

County's 28th barn quilt honors late husband

When Shirley Wegner first heard about the Shawano County barn quilt project, she thought it would be great to sponsor one in honor of her late husband, Melvin. She and her daughter-in-law Rogene and son Steve selected a pattern called "Skyrocket" that is now on display on their barn at W3255 County Road E, Cecil. It is the county's 28th barn quilt and is on the Wegner home farm.

Melvin and Shirley had purchased the farm from Melvin's parents, Robert and Ida, in 1958. By that time, the farm had expanded to 280 acres from the original 120 that had been purchased by Steve's great grandfather Herman in 1874. The farm was a dairy operation for many years, with milk sold to the White Clay Lake Cheese Factory.

Steve and Rogene purchased the farm from his parents in 1989 and continued to have a Holstein dairy herd until this spring. Today they grow corn and alfalfa and raise dairy heifers and steers. The land includes managed timber that is harvested by professional foresters and loggers.

Steve and Rogene are dedicating the quilt to Steve's great grandparents, grandparents and his parents, all of whom were instrumental in the farm's success.

"Steve's dad was always thinking about how he could improve his operation and make things easier and more efficient," Shirley said.