

# Bulls are no Bargain

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## Scot Stashek Born: November 18, 1971 Died: July 12, 2001

THE events of July 12, 2001, remind us that a split second can quickly change our lives and the dreams we have in this business called dairy farming.

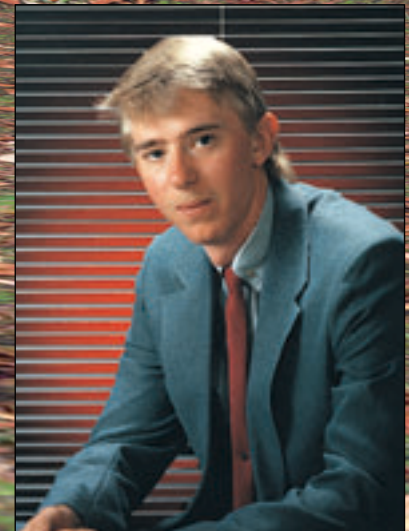
The 29-year-old Scot Stashek had a bright future. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, he had spent a year as an exchange student in Czechoslovakia in agricultural programs through the University of Prague. After receiving his degree, Scot joined the Peace Corp to help underdeveloped agricultural areas in Bolivia. He then returned to Junction City, Wis., and worked for Americorp National Service on farm education. Then, in 1999, fulfilling a long-time dream, he returned to manage the family farm along-side his father, Edward, and mother, Judith.

On Thursday, July 12, 2001, following milking, the father-son duo, decided it was time to sell the bull. In order to get him to market, they needed to get him into the barn. "Scot had said he didn't feel comfortable with the bull and was getting a little scared of him," said his sister, Michele, in a newspaper interview shortly after the fateful day.

"When we were trying to confine the bull, Scot got a little too close to him," said his father, Edward, recalling the events two years later. "He didn't go far enough around him," said his father. "I was there. I was going around a different way. And then it happened when the bull and Scot were behind a manure pile," said Edward. "I couldn't see how close Scot was to him. But he got too close. The bull gored him. Scot flew up in the air. The 1,500-pound breeding bull must have got him right in the stomach," his loving father said.

The vibrant 29-year-old died at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield. "The doctor said had they been at the scene it would be very unlikely he would have lived anyway due to a ruptured spleen."

Scot left behind three brothers: Father Brian Stashek, Plover; Mark of Stevens Point; and Andy of Junction City; and one sister, Shelly "Michelle" Cronin and her husband, Tony Cronin, of Chicago. Later in October, Edward said he decided to call it quits and sold the cows because he didn't want to go through another winter.



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