

Shawano County's 324th Barn Quilt Now on Display

Shawano County's 324th barn quilt is now on display on a heifer barn at Strassburg Creek Dairy two miles west of Bowler. The new 420 x 108 foot barn, completed this fall, has 650 free stalls for the dairy's replacement heifers. The farm's address is N7339 Regina Road, Wittenberg, and the barn is at the corner of Schoolhouse Road and River Road.

The quilt pattern, called Wisconsin, was designed by the Strassburg family. It includes an image of a Holstein cow to represent the 850 cows milked at the dairy, an image of a deer head to represent the deer hunting members of the family enjoy, an image of a John Deere tractor, to represent the John Deere machinery used for field work on the farm and an image of a fisherman, which represents the fishing the family enjoys at nearby Strassburg creek.

The quilt was a gift for Ken and Shirley Strassburg's 50th wedding anniversary and was sponsored by Matt and Crystal Brunner and their boys Beau and Blake, Kris and Monica Clauss and Eric Koenig.

Strassburg Creek Dairy is owned by Ken and Shirley Strassburg and their son, Jeffrey and his wife, Jenifer. The farm is a fifth generation farm and Jeff and Jenifer's children, Jacob and Alyssa, are the sixth generation to work on the farm. Their mission statement is: To provide quality milk to our processor so they can provide quality Wisconsin dairy products to their customers.

The Strassburg family has operated the dairy since 1886. Ken and Shirley purchased 31 cows and 435 acres from Ken's parents, Herbert and Alice, on January 29, 1969. In the 1970s, they added onto the first barn and also put in a milk pipeline and increased the milking herd to 68 cows. They maintained that herd size through the 1980s. During that time, they also built several silos.

Ken and Shirley have three children, Wendy, Jeffrey and Joel. Jeff is the only sibling who pursued the family's interest in dairy farming, while Wendy and Joel took the work ethic they learned on the farm to become very successful in the business world.

Strassburg Creek Dairy has 15 full-time employees. "We are very lucky to have dedicated employees who we have been able to build our business around," Ken said. "Our priority has always been to take care of the cows and the employees and they will take care of us."

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

#