

Porter's Patch barn quilt is number 24

When Troy Porter agreed to sponsor a barn quilt as part of the Shawano County barn quilt project, the obvious pattern he wanted was that of a strawberry. Troy is the owner of Porter's Patch, which has been a Porter family-owned farm since 1913, at W4314 Highway 156, Navarino. The quilt is the county's 24th.

Strawberries were first planted commercially in 1986. Since then, raspberries, blueberries, asparagus, pumpkins and other vegetables have been added.

When asked what she thought of the barn quilt, Troy's grandmother, "Jeep," said, "It's beautiful and just the size of the berries we have on the farm."

For the Porters, it all began in 1876 when Milo Porter, a civil war veteran, homesteaded 160 acres with his family. Milo had a large walnut and butternut orchard and harvested maple syrup, honey and ginseng. The land was actively farmed until being sold in 1944. The current Porter farm, which is adjacent to the original Porter Homestead, was purchased in 1913 by Fred and Nellie Porter. The barn on which the quilt is mounted was built in 1910. In 1923, the farm was purchased by Cliff and Ede Porter. Roger and Jeanette (Jeep) Porter purchased the farm in 1948.

Troy's parents, Allen and Judy, purchased sections of the land in 1996, 2000 and 2003. Troy purchased the remaining 80 acres along with the original farmhouse and buildings in 2006 and built a new Farm Store shortly thereafter.