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Barn Quilt Tour Comes to Champaign County

The Champaign County Visitors Bureau will host the first Barn Quilt Tour of Champaign County on Saturday, September 16, 2006. The goal of the Barn Quilt Tour is to promote an annual tour celebrating the unique agricultural experience of Champaign County through the visual combination of barns, which were vital to the economic well-being of our rural community and the comfort of handmade quilts that provided warmth, beauty and an outlet for individual artistic expression.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase Champaign County’s agricultural history while promoting tourism,” stated Kelly Evans-Wilson, Executive Director of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau.

The Barn Quilt Tour will consist of five tour barns featured throughout the county with quilt patterns painted onto them. During the event tours of the barn will be available and various activities including barn history and architecture, quilting, art and agricultural living will occur at each site. In addition to the five featured barns, other barns will also be painted as a way to form a “loop” around each of these anchor barns in an attempt to connect the entire county on a “clothesline of quilts”. These barns will not be open to the public but will be involved in supporting our agricultural heritage and the tour.

“Driving in Champaign County will never be the same. Bright designs of quilt blocks will signal our commitment to sustaining the community both culturally and economically,” stated Evans-Wilson. “Visitors and local residents will come away with a new appreciation of our rural life and heritage.”

To learn more about the Barn Quilt Tour or to become involved in the planning process contact the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce at 653-5764 or visit www.champaigncountybarns.com

The mission of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce is for the purpose of advancing the commercial, industrial and civic interests of Champaign County and its trade area.

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Photos: The first Barn Quilts were painted by committee members on February 11, 2006.