

“Happy Apple” is County’s 205th Barn Quilt

As if milking 50 Holstein cows twice a day wasn’t enough, six years ago, Luke and Shar Cackovic decided to add a new adventure to their dairy farm six miles south of Bonduel. They added a 700 tree apple orchard and now offer over 40 varieties of locally grown apples to the public. Luke did considerable research on growing and maintaining an orchard and is very pleased with how it is going. “You just have to keep life interesting,” Luke said, “and Shar and our boys seem to enjoy the challenge.”

To highlight their apple business, Luke and Shar decided to get a barn quilt for their Everflow Farm & Orchard at W3945 Landstad Road, Bonduel. After going over patterns with Jim Leuenberger, project coordinator, they settled on a traditional quilt pattern with an image of a “happy” apple in the middle. It is Shawano County’s 205th barn quilt and is appropriately called The Happy Apple.

Luke and Shar have been farming in Wisconsin since moving here from Ohio in 1991. “We moved here with our 30 dairy cows the day after we got married,” Shar said. They purchased the farm, totaling 120 acres, from Fred and Hilda Deering, who had operated the dairy farm for over 40 years. Albert Dingeldein had operated the farm in the 1930s, but lost it in the depression.

The apples grown on the farm are sold from a store on the farm called the Happy Apple Store. Varieties of apples sold include heritage as well as newer ones like honey crisp. Also sold in the store are apple cider, jams, jellies, fresh vegetables and, starting this fall, pumpkins.

This fall they will be offering tours for school children and other groups. “We promise to welcome everyone to our farm with a smile,” Shar said, “and hope they leave with a smile because of the happy experience they’ve had.”

The Cackovic 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.

Anyone who would like to participate in Shawano County’s barn quilt committee can contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com or by phone at 715-524-5685. You can also contact Patti Peterson, tourism manager at the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce at tourism@shawano.com or 715-524-2139. A link on the Shawano Web site includes photos and information on every barn quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.

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