

Shawano County's 255th Barn Quilt is Family Dreams

On June 22, 2014, the thousands of people who attend Shawano County's annual dairy brunch on the farm will have an opportunity to also see Shawano County's 255th barn quilt. It is beautifully displayed on a barn owned by Cletus and Gloria Kurowski at W3052 Swamp Road, Bonduel.

The barn quilt, which is called Family Dreams, is painted in the Bonduel School colors as well as the FFA colors of blue and gold and features a large "K" in the center, which represents the Kurowski name. The pattern was designed by the Kurowski family and was sponsored by the Townline 4-H Club, of which Gloria is one of the leaders. The quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee, assisted by Mary Olson, representing the Shawano County Farm Bureau women.

Cletus' parents, Harry and Shirley Kurowski, farmed Harry's mother's farm near Flintville before purchasing the 120-acre farm on Swamp Road in 1975. They did not have a dairy herd however. Cletus started milking cows there in 1980 and purchased the farm from his parents in 1990. Today, the modern dairy operation includes 550 acres and a milking herd of 100 dairy cows.

Cletus and Gloria have five children, Alicia, Ashley, Tonia, Tia and Travis, as well as eight grandchildren.

"We had been thinking about getting a barn quilt for some time," Gloria said, "but just couldn't decide on a pattern. So when Jim Leuenberger called us about getting one, it gave us the incentive to make a decision. We really like the quilt and hope the people who come to the brunch on June 22 will enjoy seeing it too."

The Kurowski barn quilt was put on display by Bruce Teetzen and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

Anyone in Shawano County 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. 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.

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