

Tomashek Barn Quilt is Number 292

Jim and Judy Tomashek have sponsored Shawano County's 292nd barn quilt that is mounted on a barn that was built in 1902. The Tomashek farm is located at W6189 Church Road, Shawano. The name of the quilt pattern is Welcome Home, selected because Jim and Judy's five children and 12 grandchildren enjoy coming home often.

Jim's great grandparents, Wenzel and Mary Tomashek, purchased the vacant land in 1870 when they arrived in the U.S. from Bohemia. The next owners were Jim's grandparents, Joseph and Katherine Tomashek, followed by his parents, Charles and LaVerne, in 1928.

Jim purchased the farm on January 1, 1968 and he and Judy were married May 25 that year. The farm totals 300 acres, along with 270 acres of rented land, used to raise feed for their 75-cow Holstein dairy herd. The Tomasheks were honored as Century Farm families at the Wisconsin State Fair and Shawano County Fair.

Jim and Judy are in the process of transferring ownership of the farm to two of their sons, Scott and Todd. "We hope that can get done by the end of the year," Jim said.

Jim and Judy's family includes son David, married to Carolyn, who have four children, Nicholas, Claire, Elizabeth and LilyAnn; son Scott, married to Stephanie, who have three children, Sage, Joshua and Marissa; son Mark, married to Maggie, who have two children, Marcus and Drew; daughter Amy, married to Blair Thorson, who have one daughter, Alexandria; and son Todd, married to Rachel, who have two sons, Bentley and Jacob.

Judy, who enjoys quilting and has made several quilts and other projects for family and friends, said she and Jim had talked about getting a barn quilt ever since the project was started. "We just couldn't make up our mind about a pattern, but finally settled on the Welcome Home one, and think it looks great," she said.

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 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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