

Bowler 4-H Club Paints 91st Shawano County Barn Quilt

Spinning Stars is the pattern the Bowler 4-H club chose for the barn quilt they painted that now is on display on a barn owned by Elton and Marcella Strassburg and Kurt and Diana Strassburg at W14986 County D, just outside of Bowler. The quilt, the 91st barn quilt now on display in Shawano County, was painted in the school colors of Bowler High School.

One of the Bowler 4-H club's leaders, Jeni Strassburg, said their club talked about doing a quilt when the project was first proposed and finally got it going when Diana (Kurt's wife) took the lead on getting it started.

The farm where the quilt is displayed was owned by the Paul Gutt family until Earl Nelson bought it in 1945. The 120-acre farm was then bought by Elton Strassburg at the Earl Nelson auction in 1957. Seven years later Elton married Marcella Fuhrman of Tigerton. Together they farmed and raised two sons and a daughter.

The following years brought many changes to the farm, including a barn addition, several silos, machine sheds, another farm for young stock and additional land. In 2005, Kurt, their youngest son, his wife Diana and their sons Brock and Brady started taking over the farming operation. They have a milking herd of 80 Holsteins cows, along with 70 head of replacement heifers. The farm now totals over 400 acres of owned and rented land.

"Deciding to sponsor a barn quilt was an easy decision for the Bowler 4-H club members," Diana Strassburg said, "as they felt it would be a great way to promote the agricultural focus in the community. And choosing to paint the quilt in the Bowler Panther school colors again represents the community and support of their school." Bowler 4-H club members who worked on the quilt included Jacob Strassburg, Beth Grosskopf, Kris Thiex, Brock Strassburg, Alyssa Strassburg, Brady Strassburg, Bailey Grosskopf, Tristan Thiex, Brooke Thiex, Caleb Davids, Schulyar Davids, Lilly Wisnefske, Aubrey Wisnefske, Shandy Madosh, Mackenzie Mayer, Marlie Long and Lauren Bahr.

The Strassburg family is proud to have been chosen as the site for the Bowler 4-H club's barn quilt. "It's a great location since everyone who drives by can easily see our fantastic quilt," Diana said.