

County's 240th Barn Quilt is Norwegian Star

Darryll and Mary Olson have sponsored Shawano County's 240th barn quilt that now adorns their 102-year-old barn at W6070 State Highway 156, Shiocton. The quilt pattern, called Norwegian Cross, was chosen in memory of Darryll's parents, Edwin and Mabel Olson. "The cross in the pattern represents their commitment to their church," Mary said. "The red, blue and white colors represent the Olsons' homeland and their commitment to the Norwegian dinners served at their church."

Ebrat and Anna Olson settled in the Town of Navarino in 1902 on a 120-acre farm. That farm was the start of the farm now owned by Darryll and Mary and their family. Over time, five other parcels were added, bringing the farm's total acres to 425. The farm was always operated as a dairy farm and had dairy cattle on it until 2011. Since then, corn, hay and soybeans have been grown on the farm.

The barn on which the quilt is displayed was built in 1911. It was added onto twice and remodeled to accommodate up to 84 milking cows.

Mary Olson enjoyed helping paint the quilt along with the Shawano County barn quilt committee. "It was fun to see the quilt 'come to life' as colors were added," she 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 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 715-524-2139 or 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 and click on the barn quilt icon.