

County's Barn Quilt Project Reaches another Milestone...Number 150!

Shawano County's amazingly popular barn quilt project has reached another milestone with the 150th quilt being put on display. The quilt is on a barn at S & H Hilltop Dairy, N5257 County Highway D, Leopolis. Jerome and Marlene Schultz own the dairy farm in partnership with their son Randy, and Leonard Howell.

The quilt, called "S & H Hilltop Morning Star," was co-sponsored by Asenbrenner Insurance of Shawano and Pella Mutual Insurance of Marion in recognition of Jerome and Marlene's 50th wedding anniversary.

The original Hilltop Dairy farm was established in 1890 by a Stodola family, who retained ownership until 1944. Marvin and Ethel Schultz purchased the 53-acre farm at auction in 1944 and operated the farm until Marvin's death in 1954. Ethel and her son Jerry operated the farm until 1963 when Jerry and Marlene purchased it. By then it had grown to 163 acres with a 25 cow Holstein dairy herd. Over the years, six more adjoining farms were purchased, making today's total 460 acres.

In 2007, the Schultz family formed an LLC with partner Leonard Howell. Two years later, Jerry realized a lifelong dream with the building of a new free stall barn for their now 200-cow dairy herd. In addition to son Randy who is a partner in the dairy, Jerry and Marlene have a daughter Teri, who lives in Madison with her husband Brian, and a son Brian, who lives in Shawano with his wife Lisa. Randy and his wife Robin live in Leopolis.

John Asenbrenner, who owns Asenbrenner Insurance in Shawano with his brother Mike, said they were pleased to be asked to co-sponsor the Schultz quilt. "It's really a nice way to support the area's agricultural community as well as the Schultz family, who have been customers of ours for many years," John Asenbrenner said. Asenbrenner Insurance has been in business for 30 years, offering a personal line of auto, home and farm insurance.

Similarly, Pella Mutual Insurance of Marion was a co-sponsor of the Schultz quilt. Patrick Laws, general manager for Pella Mutual Insurance, said, "Pella Mutual is committed to serving the Shawano area, especially the farming community. So helping to sponsor a barn quilt for the Schultz family was an easy decision." Pella Mutual has been in existence since 1876, formed just a few years after the historic fires in Peshtigo and Chicago. In the wake of those fires, farmers realized it was important that they have insurance, but the large insurance companies wouldn't insure them because they felt it was too risky. "So," Laws said, "farmers did what they do best, taking things into their own hands and forming mutual insurance companies, of which Pella Mutual was one of the first."

The Schultz barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put up by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen of Raddant Electric of Shawano.

Anyone who would like to participate in Shawano County's barn quilt project can contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at 715-524-5685 or via email at jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com. You can

also contact Patti Peterson, tourism manager at the Shawano Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or tourism@shawano.com. A link on the Shawano Chamber Web site includes photos and information on every quilt on display in the county. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.

#