

Shawano County's 183rd Barn Quilt Pattern is called "Just Because"

The eight children of Mildred and the late Albert Blum have sponsored Shawano County's 183rd barn quilt. They are Gary Blum, Cindy Herm, Marty Whorrall, Ed Blum, Mary DeBauch, Karen Patenaude, Diane Lohff and Ron Blum. It is on display on a dairy barn owned by John and Mary DeBauch at W3730 E. Freeborn, Cecil.

The quilt pattern, painted in earth tone colors with a Longhorn skull in the center, is called Just Because, since it was the name of their first Longhorn and reminded John and Mary of the Longhorns they used to raise. "We had about half a dozen Longhorns about 10-12 years ago and they were awesome to see in the pasture," Mary said. "We would love to have some on our farm again someday."

The eight Blum siblings are sponsoring the barn quilt to honor the many wonderful quilts their parents made for them. "Mom and dad stayed very busy in their retirement years making quilts for their 22 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren," Mary DeBauch said. "You will find mom these days still busy in her sewing room sewing quilt blocks together for her next grandbaby. I think dad would have loved the quilt. He was a very proud dairy farmer and loved talking to John about the Longhorns, horses and cows. He also loved helping mom with the quilts they made."

The dairy barn on the DeBauch farm is believed to date back to the early 1900s. Frank Rueckert owned the farm until 1967 when it was sold to David Ball. In 1969, Hubert Rauterkus purchased the farm. John's dad, Bernard DeBauch, bought the farm in December 1977. John and Mary moved to the farm in June 1978 working for Bernard until they purchased it in 1981. The farm became certified organic in 1995 and they currently milk 50 Holstein cows with 50 head of young stock. The farm totals 150 acres of crop land.

The DeBauch barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano. Special thanks to Scott Breitrack, K & S Landscaping of Marion for providing a truck to help with the installation of the quilt.

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 Country 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.