

## County's 137<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt is "Star of the Night"

Shawano County's 137<sup>th</sup> barn quilt is a striking red, white and blue pattern called "Star of the Night." It is on a beautiful barn owned by Tim and Cathy Meyer, N8693 River Road, Wittenberg. The quilt was sponsored by Wisconsin Film & Bag of Shawano.

Jim Feeney, Wisconsin Film & Bag President said his company wanted to show support for the barn quilt project as a means of recognizing the importance agriculture and farming play in the success of Shawano County. "The barn quilt project is an opportunity to showcase the creativity and craftsmanship of the people who make farming a way of life," Feeney said. Wisconsin Film & Bag, located in Shawano's industrial park since 1983, is a leading Midwest manufacturer of polyethylene film for industrial and food packaging applications. The company employs 136 people and is currently undergoing its fourth expansion.

Cathy Meyer and her husband Tim have lived on their 40-acre farm on River Road since 1999. Seeing the articles about the barn quilts in local newspapers provided the catalyst for them to want to get one for their barn. "I immediately became infatuated with the barn quilts," Cathy said, "so I called project coordinator Jim Leuenberger to set a time when we could meet and pick out a pattern. When we met, he told us Wisconsin Film & Bag wanted to sponsor a quilt. We really appreciate them sponsoring ours and couldn't be more pleased with how well it turned out."

Cathy's mother and grandmother were both quilters. In fact, her grandmother was commissioned to replicate a quilt for the Old Slave House in Shawneetown, Illinois to be put in a room in which President Abraham Lincoln had stayed.

The original owners of the Meyer farm were a Barenwald family, who presumably had a dairy herd. From 1980 to 1994, it was owned by Dave and Julia Appel, who raised veal calves in the lower part of the barn. The Meyers bought the farm from a Wykoff family in 1999. They moved to the area from Kenosha because they wanted their two daughters to know what living in the country was like. "We couldn't be happier about our move," Cathy said.

The Meyers raise some beef cattle, hogs and chickens for their own use. They also have a large vegetable garden and several varieties of apple trees. The barn is mainly used for storage, along with a woodworking shop for Tim, who is a third generation union carpenter.

Kathy Johnson, Executive Administrator at Wisconsin Film & Bag, said the barn quilt project is wonderful for the Shawano area. "Displaying the quilts on barns throughout Shawano County, with their beautifully-colored, artistic designs, was a great idea," Johnson said.

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