

## Ron Durst

Ron Durst was born in Kasson, MN, on June 23, 1950, to Victor & Hylah Durst, the fifth born of seven children. His family farmed in Milton Township and Ron grew up helping on the family farm wherever he was needed. The Durst family has farmed in the area for over 100 years. He attended Kasson-Mantorville Schools and graduated in 1968. He was the first of his family to seek college higher education and attended the University of Minnesota, where he majored in Agricultural- Business Administration. He graduated in 1972 and worked as a field manager for Green Giant and then for Pillsbury as an operations' manager at a grain terminal in Illinois.

In 1977, his parents retired, and his two brothers, Allen & Ken, invited Ron back to the farm to form a partnership and operate the family farm. Durst Bros. was formed in March of 1978 as a grain and dairy operation with 100 cows and some youngstock. Ron was designated as the dairy manager and business financial manager. Through Ron's leadership and dedication and determination to succeed, Durst Bros. has expanded to 1500 milking cows, 1300 heifers, and they operate 3000 acres of land for field crops. New facilities have been added and additional improvements continue to be developed by Ron. Durst Bros. dairy has been visited by many people both nationally and internationally.

Ron married Marsha Anderst, an elementary school teacher in Rochester, MN, on June 12, 1976. Marsha became the bookkeeper for the business and helped Ron with the dairy herd management and milking. She still manages the office and bookkeeping duties for Durst Bros. They have 2 children, Elizabeth and Jonathan. Both Ron & Marsha have enjoyed working together all these years for their business and share common goals and visions for success.

Ron developed a passion for the dairy business and became a spokesman for the industry. He served on the local ADA Board, D.H.I.A., and served on two Dairy Initiatives panels. For 9 years he was a Corporate Director for AMPI, the milk cooperative for Durst Bros. He served on a Land Use Task Force locally. He is currently on the Milton Township Board of Directors. He has dedicated his life to service.

Over the years, the University of Minnesota has been involved with various research projects, and has asked Ron for participation in the studies. Ron has whole-heartedly welcomed the students and staff to the dairy and encouraged our employees to cooperate with them on these projects. He is a staunch alumni supporter of the University and the education that it provides its students. Durst Bros. dairy has benefited from the results of the studies and is grateful for this relationship with the University of Minnesota staff and students. Ron looks forward to many more years of this cooperation in the future.

Ron is a cancer survivor by the grace of God and support from Mayo Clinic's Dept. of Oncology. He has a positive attitude for life that shines through in all he does. He has made a difference in many people's lives and continues to do so.