

## Barn Quilt Brightens Spirits of Rehn Family after Barn Fire

On June 9 this past summer, a fire destroyed the original dairy barn at Rehnbow Farms on Green Valley Road near Krakow. "The barn would have been perfect for a barn quilt," Bryan Rehn said, "but we still wanted one. So we had it put on a red steel shed that sets near the site of where the old barn stood."

The quilt pattern Bryan and his wife Nancy chose is called "Rehnbow Paradox" and is on the Rehnbow Dairy farm at N5465 Green Valley Road. It is Shawano County's 177<sup>th</sup> barn quilt. It 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.

Bryan's parents, Don and Beatrice Rehn, bought the original 80-acre farm in 1949 and had a dairy herd of about 12 cows. The first two years, they farmed with horses. In 1980 they purchased an adjoining 80 acres and added another 80 acres in 1982.

Bryan and Nancy bought the farm from his parents in 1995. By then, the dairy herd had grown to 45 cows. Today, the farm totals 275 acres and the dairy herd is up to 65 cows. After the barn fire, the cows were milked at three different locations. A new barn has now been built and the cows were milked in the new facility for the first time in mid-September.

Bryan and Nancy have a son Brad, who is married to Alyssa, and a daughter, Tori, who is married to Brandon.

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](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 barn quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to [www.shawanocountry.com](http://www.shawanocountry.com) and click on the barn quilt icon.

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### Photo Caption (Photo by Jim Leuenberger)

Bryan and Nancy Rehn, center, are shown with their son Brad and daughter-in-law Alyssa, right, and daughter Tori and son-in-law Brandon, left.