

In Memoriam

William Howard Maness

William “Bill” Howard Maness, Stitzer, Wis., 65, passed away June 9, 2019, at Grant Regional Health Center in Lancaster, Wis.

He was born in Montgomery County in North Carolina on August 20, 1953, to Max and Janet Stover Maness. He graduated from East Montgomery High School in 1971 and attended North Carolina State University.

Bill worked in the dairy industry throughout his life. He was fondly called the “historian” by Jersey enthusiasts for his passion researching the bloodlines of the Jersey breed. He operated Jersey Origins, a consulting business that maintained a database of Jersey pedigrees and researched Jersey ancestry back to historical importations and beyond.

Over the years, Maness worked for a number of Jersey breeders in New England and the Southeast, including High Lawn Farm, Lee, Mass., Sunny Day Farm, Chester, S.C., and Gaby Jersey Farm, Greeneville, Tenn. Most recently, he worked with the Orth family of Orthridge Farms in Stitzer. He helped to prepare copy for *Jersey Journal* advertising for High Lawn early in his career and for Biltmore Farms of Asheville, N.C., most recently. He worked with *Journal* staff on the creation of ads for several other Jersey breeders as well.

He was a lifetime member of the American Jersey Cattle Association, the World Jersey Cattle Bureau and the National Dairy Shrine.

Maness received the Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association in 2015 for his work in proofing association materials and adopting new computer software. He also began work on a history book for the organization entitled, *Jerseys in America’s Dairyland—A Rich History and a Bright Future*.

Maness attended Stitzer United Methodist Church.

The only thing that equaled Bill’s passion for the Jersey breed was his passion for fam families that he mentored and helped throughout the years.

In addition to his mother, Janet of Biscoe, N.C., he is survived by two brothers, Richard (Kathy) Maness of Star, N.C., and Robert (Annette) Maness of Biscoe; and a sister, Maxine (Bob) Pike of New Richmond, Wis.

He was preceded in death by his father.

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