

GARY MORRISON



Gary was raised by his maternal grandparents who taught him about raising beef cattle. He started farming on his own after he and his wife, Janet, were married in 1962. Garnet Holsteins was founded in 1964 by combining the first three letters of "Gary" and the last three letters of "Janet". They rented their first farm for a few years, and then purchased a small dairy farm in 1968. They raised four children on the same dairy farm they call home today.

The Garnet prefix became known throughout Minnesota and the Midwest, as Gary and his family showed at numerous shows and took home many awards. He was named Premier Breeder at the Minnesota State Fair on two different occasions and one time at the Minnesota State Holstein Show. For several years he had the best three female group at both these shows. He also received awards for the bred and owned Reserve Grand Champion at the State Fair and State Show. In addition, he had junior champion numerous times at the Minnesota State Fair and State Show, twice he was All-Canadian, and Reserve All Canadian once. Gary also had a few Jerseys in his herd, with one becoming Grand Champion, one a Reserve Grand Champion in the MN State Fair FFA show plus having a champion at the first World Jersey Futurity.

Gary had great success with his breeding program, with 76 excellent cows bred by him over the years and five classifying 94 points or better. His Breed Age Average was in the top 40 in the nation for many years, climbing from 99.6 BAA and type to a high of 110.9 BAA with seven times over 110, and genetics from his herd are still influencing the Holstein industry well after his dispersal in 2003. Gary built a reputation for breeding great cows that would be not only profitable but they would hold up well and last for many lactations.

Gary was always an active participant in the FFA and 4-H organizations, serving as a 4-H leader and heading the judging teams. Garnet Holsteins would also host both the U of M judging team and the NDSU judging team and they also hosted the FFA regional dairy contest. Garnet Holsteins has also served as the site for many showing and fitting clinics for the young people in the surrounding area.

Gary served several terms on the West Central Holstein board and was president three terms. He also served as sale and show chairman for West Central. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Gopher Dairy Club in 2002 and was selected as the Outstanding Breeder in 1991. He has been a member of the Minnesota Holstein Association for over 40 years and has served on several committees during that time. He also continues to judge many fairs and other shows.