

## County's 223<sup>rd</sup> Barn Quilt Has "Starry" Theme

Shawano County's 223<sup>rd</sup> barn quilt is now on display on a barn owned by Joan Hansen, W6904 County I, Clintonville. The pattern, called Starlite Acres, (also the farm name), was designed by Joan's grandson, Karl Shepard. It was given to Joan as a Christmas present from her son, Chris, and daughters Katie and Dawn. It was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee.

"I had wanted a barn quilt ever since I heard about the program," Joan said, "so it was a wonderful surprise when my children gave it to me last Christmas."

Joan and her husband, Ronald, who died in 2007, purchased the farm in 1965 from Ed Cummings. He had purchased the farm from Ed Young, who built the barn in the 1920s. Joan's parents have a farm just across the road and Ronald's parents' farm is the next one up the road. Ironically, each of the three farms is located in a different county. Joan's is the one in Shawano County.

Over the years, Ronald and Joan made numerous improvements on the farm, including building three new silos, a machine shed, a calf barn and loafing shed along with a free stall barn. For 31 years, Joan milked the cows, anywhere from 59 to 70, while Ronald worked off the farm. "I loved the cows and Ronald loved field work," Joan said. "I continued to milk cows after he died until 2010, but it just got to be too much, so I sold the cows and now only cash crop the land. This year we planted 330 acres of corn and about 65 acres of soybeans."

This year Joan also purchased another four-wheel-drive tractor and disk to match the ones she already had so her grandsons could get the fields ready for planting. "It works great to have them get the fields ready so my son can do the planting," Joan said.

In anticipation of getting her barn quilt, Joan recently had her barn painted and next year she plans to have a new steel roof put on the nearly 100-year-old structure. "Now that we have our barn quilt, we want to make sure the barn lasts a long time," Joan said.

The quilt 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 by 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 every barn quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to [www.shawanocountry.com](http://www.shawanocountry.com) and click on the barn quilt icon.