

Bonduel 4-H Club Sponsors County's 136th Barn Quilt

Earlier this year, the Bonduel 4-H club decided to sponsor a barn quilt as one of their club's community service projects. They met with project coordinator Jim Leuenberger to select a pattern and then chose Tauchen Harmony Valley Dairy, N3399 South Broadway Road, just east of Bonduel, as the site for its quilt. It is the 136th barn quilt to be on display in Shawano County.

The pattern chosen for the quilt is called "Star Shine." Several club members helped paint the quilt, with the assistance of the Shawano County barn quilt committee.

In 1976, Herb and Marlys Tauchen purchased 180 acres from Louis Brunner and started a dairy herd with about 40 Holstein cows. In 1979, they incorporated as Tauchen Harmony Valley Inc., which included Herb, Marlys and sons Gary and Alan. By 1990, the herd had expanded to 120 cows.

When the Tauchen's third son, Stephen, decided he'd like to join the corporation after working off the farm, they realized they would need to milk more cows if the farm was to support four families. So, in 1996, a new free-stall barn with a milking parlor was built and the herd expanded to 500 cows. Then, the fourth Tauchen son, Greg, decided to join the corporation after working in management for a farm cooperative. So another free-stall barn was built and the herd expanded to 1000 cows.

Today Tauchen Harmony Valley Dairy includes Herb and Marlys and their four sons. They currently own 1,400 acres and rent another 1,050. The milking herd totals 1,050 cows along with 850 calves and heifers.

Each member of the management team has a specific management role in the business, but all major decisions are made by a consensus of the six partners.

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