

“Dutch Dreams” is Pattern for Shawano County’s 106th Barn Quilt

John and Tammy Jo Lemke have chosen a colorful pattern of four tulips, called “Dutch Dreams,” for their barn quilt at N4953 Hintz Road, Krakow, in eastern Shawano County. Lemke’s Frogwater Farm, the name of their eight-acre farm, is the sponsor of their quilt, which is mounted on a beautifully restored barn that was built in 1937. A new roof and paint job, along with a beautiful cupola on top of the barn that John built, are just a part of the improvements the Lemkes have made to their barn.

Little is known about the farm until it was purchased by a Brezinski family in the 1930s. They remodeled the house and tore down the other log buildings and then built the present structures. A Przybylski family bought the farm in the 1950s and ran it as a dairy farm for a short time. John and Tammy Jo bought the farm from the Przybylski family in 2002. “When we were looking for a place in the country to buy, the barn is what really drew us to this place,” John said. “In fact, we got married in the hay loft of the barn in 2006.”

As far as why they decided to participate in the barn quilt project, John said that since both he and Tammy Jo have lived all their lives in northeast Wisconsin, they wanted to do something to support the area and help draw people to Shawano County. “Putting a barn quilt on our barn was like putting chrome wheels on an old truck,” John said. “It just sets it off.”

John and Tammy Jo have a son, Casey. They enjoy raising their own beef, pork and vegetables. “I guess farming is just in my blood,” John said, “even if it’s on a small scale.”

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