

Kroenke Dairy Farm Hosts 122nd Shawano County Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 122nd barn quilt is now on display at W8193 County Road M just west of Shawano on a dairy farm owned by Jeff and Mary Kroenke. The quilt was sponsored by M&I bank of Shawano, a part of BMO Financial Group. The name of the quilt pattern is "Quarterfoils."

The barn on which the quilt is mounted was built in 1922, when the farm was originally owned by the Klebasadel family. Jeff Kroenke's parents, Larry and Marlene Kroenke, purchased the farm from Albert Klebasadel in 1969 and initially had a herd of about 20 dairy cows.

Jeff worked with his dad on the farm after high school and took over the operation after his dad died in 2007. Today the dairy herd totals about 60 milking Holsteins. The Kroenkes are proud of their dairy operation and are active in the local community.

Jim Meyer, M&I Bank President said, "M&I, a part of BMO Financial Group, in showing our continued commitment to economic development and Agribusiness, is proud to sponsor the barn quilt for the Kroenke family. Jeff and Mary Jo Kroenke are fifth generation family farmers who took over the farm from Jeff's mother Marlene and late father Larry. M&I has been serving Agribusiness for generations, exemplifying the bank's support to the local farm area and the family farm."

Roger Pescinski, M&I Ag lender, had talked about the barn quilt program with Jeff Kroenke at the Shawano County Fair last fall. The Kroenke family had seen numerous other barn quilts on area barns and had talked about getting a quilt themselves. "We are pleased to have M&I sponsor our barn quilt," Jeff said, "and we're excited to be part of this neat project."