

In Memoriam

Donald “Don” Coppini

Donald “Don” Coppini, Ferndale, Calif., 91, passed away on December 14, 2019.

He was born on April 27, 1928, to the late Leo and Mary (Regli) Coppini and grew up on the family dairy farm established by his grandfather, John William “J. W.” Coppini. He attended The Assumption Catholic School and graduated from Ferndale High School in 1947. He was a starting guard on the Wildcat Football team and ran track. He also tried his hand at amateur boxing. And though he was very good, he knew he was a better dairyman so chose dairying as an occupation.

Don married the love of his life, Donna, in 1970. The couple was blessed with three children and 49 years of marriage.

During and after high school, Don ran dairies with his brothers, Francis and Paul. When his father passed away in 1962, Don took over the family Jersey dairy. He milked many production champions, including Sunny King Berna, Very Good-87%, the breed’s former all-time lifetime milk and fat leader and a former world lifetime fat champion. “Berna” topped the milk and fat divisions of the American Jersey Cattle Club’s Leading Lifetime Production Contest for three straight years beginning in 1974 and wound up with credits of 245,270 lbs. milk and 14,651 lbs. fat in 5,726 days.

Don handed the reins of the family dairy to his nephew, Tracy Coppini, in 1984 to start his second career working for Renner Ranches. He farmed fields throughout the Eel River Valley, working through the fall of 2019. Even at the age of 91, Don’s face lit up when Joe Renner called him to come to work.

In addition to his wife Donna, he is survived by a stepson Davy (Bonnie) Wright; a stepdaughter Diane (Paul) Sauer; brother Leonard (Catherine) Coppini; and many nephews, nieces, grandchildren, cousins and friends that loved him dearly. Don will be especially missed by his grandson and traveling partner, Morgan Wright, and great-granddaughter, Addie.

In addition to his parents, Don was preceded in death by siblings, Francis, Paul, Maryann and Lois, and a stepson, Donald Wright.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your favorite charity.

Mark Lee Grundahl, D.V.M.

Mark Lee Grundahl, D.V.M., Whitewater, Wis., 71, passed away at

home on December 30, 2019.

He was born on June 22, 1948, son of the late Amos and Isabel (Wright) Grundahl. He grew up on a dairy farm in Rock County, where he was actively involved in 4-H and showing Jersey cattle. He earned his undergraduate degree in dairy science from the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison.

After working as a herdsman in the dairy industry for three years, he returned to academia, earning a master’s degree in dairy nutrition from the University of Georgia. He managed Jersey herds and taught at North Carolina State University and Berry College in Rome, Ga.

Mark earned a Ph.D. in veterinary medicine from his alma mater, UW-Madison, and then embarked on a 30-year career in the field of veterinary medicine.

He enjoyed watching and attending Badger basketball and football games. A lifetime member of the American Jersey Cattle Association, he continued to be active in Jersey circles, owning and showing cattle most of his life.

Above all, he enjoyed watching his daughter, Sarah, show her horses.

In addition to his daughter, Sarah, he is survived by good friend and neighbor, Justin Meyers; sister, Nordis (Andy) Olson; nieces, nephews and many other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by a brother, David Grundahl.

Memorials may be made in Mark’s name to the Rock County 4-H Association Scholarship Fund or the AJCA scholarship fund (payable to AJCA, with Mark’s name and scholarship fund in memo line).

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