

Endless Ribbon is County's 298th Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 298th barn quilt, called Endless Ribbon, is now on display on a farm that was originally homesteaded in 1854. Its first owner was Peter Blaney in 1866. Over the next 30 years or so, it changed hands several times until John Tomashek became the owner in 1893. It was then transferred to Alois and Bernice Tomashek in 1945.

In 1972, John and Marjorie Engel, the parents of current owners, Brian Engel and his wife, Cindy, purchased the property as a second farm on which to raise their dairy heifers.

The quilt, located at N3739 Brook Road, Shawano, was co-sponsored by Brian and Cindy, along with their close friends Jon and Dawn Wesenberg. The Engel and Wesenberg children all graduated from Bonduel High School, so the quilt pattern was painted in the Bonduel school colors.

Brian and Cindy got married in 1979 and rented the original 80-acre farm from his parents, eventually purchasing it in 1983. The current barn was built in 1947. The farm was always a dairy farm and Brian and Cindy continued that history with a herd of 30 Holstein cows in 1979. Since then, they have put an addition on the barn and expanded the milking herd to 60 cows. The herd size today totals 170 head, including the young stock.

The Engels farm 272 acres of crop land, and rent an additional 20 acres. Improvements made on the farm include building three Harvestore silos, a new calf barn, a heifer/steer barn, a new machine shed and shop along with a new garage.

The Engel's two daughters, Sarah and Ashley, were both active on the farm, with dairy and livestock as 4-H projects. Sarah is currently a Mechanical Engineer at Alliance Laundry Systems in Ripon and Ashley is a student at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

The Engel barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano and Dan Cerveny of Dan Cerveny Construction, also in Shawano.

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