

In Memoriam

Joe Curtis Blankenship

Joe Curtis Blankenship, Beech Bluff, Tenn., 85, passed away September 9, 2021, in Jackson, Tenn.

He was born December 20, 1935, in Jackson to the late Curtis Green Blankenship and Mary Shoe Blankenship.

A second-generation Jersey breeder, Joe operated Blankenship Jerseys with his family in Beech Bluff. The Blankenships exhibited cattle at shows across the South and at the Central National Jersey Show and The All American Jersey Show as well. Among the standouts are Jims Regal Lady, who was tapped Grand Champion of shows across the South, Jades Sambo Brownie, 2003 Junior All American Senior Three-Year-Old, and Bernies Bruce Lady, Junior Champion of the 1994 All American Junior Jersey Show.

The Blankenships consigned animals to leading Jersey sales, including the Kentucky National Jersey Sale, the Dixie Invitational, the Deep South and Southeast Heifer Growers South Sale, and the Minnesota Spring Special Sale. The herd is enrolled on REAP. With the latest appraisal, it has a herd average final score of 88.2% and includes seven Excellents and eight Very Goods.

His grandsons, Wesley and David, continue to be involved with All American festivities. Wesley serves on the Junior Activities Committee, which he chaired in 2012. David has served on the Open Show Committee since 2020.

Joe was a lifetime member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and Beech Bluff Methodist Church. He volunteered service to Madison County as commissioner and member of the school board. He also belonged to the Beech Bluff Ruritan Club and Madison Farmers Coop.

In addition to his grandsons, Joe is survived by two sons, Phillip (Brenda) Blankenship and Randall (Jennifer) Blankenship; a daughter Susan (Ronnie) Johnson; five other grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Maxine Stewart Blankenship.

Margaret L. Ratliff

Margaret L. Ratliff, Garnett, Kan., 83 passed away September 14, 2021, at Residential Living Center in Garnett.

She was born April 10, 1938, in Jefferson, Iowa, daughter of the late Harold and Margaret (Teasant) Brees. The family then moved to Renton, Wash. After she graduated from Renton High

School, Margaret worked for Boeing. She met her future husband, Max Owen Ratliff, in Seattle, Wash., where he was stationed with the U.S. Army. They married on March 23, 1957, in Renton.

The couple owned and operated Anderson County Sales in Garnett for more than 47 years. The business is now owned by their son, Ron, and daughter-in-law, Christy. The auction holds a feeder cattle and calf sale each week and a special cow sale monthly. Ron and Christy also operate Ratliff Jerseys, a 60-cow Registered Jersey dairy in Garnett. They were named Master Breeder by the American Jersey Cattle Association in 2018 and have hosted six guest consignment sales at the farm in recent years. Among Margaret's favorite pastimes were attending these sales and Jersey shows with Ron and Christy.

She also enjoyed bowling, gambling, collecting, and reading books.

In addition to Ron and Christy, she is survived by son Randall O. Ratliff of Nashville, Tenn., and sister, Marilyn Bridges of Renton.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Max, and sisters, Lou and Dee.

Memorial contributions may be made to Anderson County 4-H.

Jerome E. "Jake" Hardy

Jerome E. "Jake" Hardy, Milroy, Pa., 50, passed away unexpectedly September 30, 2021, due to complications from a brief illness.

He was born May 21, 1971, in Roaring Springs, Pa., son of Dennis and Rebecca Colpetzer Hardy. A fourth-generation Jersey breeder, he grew up on Twix Jersey Farm, which was dispersed when he graduated from Everett High School in 1989 and enrolled in the U.S. Marine Corps. Jake was honorably discharged from service in 1993. He also earned a degree from Pennsylvania State University in Altoona.

In 2003, he established Ardent Farm with 45 cows on a rented facility in Saxton, Pa. Four years later, he purchased a farm in Belleville, Pa., now operated by his son, Tucker, and his wife, Becca. Among the standouts was Sniders Future Fanola, Excellent-95%, purchased as a bred heifer in 2003 from a neighbor, Kendy Beth Gable of New Enterprise. She was named Junior All American Aged Cow in 2008 and won the National Jersey Youth Production Contest in 2010 for Tucker.

Jake also worked off the farm as a dairy nutritionist and consultant for Wenger Group of Reams, Pa.

He was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and loved everything related to farming and cows.

He also enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He always carried a smile and was known for his off-the-wall comments.

In addition to his son and daughter-in-law of Petersburg, Pa., he is survived by his fiancée, Rebecca Walizer, with whom he lived, a stepson, Kyle (Megan) Heckert of Aspers, Pa.; two sisters, Janice (Kevin) Davis and Jill (Todd), both of Alum Bank, Pa.; a brother, Jim (Peg) Hardy of Williamsburg, Pa.; a grandson; and nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, aunts, uncles, and friends.

He was preceded in death by a son, Sterling.

Memorials are suggested to an FFA program, 4-H program, or any dairy cow show of the donor's choosing.

Nancy L. Hope Landis

Nancy L. Hope Landis, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, 71, passed away October 9, 2021, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

She was born to the late James and Marie Hope and graduated from Bishop Wehrle High School.

For many years, both Nancy and her sister, Mary Neymeyer, worked in the herd services department at the American Jersey Cattle Association. Nancy began employment with the organization when it was called the American Jersey Cattle Club in September 1978 and retired 34 years later, in June 2012.

She enjoyed painting and various types of crafts and appreciated good bargains, which she often freely gave to coworkers even in retirement.

In addition to her sister, Mary, and brother-in-law, Donald, she is survived by her husband, Dan, three sons, Scott (Gerda) Sadler, Dennis Sadler, and Joe Landis; three grandchildren; and sister, Elizabeth Hope.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association or Fairhope Hospice.

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