

COUNTRY WEDDINGS

by Karen Petersen

What was once considered an “across the board traditional wedding” has evolved in recent years to be as unique as the bride herself! Many traditions have fallen by the wayside and wedding civilities have become more suited to today’s lifestyles, personalities, and budgets.

The traditional ceremony in a church, and reception at the local dance hall are no longer the “norm”. There is a new trend toward simpler weddings with a bigger focus on family and friendships. Many couples are choosing wedding venues with fun, unique, and scenic backdrops. Couples are looking to the rustic elegance and simplicity of rural locations to say their nuptials.

A blanket of green grass, rolling cornfields, and a beautiful sunset make for an outstanding backdrop to a night of celebration! This way of thought might actually be closer to your families’ traditional Iowa wedding. Was this the same setting our great-grandparents enjoyed on their wedding day? Did they enjoy flowers that were in season from neighbors’ gardens and fresh local grown food? Take time to ask some family history questions and you may see how you and a relative still share the blessings of our surroundings.

So...be creative and make your special day your own! We have those unique locations for Iowa girls and guys to celebrate their heritage. A vineyard in the fall, a lake at sunset, or the rustic charm of an antique barn – these are all perfect settings for a beautiful wedding. From the ceremony to the reception, these locations can be as dressed-up or as dressed-down as the bride and groom choose.