

County's 232nd Barn Quilt is a Barn

Shawano County's 232nd barn quilt has been sponsored by Cecelia Lukasik in memory of her husband, Richard, who died in 2012 at the age of 86. Richard had lived on the farm since he was five years old and was a dairy farmer, so the pattern Cecelia chose was of a barn and is called The Dairy Barn. Of course, in Shawano County, a barn quilt of a barn wouldn't be complete without a barn quilt, so a barn quilt was painted on the quilt as well. And at the suggestion of Cecelia's son-in-law Tim, the small quilt was painted in green and gold to highlight their love of the Green Bay Packers.

The Lukasik quilt is on a barn at N2844 County Road C, Pulaski, and is easily seen from highway 29 near Angelica. In the farm's title and abstract, the first entry for the farm was on September 11, 1865 when A.F. Hayward purchased it from the State of Wisconsin for \$182. The farm changed hands several times over the years and was purchased by John and Lottie Lukasik from Albert and Anna Koepke in 1930. The original barn was remodeled in 1932 and an addition put on the south side several years later.

The original farm was a rectangular 80 acres, but was divided into two triangular parcels in 1995 when highway 29 was expanded. Throughout most of the farm's existence, it was a dairy operation, with the herd size anywhere from 10 to 40 cows. "At first the cows were milked by hand," Cecelia said, "but eventually they were milked with machines and then finally we put in a pipeline system."

Cecelia said she had noticed the barn quilts showing up around Shawano County over the past couple years, but didn't really know much about them. Then last year she and her daughter, Sara, talked to project coordinator Jim Leuenberger and his wife, Irene, at the Shawano Farmer's Market and found out how the program worked. "With our barn being so visible from highway 29, I really thought it would look nice with a quilt," Cecelia said. "You know, we all enjoy traveling around the countryside and coming across bits of 'Americana', like Amish horse-drawn carriages, striped barber poles, covered bridges, and the like," and now we in Shawano County can boast of our own 'Wisconsin-ana' with our beautiful barn quilts."

The Lukasik 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 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.