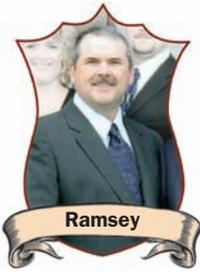


Ramsey is Distinguished Breeder

THE unique value of elite Holstein genetics was made evident to William (Bill) Ramsey of Paradise Valley Farms at a young age. With strong roots in dairying, Ramsey has continued his family's philosophy of looking towards the future of their dairy operation, the Hol-



stein breed, and the dairy industry. "Bill's influence as a breeder has made a significant impact across the world and will be experienced for years to come," says Roger L. Ripley, former president and CEO of Accelerated and retired president of World Dairy Expo.

For these and many additional accomplishments, National Dairy Shrine honors **William E. Ramsey** of Paradise Valley Farms, Inc., Louis-

ville, Ohio, as the 2010 Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder.

Ramsey has a lifetime of experience with dairy cattle. He grew up deeply involved on his family's farm, Paradise Valley Farms, owned by his parents, Paul and Catherine, and attended Ohio State University with a major in dairy science.

"I first met Bill and his father, Paul, when I visited their farm in 1976. In visiting with Bill, it was ob-

vious that he had a long-term plan and philosophy regarding his breeding program," says Bernard Heisner, general manager of COBA/Select Sires. "Their Paradise-R registered Holstein herd was housed in free stalls, and Bill expected the cows to perform at a high level under those conditions, breed back, and have a long and productive life."

Today, Bill and his wife, Debra, along with their four children: Brenda L'Amoreaux, D.V.M.; Jill Smith; Brian Ramsey; and Michael Ramsey are all involved in the daily operations at Paradise Valley Farms.

Ramsey's Paradise Valley Farms consists of 1,600 acres and is home to 939 registered Holsteins, including the 400-cow milking herd; 99 percent of those animals are homebred and carry the Paradise-R prefix. Since 1970, Paradise Valley Farms has bred 60 Excellents and over 400 Very Good cows with the Paradise-R prefix.

When choosing sires for the Paradise-R herd, Ramsey screens pedigrees and selects sires that are better than +4.0 productive life; under 2.90 somatic cell score; and at least +2.00 for type, udder composite, and feet and leg composite. He also looks for bulls that are over 1,000 milk and plus on fat and protein.

Some of the most influential cows of the Paradise-R herd include Paradise-R Bell Sears (EX-90), Paradise-R Tesk Sherie (VG-88), and Paradise-R AR Sherry (VG-88). Each of these cows has produced over 35,000 M, 1,200 F, and 1,000P, and have had sons ranked high with semen sold worldwide. Since 2000, Ramsey has bred more than 236 cows with lifetime production over 100,000 M, more than 30 with over 200,000 M, and at least five with over 300,000 M lifetime. Over 31 Paradise-R cows have been declared Gold Medal Dam, and more than 50 are a Dam of Merit.

The outstanding sires bred by Ramsey are a true testament to his breeding philosophy. Paradise-R Cleitus Mathie and Paradise-R Roebuck are two of the most prominent and widely used sires bred by Ramsey at Paradise Valley Farms. Mathie is one of only seven bulls worldwide to produce 1.5 million units of semen. Ramsey has bred over 115 plus-proven sires, and more than 27 have entered active A.I. service.

In addition to his on-farm responsibilities, Ramsey has been an active member of a multitude of dairy committees, including Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, National Association of Breeders Board of Directors, Select Sires Board of Directors and Holstein Sire Committee, COBA/ Select Sires Board of Directors, ABS Progeny Committee, NOBA Young Sires Committee, and Ohio Holstein Association Board of Directors. He has been a delegate for Milk Marketing, Inc., National Holstein Association, and Dairy Farmers of America. He has also been a 4-H advisor for more than 20 years and a member of Paradise United Church of Christ.

