

Bonnins Sponsor County's 182nd Barn Quilt

Kevin and Shawn Bonnin, Glor-E-Land Acres in Bonduel, have sponsored Shawano County's 182nd barn quilt. It is on a barn owned by Martha Westphal, W4435 Porter Road, Bonduel. It can be seen easily from Highway 29 just before you get to Bonduel from Shawano.

The Bonnins have rented cropland from Westphal for more than 30 years to help provide feed for their dairy herd. "We wanted to sponsor a barn quilt for Martha to show our appreciation for all she and her late husband, Wilmar, taught us through the years," Shawn said. "We do our best to follow their example of faith, family and hard work. We also want to thank the entire Westphal family for the continued opportunity to farm their land."

The pattern Martha chose for her barn quilt is called Autumn Lilies. The flower pattern was chosen to represent the beautiful flower gardens Martha always had on her farm. "Mom worked very hard on our dairy farm, helping with everything and raising seven kids," said her daughter Judy Arco. "But she always made time to work on her absolutely beautiful gardens." Martha also found time to do some quilting and has made several quilts that were given to family members as wedding gifts.

Martha, now 91 years old, has lived on the farm for 69 years. The farm was started by William and Helen Westphal in 1920. Their son Wilmar, and Martha, took over the farm in 1943. The farm was always operated as a dairy farm until Wilmar retired in 1981. The cropland has been rented to the Bonnins ever since.

Wilmar and Martha raised seven children, five sons...Gary (Janet), Thomas (Chris), Daniel (Judy), Joel (Pam) and Steven...and two daughters, Judy (Manuel Arco) and Susan (Glenn Berkhan).

The Westphal 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. Special thanks to Scott Breitrack, K & S Landscaping of Marion for providing a truck to help with the installation of the quilt.

Anyone who would like to participate in Shawano County's barn quilt project can contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at 715-524-5685 or by 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.