

County's 135th Barn Quilt has a "Fowl" Theme

Shawano County's 135th barn quilt has a definite "fowl" theme, and for very good reasons. Over the years, owners of the farm at N4267 Spruce Road west of Shawano raised chickens along with other kinds of livestock. And the current owner, Mary Zimmerman, has a thing for chickens, with literally hundreds of "chicken" items in her home, from plates and figurines to baskets with chickens painted on them.

So, when Mary met with project coordinator Jim Leuenberger to pick out a pattern for her barn quilt, she hoped they could find one with a chicken theme. Luckily they did. And the chicken pattern became Shawano County's 135th barn quilt to go on display.

In 1945, Clara and Walter Barkow purchased the farm from Clara's parents. Twenty two years later, they sold it to their son LeRoy and his wife Joanne. Then, in 1996, it was purchased by current owner Mary Zimmerman and her husband John. The barn on the farm was built in 1915.

"Clara told me she kept chickens and sold eggs," Mary said. "And often it was the egg money that paid the mortgage payments. So in a way this 'chicken' quilt is a tribute to those hard-working farm wives whose job on the farm many times was to take care of the chickens."

"I just love the quilt," Mary added, "and hope others will enjoy looking at it too when they drive by the farm."

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