

County's 169th Barn Quilt is Christmas Memory

Joe and Sue Groshek have sponsored Shawano County's 169th barn quilt, called Christmas Memory. It is located at 18653 Highway 45, Eland. The barn on which the quilt is displayed was built in 1939. The owner at the time was Vilas Heinrich and he actually shingled the barn by hand himself in 1940.

The next owners of the farm were Bernard and Marge Meverden, who purchased it from Heinrich in 1956 and had a dairy herd. The farm is where Sue Groshek, Bernard and Marge's daughter, grew up. In 1999, Sue and her husband, Joe Groshek, purchased the farm from her parents. The farm is now rented out for cropping corn and soybeans.

An interesting aspect of the farm buildings is that all are painted yellow. "I'm not sure why," Sue said, "but they were always yellow so when we got the farm we decided to keep them that way. Because of that, we chose bright colors for our barn quilt that would stand out on the barn and we think it looks beautiful."

Joe and Sue have seven grandsons and two granddaughters who like to hunt and fish on the farm. "It's their home away from home," Sue said.

One of Joe and Sue's daughters makes quilts so that's why they got the idea to get one for their farm. "We love the idea of having quilt blocks on barns," Sue said. "They are all so beautiful and we just love ours."

The Groshek's barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put up 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 by 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.

#