

Cross of Peace is County's 212th Barn Quilt

The five daughters of Steve and Julie Prey, and their families, have sponsored Shawano County's 212th barn quilt as a birthday present for their parents. It is on a barn owned by Steve and Julie at N3196 County Road SS, Tigerton. The pattern they chose is called Cross of Peace that includes a silhouette of a dove in the center.

"We chose our quilt pattern to portray some of the important things in our life," Julie said. "The cross symbolizes faith in God and the five leaves of the olive branch represent our five daughters and their families. The colors were chosen to show our support to the Tigerton community and school for what it has given each of us." Steve and Julie's five daughters are Sarah Thiel, April Prey, Kristen Desrochers, Laura Heier and Heather Price.

The Prey farm was originally purchased by James Rickelson in 1880. It appears from quit claim deeds that the land changed hands 74 times until Oscar and Bernice Seefeldt, Steve's maternal grandparents, purchased it from August and Lena Frailing in 1949.

In 1969 the farm was passed on to Roger and Joann Prey, daughter of the Seefeldts. Their son Steve and his wife Julie joined in a partnership with Roger and Joann in 1980. During the time the dairy farm was operational, the Preys maintained approximately 230 head of dairy cattle, including a 90-cow milking herd.

Since selling the milking herd in 2003, the Preys have raised bred heifers and cash crop the land.

"We are honored to display this beautiful quilt on our barn," Julie said. "We have already received many compliments on it and hope others continue to enjoy it too."

The Prey barn 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 Country Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or via email at 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.

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