

In Memoriam

Libby Hubbert

Libby Hubbert, Fayette, Ark., 79, passed away August 4, 2026, at Fayette Long Term Care.

She was born on August 29, 1946, to the late Robert Ralph Sr. and Mary Ellen Hinton Renfroe in Fayette. She was affectionately known to her family as Sweet Nan, Nanny, Hoobie and Lib.

Libby spent many years beside her beloved husband, Larry, in the operation of Hubbert Dairy, a Registered Jersey farm, in Fayette.

She loved her family fiercely and loved being with them at all times. She especially enjoyed the time she shared with her kids, grandkids and nieces working at dairy shows across the South. Libby also enjoyed watching her great-grandson, Kane, play sports.

Libby will be missed by family, friends, nieces, nephews and cousins. Honorary pallbearers are members of the Fayette County High School class of 1965.

In addition to her husband, Libby, and grandson, Libby is survived by a son, Allen (Kim) Hubbert of Fayette; a daughter, Gena Hubbert Rushing of Jasper; another grandson; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Ralph Renfroe Jr.

Ronnie G. Rider

Ronnie G. Rider, Upton, Ky., 72, passed away on August 8, 2025, at Norton's Pavilion in Louisville.

Born to the late Ernest and Wilma Rider on July 28, 1954, Ronnie was raised on his family's dairy farm, where faith, family, hard work, honesty, humility and a willingness to help others became the foundation of the life he would lead.

His life was defined by a deep passion for the dairy industry, an unwavering commitment to the Jersey breed and an extraordinary dedication to the people around him.

With his brother, Mike, he owned Rider Jersey Farm in Upton. From humble beginnings with just three Registered Jersey cows, Ronnie and Mike built the farm into one of the nation's most respected Jersey operations.

Over the years, they earned countless honors in the show ring, including numerous All Americans and Reserve All Americans, Premier Breeder banners at major state and national shows, and a nomination for the American

Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) Master Breeder award. Rider-bred cattle achieved success on some of the most respected stages. Among the standouts are Extreme Electra (2006 Reserve National Grand Champion) and a pair of Reserve Grand Champions at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair: Showdown Justine (2018) and Premonition Grace (2004).

Ronnie was also highly respected for his other roles in the show ring. He judged numerous county, state, regional and national events over the years, including the All American Junior Jersey Show in 2004 and the Central National Jersey Show in 2008. He was the consultant for the National Jersey Jug Futurity in 2000.

Rider received the Max Gordon Recognition Award in 2006. He was a member of the dairy show committee for the North American International Livestock Exposition and served as president of the Kentucky Jersey Cattle Club.

Ronnie was a mentor, teacher and friend. He generously shared his knowledge with young breeders, encouraged the next generation of dairy enthusiasts and took pride in the success of others. Fellow exhibitors admired his tireless work ethic, attention to detail and unwavering commitment to the care of his animals.

He had an extraordinary work ethic and a lifelong passion for dairy farming. He often said that he "lived to work," and anyone who knew him knew how true that was. He was happiest when he was busy working on the farm, helping a dairy producer, sharing his knowledge or simply lending a hand where one was needed.

Ronnie launched his professional career at Hart County Creamery and then moved on to the Carolina Virginia Milk Producers Association, Purity Dairy and Dean Foods. Most recently, he was with Dairy Farmers of America.

Rider was a member of the AJCA and Lucas Grove Baptist Church in Upton. He lived his life with a quiet and genuine humility and treasured family, friendships and relationships he built throughout his lifetime. He will be deeply missed; as a friend said, "The world could use more Ronnie Riders."

He is survived by his son, Michael Hardy Rider; his special friend and companion of many years, Judy Body; his brothers, Al (Susan) Rider and Michael "Mike" Rider; his sisters, Bonnie Jolly and Carol (Don) Green; an aunt, Martha Lenardon; special extended

family, Scott and Erica Boyd; two grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, cousins, extended family members and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Jerry Jolly.

Memorials in Rider's name may be made to the Ernest and Wilma Rider Fund for the Lucas Grove Baptist Church through the Central Kentucky Community Foundation (an endowment fund), 200 Jim Owen Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

Lowell W. Stevens

Lowell W. Stevens, Springfield, Ohio, 87, passed away on August 8, 2026, at Mercy Health-Springfield Regional Medical Center in Springfield.

He was born on April 7, 1939, to the late Russell and Marie Stevens in Cass-town. He graduated from Urbana Local in 1957 and served in the Air National Guard from 1962 to 1968.

Lowell was raised on a Registered Jersey dairy farm where he and his family earned a reputation for breeding deep-pedigreed cattle that won blue ribbons, purple banners, genetic awards, and Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor banners at county, district, state and national shows.

After he graduated from high school, Lowell became a tester for the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) in Champaign County. During his nine years with DHIA, he met his future wife, Julia L. Yoder, a Holstein girl he married on September 15, 1963. In 1964, he began working for the Northern Ohio Breeders Association (now Genex) of Tiffin, breeding cows in Champaign and Logan counties. He was later promoted to area sales representative and retired as an area program consultant in 2009 after 45 years of employment.

In 1980, he and Julia purchased his family's share of Club Hill Jerseys, a partnership with Mrs. F.E. Lowry. They exhibited cattle at the Ohio State Fair for 37 years and the All American Jersey Show for a dozen years. Among the standouts were Club Hill Imperial Taffy, who was exported and tapped Reserve Grand Champion of the national show in South America, and Club Hill M.P. Renee, the 1989 Reserve National Grand Champion.

Club Hill Jerseys was dispersed in August 1992.

Lowell was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and

(continued to page xx)

In Memoriam

(continued from page xx)

recipient of the national Jersey organizations' Award for Meritorious Service in 2021.

He served the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association (OJBA) as director for 30 years and board president for two terms. He chaired the organization's Ohio Spring Classic Sale for 14 years, logging countless hours and miles to secure consignments. He and Julia did much of the behind-the-scenes work for annual meetings and banquets and faithfully traveled to district shows and the Ohio State Fair for years to calculate points for the All-Ohio awards program.

Lowell judged dairy cattle shows in 60 counties across Ohio and was the official for state fairs in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio. He judged showmanship at the All American Junior Jersey Show four times and was associate judge in 1995.

He was a 4-H advisor for 24 years and a member of both the county and state 4-H advisory boards. He also sat on the board of the Ohio Purebred Cattle Association and was a member of National Dairy Shrine. For three decades, he served as director of the Champaign County Dairy Service Unit.

Among his laurels are the OJBA Pioneer Award, a DHIA Superior Achievement Award, the Genex Mission Award and a Kentucky Colonel from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He has been inducted into the Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame and the Dairy Science Hall of Service at the Ohio State University.

He was a member and trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana and served several terms as president of the Urbana North township election board.

Lowell loved playing cards, going out with friends and reminiscing about his beloved brown cow. His faith was an important and personal part of his life. At the age of 85, he chose to be rebaptized as a meaningful reflection of the beliefs he carried throughout his life. His grandchildren held an especially treasured place in his heart. He took immense pride in each of them and their achievements, but his love for them reached beyond anything they could ever achieve.

He is survived by daughters, Molly (Brian) Frey of Wapakoneta and Margaret (Lance) Sennett of Waynetown, Ind.; six grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; a great-grandson; sister, Peggy (Randy) Damewood;

sisters-in-law, Phyllis Stevens and Janet Brown; and a niece and three nephews.

Lowell was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Julia, who passed away in June 2020, and brothers John and Gary Stevens, along with his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Albert and Alyce Yoder.

Memorial contributions may be made to Affinity Care of Ohio, 9349 Waterstone Blvd., Suite 340, Cincinnati, OH 45249, and the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana.