

## Shawano County's 310<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt is a Sunflower

Shawano County's 310<sup>th</sup> barn quilt is a beautiful Sunflower pattern on display on a century-old barn on the farm of Dale and Pam Johnson, W926 Main Laney Drive, Pulaski. It is nicely visible from Highway 29 just east of Laney Cheese.

The farm was homesteaded in 1882 and has been in the Johnson family for five generations. It was always a dairy farm until 1997 when Dale decided that cows were no longer the direction he wanted for the family farm. So the 80-cow Holstein dairy herd was dispersed.

That year, Dale began to operate the farm as a certified organic operation with many changes. The Johnsons began direct marketing vegetables and organic crops for local canneries and to support other local organic dairy farms.

The old dairy barn was converted to a shared use kitchen, not only for the Johnsons to use, but also for other inspired farmers needing a state certified kitchen to add value to their produce. As time went on, more space in the old dairy barn was repurposed. Today, close to 5,000 square feet of space is used in the new certified organic sunflower processing operation.

"Now, five years into this new venture called Century Sun Oil, Pam and I were inspired to have this wonderful barn quilt with a sunflower replica created to enhance the feel of the barn," Dale said.

Working with other certified organic growers in Wisconsin, Century Sun Oil annually processes over 200 acres of organic sunflowers into cooking oil. With this growth, Dale's son, Eric, has joined the company as its business manager, continuing the family farm tradition.

For more information on Century Sun Oil, visit their website: [www.centurysunoil.com](http://www.centurysunoil.com). And don't forget to look for Century Sun Oil at your favorite grocery store.

The Johnson barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

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