



Jean Priefert

March 1, 1935 - June 21, 2020

Jean (Bernasek) Priefert was born March 1, 1935 in Geneva, NE to James and Alba (Fujan) Bernasek. She passed away on June 21, 2020 at her home near Fairmont, Nebraska at the age of 85 years, 3 months, and 20 days.

She graduated from Geneva High School. On September 5, 1954 she married Neil Priefert at the United Brethren Church in Geneva. Neil and Jean were married for 63 years. Four daughters filled their home with activity; Mary, Carol, Linda and Susan.

Jean was a 50-year member of the Fairmont Federated Women's Club. She enjoyed the camaraderie as well as the community mindedness of this group of women. Jean was also an active member of WIFE, Women Involved in Farm Economics. Her task for the weekend of her death was getting a newsletter article written for them. Jean was a founding member of the Nebraska Poll-ettes and served on the National Poll-ette Cookbook Committee typing sections of the cookbook with recipes submitted from around the nation on a Royal manual typewriter at the kitchen table. In 2017 she was honored as the National Hereford Woman of the Year at the American Royal in Kansas City, MO.

Jean enjoyed the outdoors and her animals. Every morning and every evening you could find her "doing chores," feeding cats, dogs, letting the chickens out

and feeding grain to the cows. While spending years in the registered cattle business, it wasn't unusual to find a calf being warmed in the bathtub, or a chicken being nurtured back to health after falling in the oil pit. While many used the Sunbeam electric skillet to fry chicken on the kitchen counter, Jean hatched baby chicks in hers. The story had been told of Jean, classmates Elaine and Helen Carol, being caught with a kitten hidden in a box in their Home Ec class by Miss Betty Christiancy. Betty Christiancy went on to be Betty Betka, who was Jean's daughters 4-H leader.

The registered cattle herd was an integral part of Jean's life on the farm. Hours were spent at the kitchen table filling out registration forms, recording birth weights, and weaning weights. The neighborhood party line let callers know when Jean wasn't home and let Jean know someone was looking for a bull. Life-long friendships developed as the family spent time each summer attending cattle tours with the Riffel family, county and state fairs, Junior Nationals and AK-SAR-BEN, auctions in the winter, and progress shows in the spring. Jean and Neil enjoyed traveling the country to the Standard of Perfection Shows in Kansas City, Denver, Fort Worth and Portland. Neil and Jean were avid supporters of young people in the beef industry, hence the Neil Priefert Scholarship for a member of the Nebraska Junior Hereford Association. In recent years, Jean and Neil were staples at the Sutton sale barn for lunch on Fridays. They recorded the lot number, weight and price of every animal that went thru the ring.

Jean farmed right along side her husband. It wasn't unusual to see her on the tractor, headed to the field. She also made many parts runs for Neil. It is quite possible some of those parts were to repair equipment she'd been using. Tractors didn't always have cabs then, but Jean was happy if the tractor had a radio so she could listen to polkas, KRVN and baseball games on KFAB.

Jean coached countless innings of girls' softball in Fairmont. Playing catch in

the yard with her daughters was a normal part of summers. She played many seasons on the Fairmont Lion's Club women's team. She could be counted on to try a bunt and steal a base. The women's team's season culminated at the Strang Tournament where the team won the coveted trophy several successive seasons. Her pregnancy with youngest daughter Susan was kept a secret from everyone so Grandma Bernasek wouldn't be upset to see Jean continuing to catch behind home plate with Bonnie Nelson on the mound.

Jean spent her working career as a Cottage Parent at YRTC in Geneva. Following her retirement from YRTC, she drove for Eichman's transport company in York. She transported Epworth Village residents and clients to school and various appointments. Any unwholesome conversations or arguments between students brought them an exposure to Jean's Czech heritage as she turned up her polka music on the radio.

Jean was a pioneer in her own right. She was concerned about ground water, soil conditions, and proper care of animals. She was an avid gardener, promoting nutrition to her family before it was a public health initiative. What would be called family bonding time today, took place on the back step as Jean and the girls snapped 5-gallon buckets of green beans while swatting mosquitos. Jean was a tireless supporter of the beef industry and providing home-raised beef for her family. She spent many years supporting youth, sitting on the bleachers watching ballgames and cattle shows after her own family was raised. She spoke her mind and was proud of her heritage. She cared deeply about sports opportunities and education for girls. She truly was ahead of her time.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband Neil, her parents, James and Alba Bernasek and in-laws Elmer and Margaret Priefert.

Those who remain are: Daughters: Mary (Dana) Scott of York, NE; Carol (David Wentworth) Priefert of Centennial, WY; Linda (Kirby) Zuerlein of Fairmont, NE; Susan (Brandon) Priefert Voss of Sisters, OR. Grandchildren: Zac (Amanda) Scott of York, NE; Nick (Kelsey) Scott of Norfolk, NE; Ryan (Sara Stearns) Scott of York, NE; Adam (Anna) Scott of Lincoln, Curtis (Sydney) Scott of Gretna, NE; Lindsey Carroll of Lincoln; Danielle (Dakota) Cooper of York, NE; and Leslie Carroll of Fairmont, NE. Great-grandchildren: Jane Scott, Ethan Stearns, Hudson and Wyatt Scott, and Dominic, Derek & Dusty Cooper.

A Funeral Service for Jean was held on Friday, June 26, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at the Fairmont Community Church. Pastor SeungLi You officiated the service. Gwenda Mau accompanied the congregation in the singing of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" and "For The Beauty Of The Earth." She also played the instrumental recessional, "Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie."

Pallbearers for the service included Zac Scott, Nick Scott, Ryan Scott, Curtis Scott, Adam Scott, and Dakota Cooper.

It was Jean's wish to be cremated following the Funeral Service. A private committal of ashes will take place in the Fairmont Public Cemetery at a later date.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com

Memorials are suggested to the Neil Priefert Scholarship Fund or the Fairmont Community Church.

Cemetery Details

Fairmont Public Cemetery

Fairmont, NE

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Fairmont Community Church
705 F Street
Fairmont, NE 68354

Tribute Wall

BM

“ *Brenda Motis lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert*



Brenda Motis - July 02, 2020 at 08:36 AM

MW

“ *Richard and I worked with Jean at YRTC besides being neighbors. She always had a smile on her face and was such a hard worker. I truly enjoyed knowing her and Neil. Sincere condolences to her loving family*

Margrett Wehland - June 28, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ *49 files added to the album Flower Pictures*



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - June 26, 2020 at 02:02 PM

AT

“ As the Ambassador Club Director of Geneva State Bank, I had the opportunity to get to know Jean and Neil. If a trip had anything to do with country or livestock, they were on it. They were a couple who worked hard and enjoyed what they did. I feel blessed to have known them.

Alice Tatro - June 25, 2020 at 10:00 PM



“ Carol. So saddened to hear of the passing of your great mother. I didn't see her often, but when I did she always remembered me and her enthusiasm for life and Polled Herefords was amazing. Hugs to you at this difficult time.



Lynn Gordon - June 25, 2020 at 10:02 AM

LB

“ Jean was one of the unforgettable people in my life. I got to know her best on the Fairmont softball team "way back" when she was a very encouraging teammate. We shared some real fun times! I am so glad I got to see her last June when I visited my NE family. May you all remember many good times as you celebrate her life. Linda (Chapman) Bohling

Linda Bohling - June 24, 2020 at 10:24 PM

LL

“ So sorry for your loss. Our moms have been friends for a long time & mom has always enjoyed when they could visit. Prayers for you all at this time.



Linda Bahe (Logan) - June 24, 2020 at 09:24 PM

MZ

“ *Dear Priefert Girls,
I was so sad to read about your mama. She was an amazing woman and you all are a testament to her legacy. I pray for your peace and hope her memory brings you comfort.*
Shelley Moul Zimmerli

Michelle Zimmerli - June 24, 2020 at 12:57 PM

JV

“ *Jim Votipka lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert*



Jim Votipka - June 24, 2020 at 12:56 PM

CF

“ *Cooper & Starkweather Family lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert*



Cooper & Starkweather family - June 24, 2020 at 09:55 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Jean Priefert.*



June 24, 2020 at 09:53 AM

KE

“ *Kathy Ekeler lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert*



Kathy Ekeler - June 23, 2020 at 10:03 PM

SB

“ *Jean always had a smile on her face! I don't know that a remember seeing her without one. Thinking of you!*

Susan Biba - June 23, 2020 at 09:05 PM

KE

“ *Kathy Ekeler lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert*



Kathy Ekeler - June 23, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ *Jean always was a loyal Hereford event supporter. I doubt that she and Neal hardly ever missed a tour or show! She was always so lovely to visit with...just down to earth and fun. I don't think I ever saw her without a big smile and a friendly welcome to everyone! She loved her family and her cows throughout all these years! She will be greatly missed!!!*

Scott and Judy McGee

Judy McGee - June 23, 2020 at 04:43 PM

CK

“ *Cheri Knoell lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert*



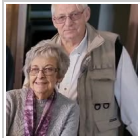
Cheri Knoell - June 23, 2020 at 12:17 PM

ML

“ *Michelle Lessard lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert*



Michelle Lessard - June 23, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ *Jean and Corky Ehmen coached our girls softball team in Fairmont. Thnx to these to ladies, my love of softball began. Jean would bring her three girls to practice with her, and we dearly loved her, and her little ones. She was a woman of boundless energy and enthusiasm. She never had an unkind word, or criticism for us. Stayed friends with this wonderful lady forever. Prayers to all her family, for their loss.*

Barbara Zimmerman Engelbrecht - June 23, 2020 at 09:12 AM

VE

Will miss Jean and Neil such good family and friends to all enjoyed seeing them at basketball games also Prayers to the family also from Richard and Vera Ellison

vera and Rich Ellison - June 23, 2020 at 03:34 PM

PA

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this double difficult time.

Jim & Pam Norquest

Pam - June 23, 2020 at 08:05 AM

BW

“ Sorry for your loss. Prayers and hugs to Linda and family.

Love Barb, Jeff, & Garrett Whitley



Barb Whitley - June 22, 2020 at 11:26 PM

KT

“ Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert



Kent & Rose Theobald - June 22, 2020 at 09:40 PM

TC

“ Tricia Chapman lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert



Tricia Chapman - June 22, 2020 at 05:39 PM

VJ

“ Thoughts and prayers!



Virginia Johnson - June 22, 2020 at 05:33 PM

MB

“ So sorry for your loss it was always great fun going to your house, your mom always made us wonderful treats.

Mary Brandt

mary brandt - June 22, 2020 at 04:42 PM

JB

“ John & Sherrie Bartell lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert



John & Sherrie Bartell - June 22, 2020 at 04:39 PM

VA

“ Vicki Allgood lit a candle in memory of Jean Priefert



Vicki Allgood - June 22, 2020 at 04:28 PM

GL

“ *The kids might not remember us but we use to get together probably 55 years ago when our kids were younger . Sympathy to the family from Wayne(Pete) and Gladys Petersen*

gladys - June 22, 2020 at 02:11 PM

DU

“ *I went to country school with Jean and then through high school with her.we always meet on the road about 1 mile from country school and always had a great time I was so hoping to see her since her husband passed away and we moved back to Sutton.*

Donna Bauer Ulmer - June 22, 2020 at 01:38 PM

SF

I am sorry to hear of your loss. I loved Jean because she was such a spitfire! I got to spend time with & watching her at all of the ball games we both attended. She was such an asset to her community & will truly be a great loss.

Susie Fairbanks - June 22, 2020 at 05:49 PM

JL

Jean was a great neighbor & friend; she will be greatly missed! Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon her. Love & prayers to all her family!

John & Lyn Lowe - June 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM

KT

*Very many happy moments on the Priefert farm and softball field. I always loved her quiet way. I am very glad I saw her a week ago at our outdoor church service. Many hugs and prayers girls.
Kathy Whitehead Temme*

Kathy Temme - June 24, 2020 at 01:19 PM