Are there other prohibitions I should be aware of?

No firearms of any kind are allowed on the premises.

No candles, smoking or vaping in any of the buildings

We do not allow fireworks

Is there lodging at Shaggy Dog Farm?

We don't offer lodging at this time. However, one of the great things about Shaggy Dog Farm is the availability of lodging within minutes from the farm. There are two Bed and Breakfast Inns within a mile. We are a short five-minute drive from Ashland which provides over a dozen hotels, an RV park and several campgrounds. There are also two casinos with lodging within 30 minutes. Nearby Bayfield, Washburn and Iron River offer a wide variety of lodging and additional recreation opportunities.

I am using an outside caterer; can I still use the famous Shaggy "Sheeque" mix and match china?

Of course! We know it is a favorite and just adds to the charm and character of your day. We charge by the place setting. Plates and forks for cake service are an extra charge. We also have a variety of serving pieces and cloth napkins available for a small charge. If we provide the food these items are included in the price of the meal.

Do you offer other items at the farm?

We offer limited table linens, decorations, lanterns, vintage pieces, whiskey barrels, cupcake stands, patio style heaters and much more. Many of the smaller pieces are included in your rental package, others can be rented for use at your event.

Have more questions? Just give us a call. We are always happy to answer questions and always want to keep learning, growing and exploring!