

The Red Rooster is County's 198th Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 198th barn quilt is on display on a barn owned by Bill and Carrie Kolaske at W3831 Landstad Road, Bonduel. The pattern is appropriately called The Red Rooster since it has a large red silhouette of a rooster in the center of the quilt pattern.

The quilt was given to Bill and Carrie as a Christmas gift this past December by their children: Kerri and Chad Majewski, Bill and Dawn Kolaske, Kiley and Damian Ullmer, Kelly and Garrett Holewinski, Ben and Stephanie Kolaske, Nicole Kolaske and Noel Kolaske. "We decided to give a barn quilt as a Christmas present as a way to tie all our parent's accomplishments into one," Kerri said. "Our family is very proud of its involvement in agriculture in Shawano County and it's our pleasure to be a part of the barn quilt project."

Bill and Carrie moved their family and herd of Registered Ayrshire dairy cattle to Shawano County in the Town of Lessor in 1980. At the time, they had seven children, 500 laying hens and 150 head of Registered Ayrshires.

In 1998, a farm was rented to experiment with the possibility of starting a 100-head commercial dairy goat operation. This led to the purchase of the second farm in the Town of Lessor on Landstad Road where the barn quilt is located.

The current farming operation includes a milking herd of Ayrshires and Milking Shorthorns totaling 160 head. The Kolaskes also have had an egg business for the past 45 years, marketing under the brand name "Kolaske Family Farms." The laying flock now numbers about 900 with the eggs being marketed in four natural food stores in the Appleton area. The goat herd now numbers over 400 head, with the milk marketed to a factory in Lena, Illinois where they make cheese that is marketed throughout the United States.

As if they aren't busy enough, in February 2012 Bill and Carrie purchased a diner in Bonduel that they have renamed The Red Rooster Cafe & Catering. It is located at 237 South Cecil Street in Bonduel. The café features a Friday fish fry as well as a broasted and baked chicken special on Sunday. "We've been serving 200-300 people on Sunday so that has been great," Bill said. The café also has homemade soups and salads and homemade bakery, including several different flavors of pies. The café is open seven days a week until 8 p.m.

"Our barn quilt pattern ties the farm and restaurant together," Kerri said, "and that makes it pretty special." 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 via 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 all barn quilts on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.