

## 2010 Retired Master Breeder

*Presented by John Sullivan*

For those in our business, the words “Master Breeder” have huge meaning. If the word “master” means *“an artist of distinguished skill”* or *“the quality of superintendence; qualified to teach; one who is in command,”* and if one has all these qualities, then we may confer the word “master” on tonight’s recipients.

“Tremendous cows, likeable couple, and a very hard working wife,” is the way Gordon Cook describes our couple. Horace Backus says, “Unselfish, hard working, intelligent workers that do things for other people, on the quiet.” They put ego in the background.

Our honored couple met while showing cattle at the county fair, an activity of high importance to this day. One attended Morrisville College while the other graduated a registered nurse from Farmingdale. They were married in 1970 and returned to his dad’s 320-acre farm which had registered Holsteins yet it was not until they returned that the focus was on type.

They leased the farm in 1980 and assumed ownership 2001.

The tragedy of a devastating fire hammered this couple in 1975 and again in 2009, fires that killed two young people in the first and three animals in the second. Determined not to let fire kill their spirit, they quickly rebuilt! The last barn to house a smaller operation was completed in September 2009.

“The artists of distinguished skill” from Tyhill, who put emphasis on type, boast 16 classifications with a BAA of 105.2 to 109.1. They have bred 37 Excellent cows, they have received 10 Dam of Merit awards and nine Gold Medal Dam awards. They have earned 14 PBR awards and four PGH awards. Prior to losing their barn office and all the ribbons, trophies, framed awards, and records in the last fire, they had one All-New York, three Reserve All-New York, and one Honorable Mention All-New York awards displayed with 10 Premier Breeder and eight Premier Exhibitor awards from the Oneida County Show.

Tyhill-bred Holsteins are in demand, as Dave Rama suggests, because they bred what people wanted – uniform-type cattle with outstanding udders, legs, and a will to milk.

The farm earned the top herd in the county for milk and protein 15 times and 13 times for fat. Some individuals received state-level awards. In 2006 and 2007, Tyhill’s commitment to producing high-quality milk resulted in the top award for having the lowest somatic cell count in one of the largest milk-producing counties in the United States. The Tyhill prefix is attached to 183 cows that have produced over 150,000 lbs. of milk lifetime. Much credit for this performance goes to the milker, Barb.

In the early 1980s, she left nursing, to work full time on the farm. When milk prices fell in 1991, Barb took the burden of a third milking to help pay the bills and handle the extra college expenses. For the next eight or more years, one milking blended into the next. Daughter Shelly said, “They practically lived in the barn.”

Ed does the other barn work, feeding, outside work, etc.

I am told that Ed has a little problem with hearing – it is claimed that visitors to the farm could sense the nature of things by observing which side of Ed’s bad ear Barb was seen standing.

Ed and Barb excel at superintendence. Members of the NYHA for 38 years and the National Association for 36 years, Ed is president of the club, served as state director for years, has been chairman of, and still serves, on the Breed Promotion Committee.

Ed was co-chairperson of the 1991 State Convention and the Chairman of the 1997 State Convention.

We praise and honor our Master Breeders for “taking command.”

Among other past initiatives, both have organized and promoted seven years of highly-successful fall NYHA member trips – the most recent to Gettysburg and surrounding outstanding breeders including an informative stop at Tom Mercuro’s Recipient Solutions. This exceptionally rewarding trip received high praise from all participants. I think next year’s bus trip will be full.

The combination of embryo transfer, attentive, informed, loving, individual care combined with great genetic selection equaled longer life and more surplus animals for sale. Their vet, Dr. Chuff, has told many people – should he die and come back a cow, he hoped he lived on their farm.

Thirty-five surplus cows were sold privately in 2001, followed by an auction of the entire milking herd in 2005, which averaged \$2802. Dave Rama called Ed & Barb “a sale manager’s dream.” The top-seller was a just-fresh 2-year-old Morty from the Laurie Sheik family. She went to Erinwood for \$19,500. I had purchased her dam that same day and while vacation at our inn the next week, Ed purchased on half interest. She became one of only two EX-94 Laurie Sheik’s ever. This 3-year-old with 37,000 milk, 4.7%

fat, and dam of five sons, was housed at Tyhill with her daughters. Lawsome's Durham, Excellent at three years, was Reserve Grand Champion at the 2009 Black & White Show and was a member of the first-place Dam-Daughter for Ed & Barb and Chuck & Vanessa Worden.

Chuck Worden recalls when they moved back to New York, he "had never met anyone like them," in the way they felt welcomed. "The enthusiastic pitching of the breed, the Club, and the Association, were amazing." Chuck added that later, the Tylers spent many days prior to his State Picnic offering to help wherever needed.

In 2008, the Wordens purchased Tyhill's 60 milking cows. While inspecting the herd, Chuck anticipated that 25 percent of them could someday score Excellent. Six or seven already have.

The Tylers excelled in another important area which will have greater long-term effects; that is, the teaching and rearing of two proud, loving, and achieving children.

Shelly is married to Glenn Rather, CFO of Big Mo Pro, a professional sound production company that works with world famous musicians like Aretha Franklin Earth, Wind, and Fire, and Alicia Keys. In 1992 she was a New York Distinguished Junior Member. Now with Elliot, 3, and Ethan, 3 months, she is a product manager at Brother International.

Son, Doctor Ryan, is married to Kimberly. John, 8, Mary, 7, Joseph, 4, and Anne, 2, are home schooled. Ryan and his family also credit a close relationship with the Lord as another reason for his success as a highly-regarded physician in Watertown, NY. When I initially called to contact Ryan, a professional in his office volunteered that she had worked since 1966 with many doctors in that hospital, and that he, Ryan, at a young age, was the best doctor she had seen. She called him "kind, thorough, compassionate, and gentle, with integrity."

May I present our 2010 New York Retired Master Breeders, Ed & Barb Tyler, of Tyhill Holsteins in Rome.



2010 RETIRED MASTER BREEDERS  
Barb & Ed Tyler



2010 OUTSTANDING YOUNG BREEDER

In a presentation by Tim Coon, Kenneth Beneke, Willow Brook Farm, Millerton, received the 2010 Outstanding Young Breeder Award. Included was a \$1000 check presented by Farm Family Insurance. Kenneth is pictured with his parents, Henry & Carol Beneke, and Jane Naylor.

#### Screen Ads Available to Breeders

One of the newest additions to this year's New York Spring Dairy Carousel in Syracuse is a 10 ½ feet by 14 feet projection screen in the Coliseum. For \$50, breeders may purchase a color screen ad which will be displayed during events held in the Coliseum. The ads offer a great opportunity to showcase a farm, breeding program, cow family, or show winner. For details on how to purchase a screen ad, contact Steve & Barb Ziemba at [bziemba@twcny.rr.com](mailto:bziemba@twcny.rr.com).