

County's 329th Barn Quilt Honors Faith, Family and Farming

Shawano County's 329th barn quilt, called Faith, Family and Farming, is now on display on the Seth and Nicole Berg farm at W1343 Nauman Road, Cecil. The quilt was given to the Bergs as a Christmas gift by their employees. "It's really the best present we could have gotten," Nicole said. "We just love it and have had many compliments on how nice it looks."

The quilt is painted in different shades of green. "My grandpa always wore green and I've always liked the color, so we thought, why not paint the quilt green," Seth said. The cross at the top of the quilt represents the Bergs' faith in God. "Our faith keeps us centered," Nicole said.

The cow head on the quilt represents the fact that the farm has always been a dairy operation. Today the Bergs custom raise 350 Holstein heifers, 275 for Allan Kohn and 75 for Paul Breitzman. They also own 300 Holstein steers.

The Oliver tractor represents the Oliver tractors that Seth's grandparents and parents used on the farm. "I still have one left," Seth said, "a 1953 Oliver 88 that we use for small jobs around the farm."

Finally, the shaft of wheat and the stalk of corn represent the 2,500 acres the Bergs cash crop for over 100 customers each year.

Seth's grandparents, Howard and Edna Berg, purchased the 80 acre farm in the early 1940s. They milked a herd of 25 Holstein cows until 1980. At that time, Seth's dad, Duane, purchased the cows and maintained the milking herd until 1988. "It was a sad day when he sold the cows," Seth said.

Seth graduated from Pulaski High School in 1997 and then went to diesel mechanics school in Chicago for two years. After returning to Wisconsin, he started raising replacement heifers for Roger Breitzman and then purchased the farm from his family in 1999. He started a trucking business in 2001 and now owns six semis, hauling grain, feed and ag products for his cash crop customers. The farm operation includes a full time secretary, six full time employees and eight part time employees.

Seth married Nicole in 2007, and although she didn't grow up on a farm, she really enjoys the farming life. Together they have five children, Hailey-11, Brianna-9, Alisha-8, Emily-3 and Ethan-2.

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

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