

The farm property was purchased in 1909 by Marcus Barden, Jr. The barn was built with fieldstone walls and timber frame and fitted with wooden pegs. It housed cattle and horses, and still does today.

Prairie Edge Farm is a century old farm and is currently owned and managed by the third (Lee Barden) and fourth (Mark Barden) generations. The farm has a diversified operation of Holstein milk cows, and crops of soybeans, corn, alfalfa, oats, and wheat.

The quilt block chosen for the barn is “Broken Dishes” because of the historical significance of our farmland. The farm was originally owned by Samuel McConochie, who was a farmer and proprietor of the Blue Tavern Inn, established in 1846. The Blue Tavern Inn was a stop for weary travelers on the stagecoach line between Portage and Milwaukee. When plowing the field, just east of our home, pieces of broken blue china plates, cups, and saucers, occasionally come to the surface of the soil to remind us of the local history.