

## Antique Tractor Featured in 164<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt

An antique Oliver tractor is the focal point of Shawano County's 164<sup>th</sup> barn quilt. And for a very good reason. Jeff and Carolyn Lehndorf, on whose barn the quilt is mounted at W3390 County S, Pulaski, have a collection of 33 antique Oliver tractors. The quilt pattern is called "Lucky Clover," and the tractor image on the barn quilt is of an Oliver 80 Row Crop, one of eight of that model they own.

When Jeff and Carolyn bought their first farm in 1988, the owner offered them a choice of one of three tractors to go with the farm. "The one I picked was a model 880 Oliver," Jeff said, "and that really got me interested in Oliver tractors." Today the Lehndorfs own 33 antique Oliver tractors, the oldest being a 1936 Oliver 70 and the newest a 1974 Oliver 2255.

The rarest Oliver they own is an Oliver 80 diesel, one of only seven known of that model. Made in 1941, the diesel was an experimental version by the company that was not very popular with farmers.

The farm where the quilt is displayed was purchased in 2005, the year collecting antique Oliver tractors became a passion for the family. That year they bought an Oliver 80 to restore. The project involved the whole family as a home school project for Jeff and Carolyn's three sons, Jarrod, Paul and Oliver, and their daughter Ellen.

The collection of Oliver tractors includes those being restored, being shown at tractor pulls and shows and those to just have fun with. This October, some 20 antique tractor collectors will congregate at the Lehndorf farm for their fifth annual antique plow days. "It's a lot of fun," Jeff said, "plus we get all our soybean fields plowed."

The Lehndorf farming operation includes a herd of 180 Holstein milk cows and over 1200 acres of cropland they either own or rent. They see the barn quilt project as a great way to encourage the preservation of old barns. "I've always just loved old barns," Jeff said. "The one the quilt is on was in pretty bad shape when we bought the farm, but we decided to fix it up and I'm glad we did. Now adding the quilt to it really sets it off."

The Lehndorf barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen of Raddant Electric in 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](mailto: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](mailto:tourism@shawano.com). A link on the Shawano Chamber Web site includes photos and information on every quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to [www.shawanocountry.com](http://www.shawanocountry.com) and click on the barn quilt icon.