

Donald and Mary Lehman Host County's 170th Barn Quilt

Lehman's Comet Holstein Farm, W18199 Much Road, Tigerton, is home to Shawano County's 170th barn quilt. Donald and Mary Lehman, who will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary on October 12, have owned their farm since 1965. Donald was born and raised in the area while Mary grew up near Wittenberg.

The quilt pattern the Lehmans chose for their barn quilt is called All Points. The barn on which the quilt is displayed was built in the 1930s after the original barn burned.

The farm was owned for a time by a lawyer in Shawano, then by Ed Much, from whom the Lehmans bought the farm in 1965. At first, the Lehmans had a herd of 15-20 Holstein cows and were milking about 45 when they decided to quit milking in 1992 when Donald was 72. Their son, Donald Jr. and his wife, Donna, raise beef cattle on the farm.

The Lehman quilt was sponsored by the Woven Hearts Quilt Guild of Tigerton, one of four barn quilts the guild is sponsoring for the Shawano County barn quilt project. Over the years, the guild was able to raise money at quilt shows they organized and recently decided to spend some of that money supporting the county-wide barn quilt project. "The barn quilts are such a wonderful display of quilt patterns," Kim Nero, guild member, said. "We are just so happy and excited to be a part of this special project." Mary said she and Don are very thankful to the Guild for sponsoring their quilt. "We think the quilt is just beautiful," Mary said.

Donald and Mary raised four sons and four daughters, Judy (Felts), Terrie (Tauferner), Donald Jr., Pat, Kim (Nero), Dale, Doug and Kristie (Yonker). They have 20 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Five of their children and several members of the quilt guild were on hand when the quilt was put up.

The Lehman 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 Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or tourism@shawano.com. A link on the Shawano Chamber Web site has photos and information on every quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.

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