



## John Lee Majeskie

February 7, 1941 - August 22, 2008

Internationally known dairy cattle judge and dairy youth supporter Dr. J. Lee Majeskie of Centreville died suddenly on Friday, August 22, at the University of Maryland Hospital. He was the loving and devoted husband of Judy Alexander Majeskie.

Born February 7, 1941, on a Holstein dairy farm in Waukesha, WI, Lee was the son of John and Bernice Majeskie.

Dr. Majeskie retired from his position as Professor Emeritus and Extension Specialist in the Department of Animal & Avian Sciences at the University of Maryland in 2005. He received his B. S. and M.S. degrees at the University of Wisconsin and his Ph.D. in Dairy Cattle Breeding and Genetics at Kansas State University.

In 1970, Dr. Majeskie became the Director of Program Development for the U.S. Brown Swiss Cattle Association. During his five-year tenure, he developed the Production and Type Performance Registry program; initiated a National Brown Swiss Young Sire program; and directed the growth of the Identity Enrollment program for unregistered Brown Swiss.

In 1975, he accepted a position at the University of Maryland where he served as an Extension Dairy Specialist, providing educational programs to youth and

adults in the dairy industry. He taught over 1500 students during his 30 years of University service. He was also the faculty adviser for the Animal Husbandry Club for a number of years. The club hosts livestock shows that form the foundation of a college-wide 'county-fair like event' each April that was called Ag Day, allowing dozens of undergraduates to gain meaningful large-animal handling experience annually. Ag Day has evolved into a campus-wide event called Maryland Day, which attracts over 50,000 people to campus each year.

Dr. Majeskie's research program included applied research in dairy cattle management, using data generated from the Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) program. He provided the leadership and development of educational programs for dairy producers and users of dairy records generated in the DHI program. He has presented 43 international featured presentations in 21 countries covering the topics of genetic improvement of dairy cattle.

He has conducted judging clinics in six states and served as official judge of over 125 district, state, regional and national shows in 31 states. Dr. Majeskie has also had the opportunity to judge national shows and classify cattle in 14 countries including Brazil, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Switzerland, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Puerto Rico and Australia.

Dr. Majeskie might be most known as the coach of the highly successful Maryland 4-H dairy cattle judging program. Thousands of youth benefited from his 25 years of leadership. During that time, his state teams placed in the top three nationally 18 times and won the national contest five times.

Living in a small state with increasing urbanization, Dr. Majeskie is also known for initiating a dairy leasing program that allowed non-farm 4-H youth to lease a dairy animal and participate in dairy projects, including showing. This leasing

program celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008.

Dr. Majeskie recently received two prestigious awards. He was presented the American Dairy Science Association's Award of Honor at their annual meeting this summer, and he was inducted to the Maryland Dairy Shrine this spring.

He

has also received numerous honors and awards over the years from 4-H and various dairy cattle organizations.

Upon his retirement, two scholarships were established in his honor – one in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for students in Animal Sciences with a focus on dairy; and one in the Maryland 4-H Foundation in support of youth with 4-H dairy project background. This was the first time in the history of the College and Foundation that scholarships were established in honor of a faculty member within the College and Maryland 4-H Foundation.

Dr. Majeskie was a member of the National Dairy Shrine Board of Directors, DHI-Provo, Dairy Shrine Scholarship Selection Committee, Maryland Holstein Association and Scholarship Committee, Wills Show Committee, Maryland Brown Swiss Association Board of Directors, National Brown Swiss Board of Directors, Maryland Dairy Shrine, Maryland Pure Bred Dairy Cattle Association, Coordinating Committee for the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, American Dairy Science Association, and was a frequent contributor to Hoard's Dairyman.

He was also a member of the Symphony Village Community Association, an enthusiastic Terrapin Club member, Maryland 4-H Dairy Bowl contest official, Maryland Dairy Princess Committee member and assisted in organizing and planning the Maryland Dairy Weekend. He was also an active member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Millington.

Surviving in addition to his wife, are son, Matthew Majeskie of Madison, WI; stepson Troy Alexander and his wife, Nicole, and granddaughter, Cassidy, all of Millington; and sister and brother-in-law Joyce and Randy Martinson of Elkhorn, WI.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 408 South Liberty Street, Centreville. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, August 29, at the Centreville United Methodist Church on MD 213 in Centreville. Internment will be in the Crumpton Cemetery and a reception will be held at the Millington Fire Hall.

Pall bearers are Jack King, Frank Walbert, Gene Lager, Charlie Lager, Mike Lager, Tim Summers, Gene Long and Randy Martinson. Honorary pall bearers are Monty Montgomery and George Majeskie.

Memorial donations may be made to: Maryland 4-H Foundation, memo to Lee Majeskie Scholarship and mailed to Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20742; or to the UMCP Foundation, memo to Lee Majeskie Scholarship and mailed to the University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1221 Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742, Attention: Brian Magness.

# Previous Events

## Service

AUG **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Centreville Methodist Church  
608 Church Hill Road  
Centreville, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Lee Majeskie*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - August 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *John Lee Majeskie*

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *John Lee Majeskie*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *John Lee Majeskie*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ I just learned today of the death of Dr Majeskie. Lawrence and Marie Majeskie were my g'parents. And had seen Berniece at family functions in the past.

My dad was Robert. I am sorry to have learned so much about him and you from an obit. I guess our family is so large and extended. Plus distances also limits contact. He certainly was an accomplished man. I wish you peace now and everyday. We lost my 54 y.o. brother suddenly 8/11. I know they both join loving family members in their new life.##imported-begin##DEBBIE SULLIVAN##imported-end##

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September 15, 2008 at 01:54 PM



“ Dear Judy, I am so sorry that I could not be there for you. I am so glad Lee found you (otherwise we would still be looking at those ugly yellow curtains!), you were the love of his life. I will miss just sitting around shooting the breeze after a long day of yardwork, I will miss his crazy sense of humor and how we would laugh with him and at him over something silly until our sides hurt, I will miss tailgating, and seeing him at all the football and basketball games. After I read about Lee, I realized that there was more to him then just the average, down to earth, extremely nice man and gentleman he portrayed, he was a international Rock Star in his field! Judy, just remember, we love you. Judy Tarter##imported-begin##Judy Tarter of Beltsville, MD##imported-end##

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September 02, 2008 at 04:44 PM



“ Judy, so sorry to hear of your husband's death. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

*Faye Faust Williams*##imported-begin##*Faye Williams*##imported-end##

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September 02, 2008 at 02:42 PM



“ Judy, we were away on vacation and came home to the sad news of the death of Lee, I'm so sorry for your loss and I'm thinking of you. I will be in touch soon. You were such a happy couple and I know you will miss him. You are in my prayers. Love Marion##imported-begin##*Marion Kellas*##imported-end##

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August 30, 2008 at 08:37 AM



“ Judy you are in my prayers. I will call you later. God Bless##imported-begin##*Barbara Bixby*##imported-end##

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August 29, 2008 at 05:21 PM



“ Judy & family,  
We are shocked that God has asked Lee home at this time. You are in our thoughts and prayers. I am sorry we could not attend the service.##imported-begin##*Ann & Sean Dunn*##imported-end##

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August 29, 2008 at 10:33 AM



“ We are so deeply saddened by the loss of Lee. We will always remember all his determination, hard work, and efforts for the children and judging teams, all through the years. I myself see his smile and confidence with everything from getting the cattle classes and the teams together from practice to the final competitions. Lee has given the dairy industry so much he will be deeply missed. Your family is in our hearts and prayers! Florence C. Bassler, Marie Bassler Butler and Family###imported-begin###Florence C. Bassler, Marie Bassler Butler and Family###imported-end###

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August 28, 2008 at 10:03 AM



“ Dearest Judy,  
Memories of your wedding to Lee are still fresh in my mind. Meeting him then briefly I knew he was someone very special, especially seeing how much he loved you. The stories are still told of your love for each other. May God keep you close and help you through this most difficult time. Know that you are thought of often and accept our deepest sympathy for your loss. Fondly, Lydia Conroy & Ron###imported-begin###Lydia Conroy & Ron###imported-end###

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August 28, 2008 at 09:02 AM



“ Majeskie Family: I was heartbroken to receive the news yesterday from Carole Dingess. My thought and prayers go out to you all. I only wish I could be there to say a proper goodbye to a professor I greatly respected and admired. Dr. Majeskie was an amazing teacher and a great person. He was a great asset to UMCP as well as the Extension Program. He will be sorely missed.  
~Aimee E. Reis, Dallas, TX.###imported-begin###Aimee Reis###imported-end###

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August 27, 2008 at 04:11 PM



“ Dear Mrs. Majeskie & Family

*Please accept my deepest Sympathy. Our family had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Majeskie through Gail Yeiser and the Anne Arundel Dairy Leasing Club in that short time peirod Dr. Majeskie showed the kids his interest in attending the Dairy shows and fairs. When we received the news on Friday before the show at State Fair the kids were deeply sadden, but they showed his animals with pride. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Geneva Kirby##imported-end##*

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August 27, 2008 at 09:18 AM



“ Dear Judy,

*Our prayers are with you during this most challenging time. We were very fond of Lee.*

*Sincerely,*

*Thomas (Butch) and Karen Mansfield*

*Your former neighbors @ Calverton Townes##imported-begin##Thomas and Karen Mansfield##imported-end##*

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August 26, 2008 at 09:44 PM



“ *I was saddened to hear about Lee's passing. He was a great man and a wonderful mentor. He was responsible for my job at USDA while in school and opened my eyes to the world of dairy cattle. He was a big part of helping me get into veterinary school. He will be deeply missed. Sincerely, Elizabeth Daher, DVM##imported-begin##Elizabeth Daher##imported-end##*

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August 26, 2008 at 03:30 PM



“ *Judy*

*With every ounce of love from my heart to yours. Thank you for sharing Mr. Lee's kindness, thoughtfulness and love when I needed you guys. Lee will forever be in my heart and thoughts of how we all should treat one another.##imported-begin##Gyssette L Richardson##imported-end##*

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August 26, 2008 at 03:24 PM



“ *We were so deeply saddened at the news of Lee's passing. Lee was a good friend and neighbor for many years and always brought a smile to our faces. He will truly be missed by everyone who ever crossed his path. We will always think of our times together everytime we walk out our front door.##imported-begin##Tom and Lauren Dunn##imported-end##*

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August 26, 2008 at 12:01 PM



“ *Matt and Judy,*

*My deepest sympathies to both of you and I know there are no words to console your loss. Lee was the most decent human being I have known -- kind, honest, caring and sincere. Lee loved both of you very much and he was never shy about expressing his love for you and his pride in your accomplishments singly and together. I so looked forward to the Christmas letters -- Lee loved life!  
E. Kim Cassel##imported-begin##Kim Cassel##imported-end##*

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August 26, 2008 at 11:57 AM



“ Judy - As you can imagine I was floored to the ground when you called me Saturday. I had grown so close to Lee over the last 20 years that he was like the brother that I needed and wanted. He was the first person to talk me out of money to form a partnership with Mr. ED on Clarissa the Brown Swiss. I will never forget the memories of the ADSA Foundation Auction with you two great people. It was extremely hard for me to be focused at the Dairy show on Saturday. We want to keep close with you and your family.  
We Love You,  
Monty and Mary###imported-begin##Monty and Mary  
Montgomery###imported-end##

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August 25, 2008 at 03:57 PM



“ Majeskie Family: We were completely shocked and saddened to learn of Lee's recent passing.  
I had the pleasure of getting to know Lee over twenty years ago. Like so many other people I held him in very high esteem!  
He had a wonderful sense of humour, a ready smile, was a highly talented man and most of all made a profound contribution to this world and those he met and worked with. He was so much more a giver than a taker and could anyone working full time for years ever calculate how many lives he touched in a positive way? I'll recall our all too infrequent visits with great fondness and thankfulness!  
What an honour and privilege to have known this giant in the dairy industry!  
My condolences and prayers that you'll know comfort and strength in the days ahead! Russell Gammon, Executive Secretary, Jersey Canada###imported-begin##Russell G. Gammon Jersey Canada  
###imported-end##

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August 25, 2008 at 12:45 PM