

County's 187th Barn Quilt is a Birthday Surprise

Shawano County's 187th barn quilt is on display on a horse barn owned by Jill Hein and Jeff Duer at N4625 Rosebrook Road, Shawano. It was given to Jill as a surprise birthday present by Deirdra Hein and Cody Sploar. Deirdra, Jill's daughter, said her mom loved chickens and so the pattern she and Cody picked out to surprise Jill with is appropriately called "The Blue Chicken."

"Growing up, we raised chickens," Jill said, "and I've enjoyed collecting chicken 'things' since my kids were little, so I'm really pleased with the quilt. It was a nice surprise and really looks great." Jill said she has 200 to 300 chicken collectibles, many of which she has used to decorate her kitchen. "I haven't added a lot to my collection lately, but now am more selective, looking for the older more antique type of things."

Jill and Jeff have lived on their farm for the past 12 years. When they bought it, the older barn on the property was not in good shape, so about four years ago they took it down and built a new horse barn for their daughter's horses. The quilt is mounted on two of the barn's doors.

The quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen 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 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 quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.