

## County's 192<sup>nd</sup> Barn Quilt is Square Diamond

Shawano County's 192<sup>nd</sup> barn quilt, called Square Diamond and sponsored by Premier Community Bank, is now on display on the Bruce and Marie Raymakers farm at W1276 Main Laney Drive, Pulaski. The quilt pattern represents the Bank's color and trademark symbol of a diamond. "We like this pattern because it looks like a puzzle," Bruce Raymakers said. "It is simple in color, but the many pieces put together show great depth, like many facets coming together to do an excellent job. We think this certainly describes what it takes to be successful in both farming and banking."

"Our involvement in the Shawano County barn quilt project is important to us because of the close connection we feel to the people we serve in the agriculture community," said Sam McMahon, Senior Vice President of Lending at Premier Community Bank.

McMahon also said sponsoring a quilt was a wonderful opportunity to highlight the Raymakers' farm. "Bruce, who serves on the board of directors at Premier Community Bank, understands the importance of partnering with his local community bank," he said.

John and Lorraine Raymakers, Bruce's parents, purchased the 80 acre farm in 1948 from Steve Wojkiewicz. It had been homesteaded in 1862 by Samuel Hale and John Ayer. The farm had several owners over the years, including Frank Styczynski. The original barn was built in the 1920s.

In 1974, Bruce and Marie purchased the farm from his parents, which then totaled 95 acres with a milking herd of 40 cows. During the two decades from 1977-1997, farm improvements included three additions to the barn, a new house, four new silos, two machine sheds and a heated farm shop.

In 1993, Bruce and Marie's son, Ken, joined the farm operation as dairy herdsman and for the past ten years has had sole responsibility for the management of the dairy herd. Currently, the farm consists of 800 acres of owned and rented cropland and a dairy herd of 70 cows and 60 head of young stock. As more acres were added, Ken and his wife, Amber, became part owners of the farm.

The Raymakers' barn 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 with the help of Berna Construction of Pulaski.

Anyone who would like to participate in Shawano County's barn quilt project can contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at 715-524-5685 or via email at [jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:tourism@shawano.com). A link on the Shawano Chamber Web site includes photos and information on all barn quilts on display in Shawano County. Just go to [www.shawanocountry.com](http://www.shawanocountry.com) and click on the barn quilt icon.