

In Memoriam

Norman Henry Martin

Norman Henry "Norm" Martin, Tillamook, Ore., passed away on February 8, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

He was born on September 4, 1944, in Hanford, Calif., where he attended Stratford Grammar School before continuing his education at Lemoore High School. He later attended Fresno State University and Graham Cattle School in Kansas City, Kan., preparing for a life dedicated to agriculture and the dairy industry. As a third-generation farmer, Norm carried forward a family legacy with pride, determination and deep respect for the land and animals in his care.

He married the love of his life, Gwen Semas Martin, in October 1963. Together they built a life centered on faith, family and hard work.

In 1975, he purchased the dairy from Martin Brothers in Stratford, Calif., and continued building the operation with his family. He often said that any success he achieved was only possible because of his wife and children working alongside him.

In October 1995, Norm moved both his family and dairy operations to Tillamook to begin a new chapter at Martin Dairy LLC and market milk through Tillamook Cooperative Creamery Association, which he eventually served as a director. Initially set up as a half Holstein, half Jersey herd, it was transitioned to Jersey several years later, after Norm discovered the breed's economic advantages by milking the two side by side.

The Martins bred Registered Jerseys using the Cal-Mart prefix. Norm was a heavy user of programs from the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA), developing a herd that ranked among the best in the nation for genetic merit and production. Cal-Mart Jerseys currently ranks #1 for cow genetic merit with a herd average JPI of +101 on 716 cows.

The Martins regularly contributed to leading Jersey sales. Their consignments topped the National Heifer Sale in 2013 and 2022 and the Pot O'Gold Sale in 2012, 2015 and 2020. Their consignment to the All American Jersey in 2017 was the highest-selling female.

Martin Dairy was a virtual tour for World Dairy Expo in 2020, and Norm and his son, Chad, were featured on the cover of the October 2004 issue of the

Jersey Journal.

Martin Dairy continues to be operated by Gwen and Chad, along with Chad's wife, Fran, and their daughter, Taryn Martin.

Throughout his career, Norm was recognized as a distinguished dairy farmer. He attended many dairy conventions and took pride in speaking about an industry he truly loved. He was a member of the AJCA and served as Director of National All-Jersey Inc. from 2003 to 2015.

Norm also sat on the board of All West/Select Sires for more than 30 years and served on boards for both the Kings County and Tillamook County Dairy Herd Improvement Associations. Norm is a former member of the California Federated Milk Producers board and the California Milk Advisory Board. He also served on the boards of the Stratford Public Utility District and the Stratford Water Board. He was involved with the Portuguese lodge and the Kings County sheriff posse.

Though he received many honors, the recognition Norm treasured most was being named Dairy Family of the Year in California in 1986.

Beyond his work, Norm found joy in life's simple and meaningful moments. He loved hunting, especially during the opening day of dove season, and cherished traveling with Gwen. While they visited many countries, the Azores Islands held a special place in his heart. Norm was known for his gift of storytelling. He could bring memories to life in a way that made everyone want to listen. For this reason, he became the family historian, preserving stories that will live on for generations.

Norman Henry Martin will be remembered for his steady work ethic, deep love for family, commitment to community and the stories that connected generations. His legacy lives on in the family he built, the land he cared for and the values he passed down.

In addition to his wife of 62 years, Gwen, his son and daughter in law, and granddaughter, Norm is survived by two other children, Lance (Lynell) and Rhonda (Fernando Silveira); a brother, Clifford (Arlinda); a brother in law, Steve Semas (Kathy); a sister in law, Mardell Pedersen; 16 other grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren, with twins on the way; five nieces and one nephew; and several other extended members of the family.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Doris.

Donations in his memory may be

made to Alzheimer's research or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.