

Shawano County's 325th Barn Quilt is Birthday Gift to Husband

Gail Moeller has sponsored Shawano County's 325th barn quilt, called Prisms, as a birthday gift to her husband, Dennis. It is on display on a barn on their farm at N466 Elm Road, Pulaski. "We think it looks great," Dennis said, "and what a wonderful birthday gift."

The farm has been in the Moeller family for over 100 years. In 1922, Heinrich and Anna Moeller sold 60 acres of land to their son, Herman. He moved a two-room house from a neighboring farm and also built a barn. After he married Hazel Wendler, two rooms were added to the house. Herman and Hazel had three sons, Lawrence, Donald and Elmer. Dairy cows and hard work were the main sources of income for the farm.

In 1933, Herman and Hazel sold the farm to his brother, John, who married Esther Raether in 1934. They also had three sons, James, Jerome and Dennis. Dairying continued to be the main source of income for the farm. However, life on the farm was hard at this time, as the nation was in a depression and the Midwest was going through a major drought.

In 1941, the first tractor was purchased for the farm. It arrived just a few days after Pearl Harbor was attacked.

In 1947, an additional 40 acres were purchased, all of which had to be cleared. In the fall of 1948, the work horses were sold. Dairying continued on the farm until 1969 when John and Esther sold the dairy herd and retired. In 1971, they sold the farm to their youngest son, Dennis.

The barn was added onto in 1975 and additional land purchased, bringing the farm to its current size of 165 acres. Dairying continued to be the main income source until the cows were sold in 2000. Dairy replacement heifers were raised on the farm for a neighbor until 2012. The land is still being cash cropped.

Dennis married Gail Goosen in 2013 and they continue to enjoy farming together.

The barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric, assisted by Scott Breitrick of K & S Landscaping of Marion.

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