

County's 263rd Barn Quilt has Special Meanings for Alft Family

When Ken and Lisa Alft decided they wanted a barn quilt for their farm at W15991 Alft Lane, Tigerton, they wanted the pattern to represent some of the things they have on the farm. Since the family has always enjoyed hunting, and has seen bear and deer on the property, two of the four quadrants in the pattern have silhouettes of a bear and a deer. Another quadrant has a lilac pattern because there have always been lilacs on the farm. And the fourth quadrant has a peony on it, representing the flowers that will be in Ken and Lisa's son Adam's wedding on the farm on June 14. Adam will be marrying Alyssa Niehaus that day.

Ken and Lisa worked with Shawano County's barn quilt project coordinator Jim Leuenberger to design the pattern. It was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was sponsored by Kohel Drywall of Tigerton. The name of the pattern is Nature's Bounty and is the 263rd to be put on display in Shawano County.

Ken grew up on a dairy farm that adjoins the farm where the quilt is displayed. His family had a milking herd of over 100 dairy cows until the mid 1990s.

Ken and his brother, Kevin, purchased the 120-acre farm in 2000 from Ragnwald and Bernice Satre. Ken and Lisa later bought Kevin's portion and cash crop the land. The farm was actually state land from 1846 to 1927, when a Satre family took it over. It was in the Satre family from 1927 to 2000. It is estimated that the barn is over 100 years old. The barn is in excellent shape and in fact, the wedding dance for Adam and Alyssa's wedding on June 14 will be held in the barn.

"We couldn't be more pleased with how the quilt turned out," Lisa said. "It says a lot about what our farm is all about and we hope people who see it will appreciate its meaning as well." The quilt was put on display by Bruce Teetzen and Keith Raddant 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 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.

#