

Farming Timeline is County's 317th Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 317th barn quilt is now on display on a farm owned by Pat and Gloria Gwidt, N1633 Green Valley Road, Pulaski. "We had been thinking about getting a barn quilt for quite some time," Gloria said, "and we think the finished quilt looks great." The barn on which the quilt is displayed was built in 1914.

Called Timeline, the quilt pattern features images that correspond to how farming has evolved on the Gwidt farm. The draft horse represents Frank and Lucy Gwidt, who purchased the 80-acre farm from J.J. Hoff in 1885. They purchased an additional 40 acres in 1990.

Frank and Lucy had 10 children, including son Max, who took over the farmstead in 1922. The red Farmall H on the quilt represents his first tractor. Max and his wife, Catherine, had 13 children. When he died in 1966, their son, Patrick, continued the farming tradition. His first tractor, a 3020 John Deere, is painted on the quilt in the lower right-hand corner. Patrick and Gloria have three children, Duane, Craig and Sheri.

Presently, Craig, along with his wife, Stacy, and their children Max, Cole, Riley and Ava, are the fourth generation to operate the Gwidt Homestead. The image of a John Deere 8430 in the lower left hand corner of the quilt represents Craig's first tractor.

Today, the Gwidts farm 700 acres of cropland, either owned or rented. They have a Holstein dairy herd of 150 cows.

The Gwidt barn quilt was designed and painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.