

In Memoriam

John R. Miller

John R. Miller, Pomfret, Conn., 65, passed away unexpectedly at home on November 30, 2024.

He was born at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, Mass., on April 23, 1959, to Roland H. Miller and Mary Jane (Curtis) Miller. He grew up in Chesterfield and attended Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton. He had a passion for Registered Jersey cattle, working with them from age 12 as a 4-H project until his passing. A 10th-generation farmer from New England, he studied to become a veterinarian at the State University of New York at Delhi but came home to tend his Jersey herd before he completed his studies.

When his children were young, he sold the herd of Jerseys and moved to Quebec to become general manager of Piedmont Jersey Farm. Here, he also studied cheesemaking and began his cheesemaking venture.

Miller returned to New England in 2004 to partner with his aunt, Sarah Prince, in operating the Farmstead at Mine Brook, which made award-winning goat cheese and Jersey cheese marketed with the Jersey Maid label. The creamery's Neige en Ete won gold medals in World Jersey Cheese Competitions in 2007 and 2008.

For a period, Miller was also a cheesemaker for Appleton Farms in Ipswich, Mass. A member of the milking string, Winterplace Resurrection Willow, was featured on the cover of the June 2012 issue of the *Jersey Journal*.

Miller moved the Registered Jersey herd to Winterplace Farm in Leeds, Maine, in 2015, and then settled in Pomfret. He also raised Suffolk sheep, Nubian and Cheviot goats, and chickens, a practice he had done since he was 10. Winterfield Farm marketed Jersey cheese using the Queen of Quality label and earned a blue ribbon at the American Cheese Society Competition with its Garlic and Herb Chevre goat cheese.

As a hobby, Miller enjoyed showing cattle locally, regionally and at the All American Jersey Show. In 2022, he consigned the high seller of the New England Simmer Down for the Summer sale held in conjunction with the New England Jersey Breeders Association annual meeting.

Miller was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association. He studied classical piano for eight years as a

child, sang in the church choir, enjoyed gardening and visited antique stores in his spare time. He judged cheese competitions, including those held at the Eastern States Exposition. He was a consummate example of animal husbandry and always found positive hope for each new day throughout his life.

He is survived by his three children, James (Jessica) of Colrain, Mass., David (Dorothy) of Putnam, Conn., and Kate (Jose) of Tolland, Conn.; a brother, Bill of Chesterfield; a sister, Rebecca Andrews of Charlemont, Mass.; four grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves his former wife, Sharen Roberts, and his parents, Roland of Brooksville, Fla., and Mary Jane of Williamsburg, Mass.

Memorials may be made to the First Congregational Church of Chesterfield, P.O. Box 56, Chesterfield, MA 01012; Bofat Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 15, Chesterfield, MA 01012; or Smith Vocational High School Agricultural Department, 80 Locust St., Northampton, MA 01060.