

County's 31st barn quilt is a gem

Jim Martin, owner of Martin Jewelers in Shawano, has sponsored the 31st Shawano County barn quilt, appropriately called "Diamond Rose." The quilt hangs on a barn owned by Jeff and Stacy Drews at W8371 Belle Plaine Avenue, Shawano. They farm with Jeff's brother Tom and his wife Amy. Their farm was selected as the host for the quilt because Amy is Martin's niece.

The barn was built in 1905 on the farm originally owned by Carl and Ruth Retzlaff. Ervin Drews, Jeff and Tom's grandfather, bought the farm in the early 1960s.

The Drews brothers now operate that farm and the adjoining one, totaling 262 acres, taking over from their parents, Ray and Bernice, who had purchased the farm in 1966. Cows were milked on the original farm from 1982 until 1995. Today, 50 Holsteins are milked on Tom Drews' farm.

The quilt was painted by the Shawano county barn quilt committee with the assistance of the Waukechon Wildcats 4-H club.