

*The Trempealeau County Fair Board dedicates the  
2021 Fair Book to the work and life of*

## **Douglas L. Waller (1938-2020)**

Doug was our dedicated groundskeeper for the past twenty years. Douglas and Eileen were the fourth generation to operate the family farm on Waller Lane in the Glasgow Community. Doug's great-grandfather, Hans Waller, had purchased the farm in 1874, just a few years after coming to Wisconsin from Norway. Doug and Eileen were recognized as owners of a Wisconsin Century Farm many years ago. When they retired from farming about twenty years ago, they purchased a home in Galesville just north of the fair grounds. During his early years of farming, Doug attended classes for young farmers and became a graduate of the WWTC farm program.



Many members of the extended Waller Family have been involved over the years with exhibiting Jersey cattle at the Trempealeau County Fair or as we always called it, the Galesville Fair. Among the most recent family members to exhibit Jerseys there were the three children of Doug and Eileen – Jennifer, Rebecca, and Timothy. They were junior exhibitors as members of the Glasgow-Hardies Creek Busy Bees 4-H Club. As young men growing up on the Waller Farm during the 1940s and 1950s, Doug, and his brother, Gordon, showed Jersey cattle for all of the ten years that each of them was an active 4-H club member. During those years, and perhaps later, at least ten of their first cousins living in Trempealeau County also showed Jersey cattle at our fair. These included: Milton, Gary, Kenneth, Herbert, Dean and Donald Aleckson who were Millard and Alice's sons; Renee, Ronald and Jeffery Waller who were Winfred and Irene's children; and Margaret and Carol Hanson who were Arnold and Victoria's daughters. The Hansons were members of the Hale and Hardy 4-H club. Jerseys were always the minority breed amongst the hundreds of Holsteins and Guernseys at our fair, but our Glasgow-Hardies Creek Busy Bees boys and girls always exhibited a lot of prize-winning Jerseys there.

Douglas and Eileen were always very active in their community in many ways. Doug served on our fair board and Eileen was a 4-H Leader for the Busy Bees for eighteen years. Doug and Eileen and their children were a host family for a 4-H exchange program for members from other countries. With this IFIE program, as it is known, they had young people at different times living with them from Finland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. They also were a host family for farmers visiting America from Mali in West Africa, a country where one might also find the infamous place called Timbuktu.

Doug's parents, Goodwin and Olga Waller, were always big supporters of the Galesville Fair and Olga's contributions are now remembered with a table purchased for the fair in her honor. As an adult, Doug continued his interest in and was a supporter of the fair. Doug made a cradle for one of his eight grandchildren and got first prize on it at our fair. For Doug to be a big supporter of the fair is no surprise as he grew up at a time that the county fair was the highlight of the summer for kids in rural America-especially those who were 4-H members. We need to appreciate the 4-H Leaders who volunteer a large amount of their time which is an investment in the future of our great country. Let us hope that the county fairs, and especially the Galesville Fair, will continue to be held for many years in the future.

This tribute was written in honor of Doug by his brother Gordon Waller.

*The Fair Board thanks Doug for his many years of faithful service to the Trempealeau County Fair, he will truly be missed.*