

Shawano County's 351st Barn Quilt Now on Display

Bob and Bonnie Engel, W7713 Broadway Ave., Shawano, have co-sponsored Shawano County's 351st barn quilt that is now on display on their farm in the Town of Richmond. The co-sponsor is Shawano Pathways.

The quilt pattern, called MOO-VING FORWARD, emphasizes the importance of being active, by biking, walking, running, or through other aerobic exercise. They are illustrated on the quilt with shoe footprints and bicycle wheels in the corners. "Shawano Pathways is proud to co-sponsor this beautiful quilt with the Engel family," Matty Mathison of Shawano Pathways said.

The Engel farm was homesteaded by Bob's great grandfather. Later, his grandfather took over the farm, then his father, Robert Sr., took over in 1932. The farm totals 820 acres.

The center of the quilt has an image of a Guernsey cow, which represents the breed of dairy cattle the Engels had until they retired. "When we took over the farm in 1977, Bob's dad had Holsteins and we had Guernseys," Bonnie said. "But once we took over, the Holsteins slowly left."

The Engels showed their Guernseys at the Shawano County Fair, the Wisconsin State Fair, World Dairy Expo and at various district shows. All four of their children, Sue, Julie, Jim and Mike, were active in 4-H and enjoyed showing their cattle. Now Bob and Bonnie's grandchildren are becoming active in 4-H too.

The annual Bike the Barn quilts event will be held on September 28 in Shawano and three of the bike routes will go past the Engel quilt.

The quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt project committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano and LeRoy's grandson, Keenan.