

Polzin White Clay Lake Farm is Home to County's 156th Barn Quilt

Polzin White Clay Lake farm owned by Leon and Deborah Polzin at N5999 White Clay Lake Drive east of Cecil, is home to Shawano County's 156th barn quilt. The quilt was co-sponsored by the Polzins and Jenda Trucking of Cecil.

The pattern Leon and Deborah chose for their quilt is called Four X Quilt and includes a large "P" in the middle square to represent their last name. The blue in the pattern is for White Clay Lake, which they appreciate being able to enjoy. The quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put up by Bruce Teetzen and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric of Shawano.

The Polzin farm was homesteaded in 1873 by William Polzin, an immigrant from northeast Germany. When he bought the land, there were many pine and cedar trees that had to be cleared. The original barn was built in 1906, with additions in 1970 and 1980.

William passed the farm on to Edward Polzin, who married Bertha Dittman. Together they had three children, including son Ervin, who eventually took over the farm. While Ed was there, the state and later the county opened a gravel pit on the farm, which was used to help build highway 22.

Ervin married Leona Reimer and they had five children. One was Leon, who took over the farm in 1996 after Ervin's death. Leon married Deborah Letter and they had four children. The Polzin farm was an active dairy farm with a milking herd of 75 Brown Swiss cows until the herd was sold in 2011. Today, with their oldest son, Brent, they raise beef cattle on the farm. In 2006, the Polzin farm was honored as a Century Farm by the State of Wisconsin and Shawano County.

Anyone who would like to participate in the Shawano County 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 barn quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.

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