

County's 173rd Barn Quilts Represents Our Nation's Freedom

Shawano County's 173rd barn quilt, called Patriotic Prairie Star, is now on display on a barn owned by Jason and Deyonne Ullmer, Ullmer Dairy Farm, 2976 Wegner Road, Marion. The striking red, white and blue quilt was sponsored by Charlene Helms in memory of her parents, Ned and Arlette Nehring, who died two years ago in a car accident just outside Marion.

"You can't drive very far, in any direction, in Shawano County without spotting a barn quilt," Helms said. "They are truly inspiring, which is the main reason we wanted to sponsor one."

Jason and Deyonne Ullmer, along with their daughters Anna and Jennifer, began farming in 1994 near Seymour. Five years later, they purchased their present farm near Marion from Leo Gendron. They have a dairy herd of 95 milking cows and the same number of young stock on their 80-acre farm. The farm was homesteaded by the Wegner family and the barn built in the early 1900s.

The quilt pattern the Ullmers picked for their barn quilt represents patriotism for our country and the freedoms we are blessed with. "The pattern is also a tribute to the men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect the God-given rights we enjoy," Deyonne said.

"The barn quilt project is something everyone in Shawano County should be proud of," Helms added. "Kudos to Jim and Irene Leuenberger for all the hard work and talent they've put into them. I was able to see our barn quilt from the beginning stages and watch it being hung on the Ullmer family barn. My sister Sherry (Jim) Klitz and I talked about a barn quilt in memory of our parents. If they had picked it, they would have chosen red, white, and blue just like it is."

Helms and her sister, Sherry and their parents lived in a small house near the intersection of Highways 110 and 45 on what was then the Earl Mielke farm during the first years of her life. "Now when you drive a little farther north on 45 you can see the beautiful barn quilt in memory of our parents on the Ullmer barn."

Jason, Anna and Jennifer run the Ullmer dairy while Deyonne works as head teller at Citizen Community Federal Bank, located in Shawano's Wal-Mart. "We sincerely thank Charlene for sponsoring our barn quilt," Deyonne said. "It is a privilege to display this unique piece of art on our family farm for our community to enjoy."

The Ullmer 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 all quilts on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.