

# County's 249<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt Highlights Boer Breed of Goats

Jim and Dawn Bahr have enjoyed the Shawano County barn quilt project since it was started three years ago and wanted to be part of it "because it's a really cool idea," Dawn said. Their desire to get a barn quilt for their barn at N2487 County K in the Town of Navarino is now a reality. The pattern for their quilt was designed by Dawn and features a stylistic caricature of a Boer goat, which the Bahrs raise. The pattern is called Boer Goat Pride.

"Both Jim and I like the barn quilt project because it draws attention to the old barns that represent the history of our community and the lifestyle and personality of their owners," Dawn said. "And now, with so many of them in Shawano County, people enjoy looking for them like a treasure hunt."

The Bahr barn quilt is Shawano County's 249<sup>th</sup> and was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee. It is mounted on a barn on property that was originally sold by the U.S. government to H.A. and John Hubbard. In 1871, Hubbard sold it to Henry Sherry, who sold it to Upham & Russel Company six years later.

George Alender took ownership in 1886 who then sold it to Dedrich Benjamenson. It stayed in the Benjamenson family, who changed their name to Benson, until 1946. The barn was most likely built in the early 1900s.

Subsequent owners were Ogden and Alice Olsen in 1946, Sterling and Virginia Olsen in 1954 and Lyle Cornelius in 1957. The barn stood empty until Lyle sold it to his brother, Dale, in 1966, who had a dairy herd of two Holstein and two Brown Swiss cows. An addition was built onto the barn in 1979. Mike and Marv Hammond purchased the farm in 1987 and used the barn for housing young dairy stock until 1998 when Marv's milking barn burned and it had to be put back into service as a dairy barn for about a year. After Marv's new barn was done, the barn was again used for young stock.

In 2010, Jim and Dawn Bahr, who had owned the South Forty in Shawano for ten years, purchased the 48-acre farm and remodeled the barn to raise Boer goats. The Boer breed was developed in South Africa in the early 1900s for meat production. The name is derived from the Dutch word "boer," which means farmer. "The breed has a very fast growth rate and excellent carcass qualities, making it one of the most popular breeds of meat goats in the world," Dawn said. The remodeled barn allows the Bahrs to breed their goats year round and give them individual care. At any one time, they have 20-25 breeding does, two bucks, and 20-40 kids. They also have steers, chickens, ducks, peacocks, geese, horses and emus.

Jim and Dawn had a dairy farm for 22 years on Jim's family's 100-year-old farm near Cecil. Eventually, they sold the dairy herd and cash cropped the land and bought the South Forty. "Owning the South Forty was an amazing experience and allowed us to work with our children, Logan and Emily, while they grew up," Dawn said. Since selling the South Forty, Dawn has found time to get back to her hobbies of painting and photography while Jim works on his farm machinery and built a smoke house. Next on their agenda is learning to make goat sausage. "And the best thing is that we have time to spend with our new granddaughter, Lila," Dawn said.

The Bahr barn quilt was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

Anyone who would like to participate in the Shawano County 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 Country 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.