

Lehman's Century Farm Hosts County's 168th Barn Quilt

The century-old farm of Bob and Cheryl Lehman is host to Shawano County's 168th barn quilt. Located at N3119 Tower Road, Tigerton, the barn quilt pattern the Lehman's chose is called "Mother's Choice." The quilt was sponsored by First National Bank of Tigerton.

Kathy Robbins, First National Bank President, said, "We are proud and pleased to sponsor one of Shawano County's barn quilts at one of the county's Century Farms. The project is exciting and unique and has made Shawano County a significant destination for tourists."

It was a yellow fever outbreak that first brought the Lehmans to the Tigerton area from Arkansas in 1896. On September 14, 1898, Jacob and Ernestine Lehman purchased 160 acres of land, dividing it with Ernestine's parents, William and Justine Kurtz.

Jacob and Ernestine had eight children. The log home they built still stands, although it has been remodeled and added on to over the years. The original barn burned during the first World War.

In 1922, Jacob and Ernestine's son, Paul, and his wife, Mary, purchased the farm. They had nine children, including sons Robert and Herbert, who purchased the farm in 1960. For many years, the brothers had a herd of 200 Holstein cows and farmed about 250 acres of the 500 total they owned.

Today, Bob and Cheryl own about 300 acres, which are leased to Larry Pringnitz. They no longer milk cows, but have about 40 head of young dairy and beef animals. The woodland on the farm is primarily hard maple and is managed by selling selectively to a professional logger.

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