**Inspecting Buildings for Hidden Wind Damage**

After a severe windstorm or tornado, farm buildings should be examined for hidden damage which could weaken the structure and create possible hazards. Prompt repair is usually less expensive in the long run. If it looks like a building has suffered structural damage, get an expert's advice.

To check a building for hidden damage:

**Roof**

Inspect the roof. Check roofs both inside and outside. Don't check the roof from the ground unless it is too steep or too high to climb. If a ground inspection is necessary, use binoculars. When checking the roof, look for:

1. Damaged or missing shingles. Check asphalt shingles for cracks at the butt end where they may have been weakened from flexing. Make sure individual shingles have not blown off. Thoroughly inspect shingles on the ridge, gable ends, and eaves.
2. Loose nails on metal roofing. Inspect the entire roof, with particular attention to gable ends, eaves and ridge cap. If nails have worked loose, re-nail them as soon as possible. If the nails don't hold when hammered back in use #12 or # 14 metal screws to fill old nail holes. (Use aluminum screws on aluminum, and steel screws on steel.) Re-nail 3 to 4 inches away with ring or screw type nails.
3. Potential leaks. On a sunny day. check the roof carefully inside the building with the building doors closed. While looking for holes in the roof, inspect the ridge, gable ends and eaves for possible structural separation.

**Foundation**

Inspect the foundation. The plate should not be separated from the studding where the foundation meets the walls. On block foundations. inspect mortar joints to make sure the block with the plate bolt in it hasn't separated from the wall. On stone or concrete foundations, check to see that the plate bolts have not worked loose.

**Interior**

Inspect the interior of buildings for structural damage. Using a good light, check the framing. Look for ridge sepa­ration, loose knee braces, and loose rafters where the rafters join the walls.