

Shawano Barn Quilt Project Reaches Milestone 50th Quilt

A barn quilt sponsored by Lowell and Deanna Pederson, Pine Acres Farm, W1340 Nauman Road, Cecil, is the 50th barn quilt in the countywide project started in 2010. That number is doubly significant for the Pedersons since they will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this fall.

The pattern the Pedersons chose for their barn quilt is called "Spring Tulips." "We wanted a pattern that could incorporate the colors of our three favorite machinery brands, International, John Deere and Oliver," Lowell said. "And this pattern does that very well," Deanna added.

After getting married, Lowell and Deanna lived in Green Bay while Lowell worked at Packerland for 18 years. Then, for three years, they had a 'pick your own' strawberry business near Sobieski. They bought their farm from Joe Nauman 32 years ago where they had a Holstein milking herd of 90-100 cows until they dispersed the herd in April 2007. They raised three sons, Dennis, Scott, and Brian, and a daughter, Connie, all of whom are married and have families of their own. The Pedersons have five grandchildren and one great granddaughter. One grandson, Casey, is in his first tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Deanna said she had become fascinated by the barn quilt project after seeing several others in the area. Their interest grew further as Lowell and son Brian thought they could incorporate colors of the 30-35 old tractors they own. The tractors are entered in shows and parades as well as in tractor pulls. The Pedersons have won well over 1000 trophies with their tractors, which they've collected over the past 15 years. While Lowell and Brian are the main collectors of the tractors, Brian is the chief mechanic, keeping all the tractors in running condition.

Another annual activity the Pedersons enjoy is a tractor ride they participate in with 60 other families in the Advance area. They ride for 3-5 hours, stopping at two or three 'watering' holes, then ending up back in Advance for a family-style picnic.