

DEDICATION

It is a pleasure to honor Betty Preuss of Wilton with our 2023 Elroy Fair book dedication. Betty has not missed an Elroy Fair since 1976 when she was a first time exhibitor!

Betty grew up on a farm near Clifton. As an only child, she started helping early on the farm by helping drive horses. Soon her goal each summer was to get the hay crop done so that she could go to the county fair. She joined the Clifton Cardinals 4-H Club in 1954. In 1955, she took a skirt to the fair as one of her first entries. She disliked the clothing project, so by 1956, she was exhibiting dairy animals at the county fair.

In 1958, Betty purchased her first registered Holstein calf from Robert Dwyer of Kendall. Holly became the base of her herd, and she had offspring from that cow family who graced Elroy's show ring until 2014. Many descendants of Holly's were exhibited over the years both by Betty and her daughters, Marie and Becky. In 1959, she also started showing registered Holsteins at the Wisconsin State Fair.

Betty attended what is known today as Western Technical College for accounting. Following that while still helping on the farm, she began work at the military base in Camp Douglas. She then spent the next twenty-seven and a half years working for the Wisconsin National Guard/United States Property Finance Office; however, through all that, she continued to exhibit at local fairs. Betty also served as a Girl Scout troop leader for a few years and then spent over 12 years serving as a 4-H project leader.

Betty continued to exhibit dairy animals from her herd, Springwalk Holsteins, until the early 2000's. Over the years she became more interested in flowers, gardening, and crafts. She continues to look forward to the Elroy Fair each year where she makes sure to get exhibits entered in flowers, herbs, crafts, and foods preservation. Betty not only helps fill the shelves with entries at the Elroy Fair, but she also is a valuable behind the scenes fair volunteer. Each year, Betty helps to assemble partnership packets, cut entry tag strings, and helps by making lists to make sure many details of the fair get done in a timely manner. Springwalk Holsteins and Betty Preuss have also been generous partners of the Elroy Fair for decades.

Thank you, Betty, for your involvement in and dedication to fairs for nearly 65 years. We appreciate all you have done and continue to do to make the Elroy Fair a special part of summer.

