

Dairy Shrine Pioneers Announced

Four outstanding individuals are being honored with National Dairy Shrine's Pioneer Award this year in recognition of their significant contributions to the dairy industry. Each will join a distinguished group of industry leaders whose portraits and stories are displayed in National Dairy Shrine's Dairy Hall of Fame and Museum in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

Youth Dairy Advocate

Bonnie Ayars, the respected dairy cattle breeder, teacher, coach, and agriculture advocate from Mechanicsburg, Ohio, is among the honorees. 4-H impacted her youth and a special Jersey cow project helped to finance her college education as a music major. However, the dream changed, and she eventually graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Home Economics Education and a minor in music. Then back to a different farm and new dreams in 1972 when she and husband John were married.

The couple bred and developed one of the nation's finest Guernsey herds with the Land of Living prefix and then added the partnership of New View Swiss. Over 20 National Show champions, numerous All-Americans, bulls in A.I., and leading production animals were bred and developed by the couple and their sons. Today the farm is home to a select group of cows that continue to perpetuate quality genetics and show winners.

"Bonnie is a woman of enormous ability, accomplishment and humility," says nominator Dr. Katharine Knowlton. "While her accomplishments are varied, it's her work with young people and non-ag audiences that is her greatest impact. In those areas, Bonnie Ayars is absolutely one of the best of all-time."

A passionate and engaging educator, Ayars has been a teacher for 48 years. She initially taught high school and middle school Family and Consumer Science but also worked in guidance and was a teacher consultant for the Ohio Department of Education. In 2006, Ayars accepted a position at Ohio State University as a Dairy Program Specialist and working with all 4-H dairy programming, coaching the collegiate and 4-H judging teams, and teaching in the Animal Sciences Department. She eventually transitioned to only the collegiate portion of her appointment but continues to work with 4-H dairy programs.

The Ohio State team won the National



Bonnie Ayars

Intercollegiate Contest at World Dairy Expo in 2019. Former OSU judging team member, Hannah Thompson-Weeman of Virginia, says, "Ohio State's dairy judging program, the dairy community as a whole, and that of the many students she has taught and coached, are unquestionably brighter due to Bonnie's influence." Dave Fischer, retired Extension and 4-H Dairy Educator from the University of Illinois, says of Bonnie, "I know of no one in the dairy industry and educational system who is more dedicated to teaching young people for the advancement and improvement of the dairy industry."

Ayars created a path for women in agriculture as she has judged local, state and national dairy shows including World Dairy Expo's Guernsey Show in 2006 and the National Guernsey Junior Show in 2012. Amid life on the farm and in the classroom, she began to pursue writing and putting her thoughts together for newspaper columns, magazine articles, story books, and creative poetry. A popular speaker for national dairy breed conventions, student groups, and local and community programs. She has collaborated with cable television shows to demonstrate the preparation of dairy based recipes, supported the American Dairy Association-Mideast in live and video promotions and events, and provided cows and leadership for educational displays at Ohio State Fair.

Ayars was World Dairy Expo's 1994 Dairy Woman of the Year, Ohio's 1993 Agriculture Woman of the Year, and received Hoard's Dairyman's Youth Service Award in 2015. In 2011, Bonnie and John were presented with both the Ohio and American Guernsey Associations' Outstanding Service Awards. Together they earned the OSU Dairy Science Hall of Service award in 1999 and were inducted into the Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame in 2012.



Dieter Krieg

Bonnie has been a 4-H leader, member of the National Holstein Foundation Board, Ohio 4-H Foundation Board, and previously served on the Dairy Shrine Board.

Farmshine Publisher

Among the honorees is **Dieter Krieg**, the founder, publisher and editor of the highly regarded Farmshine Newspaper based in Brownstown, Pennsylvania.

Born in communist East Germany in 1945, Krieg was 10 years old when his family left Germany and emigrated to the United States. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science from Pennsylvania State University in 1967, Dieter worked at home and at friends' farms for several years. In 1974, he embarked on his journalism career, first as farm editor of the Pennsylvania Mirror, followed by the editorship of Lancaster Farming.

In 1979, Krieg established Farmshine Newspaper. It was the first dairy-focused weekly newspaper in the nation. As Dale Olver of Pennsylvania State University, states: "Dieter has been a trailblazer in dairy journalism and occupies a special place in supporting and educating dairy producers and youth."

Krieg continues to serve as editor, feature writer, layout designer and publisher – while growing his newspaper and publishing 51 weekly editions a year. His staff includes his wife, daughter and son-in-law. Krieg's personal interviews and stories with top dairy producers and leaders from across the United States, along with his regular editorial commentary, spark thought, discussion and change. Mary Shank Creek of Maryland says: "Dieter is relentless in his commitment to serving agriculture and the dairy industry. He is not afraid to tackle controversial issues and takes great effort to show an unbiased report, while allowing editorials that