

COUNTRY LIFE CENTER

Local landmark receives grant for repairs



Contributed Photo
The Wallace Centers of Iowa (WCI) last week received a \$41,055 grant to repair and improve the farmhouse at Vice President Henry A. Wallace's birthplace farm located at 2773 290th St., Orient.

ORIENT — The Wallace Centers of Iowa (WCI) announced last week it received a \$41,055 State of Iowa Historical Resource Development Program grant to repair and improve the farmhouse at Vice President Henry A. Wallace's birthplace farm in southern Adair County near Orient.

The grant was one of only 32 statewide projects to receive funding from the State Historical Society of Iowa, which

WALLACE
Continued on p 5

WALLACE

Continued from page 1

seeks to preserve historical collections, invest in communities through historic preservation, and promote Iowa history. The grant is a one-to-one match, meaning that WCI will need to raise an additional \$41,055 to complete the project.

"These critical grant funds help sustain art, heritage and cultural vibrancy across Iowa, showcasing world-class cultural programs and destinations and the talents and skills of our state's hard-working artists, historic caretakers and business owners," said Chris Kramer, director of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

Project work will include fixing a leaky roof and replacing vinyl-clad windows and cement siding with historically-appropriate materials. The project is expected to begin in August and be completed by October 2020.

Historic preservationist Brian Zaachary of Creston will oversee the work, making sure that materials and repairs follow the Secretary of the Interior preservation guidelines. BWT Remodel of Greenfield is the general contractor. Specialty work will be

done by Wilson Electric of Orient and Schultz Plumbing in Greenfield. The Farmhouse is expected to be closed until mid-October.

"Dating from the 1880s, the Farmhouse is the oldest building at the Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center and key to creating a special sense of place and setting on the property," noted Deb Houghtaling, President & CEO. "These repairs will greatly improve its overall stability, appearance and operations."

Anyone interested in contributing towards the required match should contact Houghtaling at 641-745-7774. Gifts of all sizes are welcome.

The Wallace Centers of Iowa's two locations include the Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center in rural Orient and the Wallace House in Des Moines. Together, the two historic sites provide educational programs and community services, produce sustainably-grown fruits and vegetables, and offer locally-sourced meals. More information about the non-profit can be found at www.wallace.org. More information about the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is available at iowaculture.gov or 515-281-5111.