

Pinzgauer Pride is 36th Barn Quilt

Ken Matyas, owner of Belle Plaine Pinzgauers at N3876 State Highway 22, a few miles south of Shawano, has sponsored Shawano County's 36th barn quilt as part of the county-wide project started about a year ago. The quilt pattern, which Matyas designed himself, is meant to bring attention to a relatively new beef breed in the U.S. and to promote what makes Wisconsin great – cows!

“When I first saw a barn quilt on a neighbor's barn, I thought it was a nice way to pay tribute to the old barns in Shawano County,” Matyas said. He bought the farm from Gordy Sorenson in 2001 and plans to restore the barn, which was built around 1900, and add a milking parlor.

At first, Matyas raised Holstein steers, but then decided to raise ‘beefers’. He bought a mixed collection of beef breeds, including his first two Pinzgauer heifers, and a bull. He now has 16 registered full blood Pinzgauers.

“There was an instant attraction for me to the breed because of the animals’ gentle disposition and attractiveness,” Matyas said. After researching the breed, which originated in Austria, he became even more impressed with the quality and taste of the beef as well. Matyas currently sells breeding stock, beef and semen from his registered bulls.

Matyas is so impressed with the barn quilt project that he has already picked out a pattern for a quilt to be put on the opposite end of his barn, which should be done sometime in July.