

In Memoriam

Charles Wayne Lutz

Charles Wayne Lutz, Mocksville, N.C., 72, passed away unexpectedly on March 10, 2024.

He was born on January 31, 1952, in Catawba County to the late Charles Lewis and Ethel McLail Compton Lutz. Raised on the family Jersey dairy farm, he was an accomplished 4-Her who honed his dairy judging and showing skills at the local, regional and national levels.

After he graduated from North Carolina State University in 1974, he returned to the family farm. He relocated to Davie County in 1979, renting dairy facilities owned by Richard and Mable Allen, and then purchased Deerview Jersey Farm at its current location off Cana Road in 1981. He milked Registered Jerseys until semi-retirement in 2017. He retained enough heifers to allow his grandchildren to participate in dairy youth projects and shows.

Deerview Jersey Farm frequently ranked among the nation's best for production and genetic merit. Most recently, it ranked ninth nationally for actual fat production in 2020. Among the standouts were two cow families Lutz developed at Deerview Jersey Farm: Sweet Grass 2875 Gurit-ET and BW Legion Coed-ET. Both impacted the breed through their male and female descendants. Included in this group are Galaxies Celebrity-ET and Deerview Valson, sire of Bri-Lin Valson Spritz, Excellent-96%, two-time Grand Champion of the International Jersey Show.

Lutz served on the All American Jersey Sale Committee and regularly consigned animals to the All American Jersey Sale, the National Heifer Sale and the Pot O'Gold Sale. He was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and received the organization's Young Jersey Breeder award with his wife, Karen, in 1983.

Wayne served the North Carolina Jersey Cattle Association as vice president from 1977-1993 and then as president from 1994-1998. He received the organization's Distinguished Service Award in 1996. Deerview Jerseys was a long-time consignor to the North Carolina Pot O'Gold Sale. He judged more than 300 county fairs and district shows over the years and took immense pleasure in working with young cattle breeders and promoting youth activities.

Wayne was inducted into the North Carolina State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame, having exhibited at every North Carolina State Fair since the age of three. He was named Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor numerous times and received the Marvin E. Sengar Distinguished Dairy Farmer award as well. He and his family were honored as the Davie County Conservation Family of the Year in 1990 and 2011.

Lutz was a member of the First United Methodist Church and known for being loving, funny and genuinely kind.

In addition to his wife of 42 years, Karen, he is survived by their three daughters, Whitney (Christopher) Munden of Advance, Kelsey Daye Lutz (Shamus Eberhardt) of Anacortes, Wash., and Avery Lutz of Richmond, Va.; siblings, Brenda Lutz of Huntersville and Corey (Bridgett) Lutz and Kevin Lutz, all of Lincolnton; and five grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant brother, Steven.

Memorials may be made to Davie High FFA, 180 War Eagle Drive, Mocksville NC 27028.