

County's 192nd Barn Quilt is Square Diamond

Shawano County's 192nd barn quilt, called Square Diamond, is now on display on the Bruce and Marie Raymakers farm at W1276 Main Laney Drive, Pulaski. It was sponsored by Premier Community Bank of Marion. The quilt pattern represents the Bank's trademark symbol of a diamond. "We also like this pattern because it looks like a puzzle," Bruce Raymakers said. "It is simple in color, but the many pieces put together show great depth, like many facets coming together to do an excellent job. We think this certainly describes what it takes to be successful in both farming and banking."

This is the second barn quilt sponsored by Premier Community Bank's Marion branch. "Our involvement in the Shawano County barn quilt project is important to us because of the close connection we feel to the people we serve in the agriculture community," said Kay Tellock, Administrative Assistant.

Tellock also said sponsoring a quilt was a wonderful opportunity to highlight the Raymakers' farm. "Bruce, who serves on the board of directors at Premier Community Bank, understands the importance of partnering with his local community bank," she said.

John and Lorraine Raymakers, Bruce's parents, purchased the 80 acre farm in 1948. In 1974, Bruce and Marie purchased the farm from his parents, which then totaled 95 acres with a milking herd of 40 cows. During the two decades from 1977-1997, farm improvements included three additions to the barn, a new house, four new silos, two machine sheds and a heated farm shop.

In 1993, Bruce and Marie's son, Ken, joined the farm operation as dairy herdsman and for the past ten years has had sole responsibility for the management of the dairy herd. Currently, the farm consists of 800 acres of owned and rented cropland and a dairy herd of 70 cows and 60 head of young stock. As more acres were added, Ken and his wife, Amber, became part owners of the farm.

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