

JANOUSKY FARM

This property has been in the Janousky name for over one hundred years, and was recognized as a century farm at the Wisconsin State Fair in 2013. Owners Gerald and June are the 3rd generation, and son Gary and Dawn are the 4th generation on this farm which was built in 1906. The family currently raises beef cattle and cash crops including hay and corn. The farm was used as a dairy farm for most of its 100 years.



The Janousky Family, S10130 County Road B, Coleman was honored at the 2013 Wisconsin State Fair for their Century Farm recognition. The Century Farm Program originated as part of Wisconsin's Centennial Celebration, a 23-day Wisconsin State Fair which also gave birth to the Alice in Dairyland program. Each year about one hundred properties are honored. This marks the 39th year Hillshire Brands Company has proudly sponsored the Century Farm Program. This year, 126 properties will join the 8,716 Century Farms already honored since the programs began in 1948.

Oconto County's Janousky Farm began in 1906 with owners John and Antonette Janousky. An immigrant from Czechoslovakia, John and his wife, Antonie settled in Iowa for a few years, until news broke of the Holts Lumber Company, located in Oconto, WI was hiring. John left Iowa to pursue the job in Oconto. In a short while, he was able to save enough money to buy a 40 acre parcel in the Klondike area. He built a home and sent for his wife and son, Frederick on a train from Iowa to Lena, WI. She spoke Bohemian and some broken English, which posed a problem as she ended up in Laona, WI instead of Lena. Once there, the attendants tried to right the situation and quickly found a logger who spoke Bohemian. They got her on the right track back to her new home. Once there, she and John worked as a team to clear the land. He would chop the roots of the stumps and she would carry the freed stump on her back. In the succeeding years, they raised their son, Fred and(sibling,????)on their dairy farm. In 1914, their son Fred took over the farm. In 1917, Fred married Minnie Kloss and together they farmed and raised their family of four children, Helen Janousky-Neuzil, Clara, Edward Janousky, and Gerald Janousky. On Saturday September 30, 1922 Fred and Minnie suffered a great loss. While Fred was silo filling at John

Brickner's farm, his wife was baking bread and just put Clara, two years old down for a nap. Mrs. Janousky went to the barn to husk corn and returned fifteen minutes later to take the bread out of the oven and saw the house in flames. She broke a window and rescued the little one and rushed her to a neighbor's house. The child died of suffocation as her burns were not severe. The child and house were lost. With winter fast approaching, they moved a vacant home from a nearby neighbor's property to the farm. With the brick from what was to be used for a silo, they enclosed the new home, which still stands today.

Electricity was brought in in 1939. Fred hauled his milk to the factory located on the corner of County Road B and G, formerly the first location of Springside Cheese.

In 1958, Fred's son Gerald and his wife June Trever-Janousky took over the farm. They raised their child, Gary. The family farm grew from 40 acres to 360 acres through the course of the century and at one time milked over 70 head of Holsteins in a stanchion barn. The closed herd consisted of 160 head. The milking operation ceased in 2005. Janousky Farms was the longest patron of Springside Cheese Factory at that time. Today, Gary and his wife Dawn Valenta-Janousky carry on the tradition of farming through cash crops of hay, soybean and corn as well as raising beef steers while both working full time jobs away from the farm. His parents, Gerald and June though retired still have a very active role in the farm through the making of hay and cattle management.

In honor of the century farm, a new barn quilt with a centennial design will decorate the family's barn. NewView Industries of Gillett will paint the quilt design on an 8x8 sheet and Oconto Electric will apply the quilt to the barn.