



Better livestock to feed mankind

## A Tale of Two Show Heifers

by John Metzger

Once upon a time (in the early 1980s) an Iowa farm boy showed two Jersey heifers as 4-H projects. The first heifer was so eye appealing that he bypassed showing her at the county fair and sent her with another breeder to be shown at the Iowa State Fair. This farm boy and his family drove four hours to Des Moines to watch her show. It was not a wasted trip as she took first place in in the Senior Yearling class. The young farm boy had gotten his first taste of dairy cattle posing as Hollywood super models.

The other heifer could best be described as a big raw-boned gal. The only reason the farm boy showed "Cinderella" at the county fair was because he had shown her mother the previous year and could therefore show the heifer and her mother in the Daughter Dam class. Although the heifer and her mother received a first place blue ribbon in the Daughter Dam class, the heifer herself placed in the bottom of the Senior Calf class.

At this point, the farm boy might have become a professional fitter. However, he had just enough sense to follow the heifers after they calved. The Hollywood heifer calved in and was milked for two lactations before she was culled for low productivity. The Cinderella heifer was truly a diamond in the rough as she completed nine lactations, one of which put her on the Jersey National Class Leader List.

This show heifer experience so impressed the farm boy that he was left with the deep conviction that the purpose of dairy cows is to produce food for humankind. Further education and work experience taught him that in order to do this, a dairy cow needed to be high producing, long lived, and trouble free.

As you have probably guessed, the Iowa farm boy in this story was me. I don't want to leave you with the impression that there is no value in conformation or the appearance of dairy cows. However, many of our preconceived ideas of how a cow should look do not improve longevity. I hope to discuss this in a future newsletter.



### Summetz Generator Olie Ola

1982 - 1st place Sr. Yrlg. - IA State Fair

1-11 296 7,300M 392F 294P

2-11 200 5,640M 290F 219P

Lifetime

**12,940M 682F 513P**



### Summetz Midnight Mandan Minnie

1983 - Red Ribbon - Lyon County Fair

1-11 305 14,930 628 520

3-00 305 16,510 644 562

4-00 305 20,930 830 685

5-04 305 22,590 756 718

6-05 305 24,770 875 836

7-08 305 25,160 861 819

8-10 305 22,210 828 708

9-11 305 18,790 686 610

11-6 217 11,160 417 356

Lifetime

**177,050M 6,525F 5,814P**

## **Your Worldview**

Your worldview is the way you think the world works, and how you fit into it. Everyone has a worldview, although most people are not aware of it. Understanding worldviews is very important, because they shape our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Your worldview answers four questions:

Where did I come from?  
Why is the world such a mess?  
Is there a solution to the mess?  
What is my purpose?

These are four very important questions. One should take the time to answer the questions long before you are at the end of your life. What is your worldview?

\*For additional information see "How Now Shall We Live" by Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey.

## **Metzger Dairy Genetics**

Livestock were created to produce human food. Our business is helping your food production business be more profitable.

Metzger Dairy Genetics is owned and operated by John Metzger and provides genetic improvement services for dairy producers. Services include sire selection, semen purchasing, breed selection, breeding systems, and female selection.

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