

2023 Hall of Fame Bios

Ruth Klossner – Class of 1966

For Ruth Klossner, a 1966 graduate of New Ulm High School, life's path has taken her from 4-H to athletic events to cow collecting to decades of service in this area. Her remarkable zest for the community she loves dearly, and the people in it, has allowed Ruth to create friendships wherever she goes.

Upon graduation from NUHS, Ruth attended the University of Minnesota. It was there that she found her passion for agriculture was stymied by a professor who told her that women in the profession had two choices: lab work or journalism; neither of which interested Ruth at that time. She changed her major to home economics, though that wasn't much better. Ruth knew that if she wanted to work with 4-H that going the home economics route was her way into employment in the extension program. She worked a few jobs after college in that arena, then went back to school to get her master's degree in animal science. Working in extension, she suddenly found her position was eliminated and sought other employment options. An opportunity arose at the *Lafayette Nicollet Ledger* in 1984, thus began Ruth's career in journalism. Ruth covered everything from city council meetings to basketball games. She has gone on to write for the *Dairy Star* and the *River Valley* publications.

When not writing or taking photos, Ruth has spearheaded hundreds of events in the community through her involvement in many groups including New Ulm Farm-City Hub Club, the Lafayette Lions Club, and Bernadotte Lutheran Church. Her tenacity and drive have been an asset to so many organizations. In addition, Ruth has gained a few bovine friends throughout the years, actually around 19,000 of them. That's how many are in her *Guinness Book of World Records* cow-related collection. She opens her home, where the collection is located, to the public with kindness, sharing her love of cows with everyone who visits. Ruth's impact on the community spans decades, she continues to give of her time and talents, writing and capturing lasting images, educating people on cows, and lending a hand to so many.