

Schmidt Family Barn Quilt Reflects FFA Participation

Jeff and Holly Schmidt have sponsored Shawano County's 116th barn quilt that is on display on their 103 year old barn on their farm at N7148 South Schmidt Road west of Gresham. The pattern they chose is called "Diamonds Are Forever." The quilt is painted in the yellow and blue colors of the FFA Organization because the Schmidt family has always been very active in the FFA program.

Jeff's parents, Louie and Jackie, were FFA members, as were Jeff and Holly. Jeff and Holly's two daughters and son have also been active FFA members. Nicole was Vice President of the Gresham FFA, was State Vice President and President, and for the past four and a half years has been Executive Director of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. Their other daughter, Kayla, was Vice President and President of the local chapter and was a national finalist in prepared speaking. Their son Dylan, a senior at Gresham High School, has been Vice President and President of the local chapter and may run for state office.

The Schmidt farm was started by Jeff's great great grandparents, John and Catherine Hahn, in 1881. William and Marguerite Schmidt took over the farm in 1890, followed by Louis and Margaret Schmidt in 1921. Louie and Jackie took over the farm in 1962 and farmed with Jeff's uncle and aunt, Clyde and Marge Schmidt until 1994. Jeff and Holly bought out Clyde and Marge in 1994. Jeff and Holly took ownership in 2000, the fifth generation of Schmidts on the farm.

The farm has always been operated as a dairy farm, with a milking herd of around 40 Holsteins. Today the herd numbers 82 milking cows, with 440 acres owned and another 140 rented for crops. If Dylan returns to the farm after graduating from Fox Valley Tech, more cows might be added to the milking herd.

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