

Pella Eagles 4-H Club Sponsors Shawano County's 72nd Barn Quilt

The Pella Eagles 4-H Club, with over 40 members, has sponsored its second and Shawano County's 72nd barn quilt as part of the countywide project that was started a year ago in September by local Shawano photographer Jim Leuenberger. The pattern for the quilt was designed by one of the club's leaders, Cindy Graper. It's called "4-H is Fun" and is displayed on a barn owned by Jim and Dorothy Poppe, W11533 County M, Marion.

Dorothy grew up next to the farm where she and Jim live, while Jim was raised on a dairy farm south of Marion. After high school, Dorothy moved to Appleton, where she worked for AAL for 17 years. Jim and Dorothy were married during that time, but in 1977 they purchased the farm when their former neighbor decided to sell.

Jim and Dorothy purchased the barn on which the quilt is displayed in 1983. It dates back to 1905, with the original owner being W. G. Rosenow. Dorothy still works part time for Nolan Sales, after working there full time for 22 years. Jim custom bales round hay bales and in the fall hauls soybeans and corn to mills for local farmers.

In the accompanying photo, the mural on the International tractor was commissioned by the Poppe's sons, Mark and Brian, while Jim was at University Hospital in Madison being treated for pancreatic cancer in 2010. The mural is of the Poppe farmstead.