

In Memoriam

Edward Vaughn Cooper, Jr.

Edward Vaughn “Ed/Eddie” Cooper, Jr., Owego, N.Y., 62, passed away unexpectedly on November 23, 2024.

He was born in Worcester, Mass., in 1962, the son of the late Edward, Sr., and Mary (Cunningham) Cooper.

Cooper grew up on a dairy farm that initially milked Holsteins and then switched to Jerseys. Cooper operated Cooper Farm, a Registered Jersey farm, with his family in several locations over the years. In 1998, they moved the herd to Marathon, N.Y. They dispersed the herd in October 2009 in the Change of Seasons Sale, which included guest consignments as well.

The Coopers re-established the herd and milked cows in Lexington, Ind., until two years ago, when they moved back East to be closer to family and live out Ed’s dream of farming again in New York. With the latest herd appraisal in March 2024, the herd included nine Excellent and 12 Very Good cows and had an average final score of 88.6%.

Ed loved watching his family accomplish great things and work together. He bred cattle that earned both All American and All-Canadian honors. Most recently, Cooper Farm Joyride Joyce was nominated All-American Summer Junior 2-Year-Old in the 2023 contest by *Cowsmo* for his children, Evan and Eden Cooper. It was his dream to win Grand Champion at the All American Jersey Show, now a goal for his family to accomplish in his honor.

Ed was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association, chair of the All American Jersey Show, and former president of the New York Jersey Cattle Club. He and his wife, Taryn, received the Young Jersey Breeder award in 1996.

In addition to his passion for Jerseys and his family, Ed was known for his sense of humor and was a mentor to many.

Ed is survived by his wife of 40 years, Taryn (Fiske) Cooper; three children, Meaghan (Shane) Hulle, Evan Cooper and Eden Cooper; three sisters, Mary Jane Cooper, Shirley Cooper and Fern Pelkey; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Memorials may be made to Jersey Youth Academy, c/o AJCA, 6486 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

W. Owen Unkefer

W. Owen Unkefer, Urbana, Ohio, 67,

passed away on November 30, 2024, surrounded by his wife, Tresa Hahlen Unkefer, and children.

He was born February 3, 1957, in Alliance, Ohio, the son of the late William Glen Unkefer and Jane Willis Unkefer. From there, his life was a framework of love, labor and community spirit that found its home on his family dairy farm, Ufashion Jerseys LLC.

Moving to the farm at age six, Owen thrived, absorbing lessons of stewardship. At 16, he took the reins and never looked back. He graduated from Crestview High School and then poured himself into Ufashion Jersey Farm, a steadfast plot of land where innovation met nurturing and profit was measured by Jerseys. His farm motto was “Jerseys—More Profit Per Acre.”

The 230-cow herd is enrolled on REAP and a contract advertiser with the *Jersey Journal*. With the latest herd appraisal in May 2024, the herd includes 47 Excellent and 134 Very Good cows and has an average final score of 85.4%.

Possessing an unwavering fix-it mentality, Owen was renowned for his determination and commitment to everything he touched.

At 18, he joined the Columbiana Agricultural Society, quickly finding his place within the heart of the county fair, a passion that would fuel him throughout his life. He was a fair board director for more than 30 years, dedicating his time to roles that uplifted both the infrastructure and youth programs, including his many years as a 4-H advisor. His leadership of the Columbiana County Fair and Junior Fair board was a beacon of innovation with a new software program leading the way, rebuilding the grandstands, soliciting donations and building a new beef complex. His enthusiasm for the first week of August was infectious, earning him the Lifetime Fair Supporter Award from the Ohio Fair Managers Association in 2020.

An active member of the American Jersey Cattle Association, he enjoyed attending the annual meetings and was a proud recipient of the Young Jersey Breeder award in 1991.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, Owen was known for his unwavering passion for Cleveland sports and his beloved Crestview Rebels.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four children, Ashley (Damion) Wallace of East Rochester, Cinda (Nathan) Lude of Hanoverton, Ann (Grant) Cope of Salem, and Todd (Paige) Unkefer of Columbiana; two stepdaughters, Jenna (Holt) Mallard of Sabina and Aman-

da (Frank Oliva) Hall of New York, N.Y.; siblings, Kathie (Gerald) Reid of Wooster, Debbie (Aldken) Weichel of Richmond, Va., Dale (Brenda) Unkefer and Lee Unkefer of Columbiana; and 11 grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Columbiana County Fair, P.O. Box 356, Lisbon, OH 44432.