

COW LEGENDS IN A GREAT MOTHER BREED

Monarch Oak Sabrina

Contributed by Ginger Natolis

Monarch Oak Farm

April 20, 2003

Monarch Oak Sabrina has been the matriarch of our herd so long, that we can hardly imagine her bossy presence not being there some day.

She arrived on March 16, 1985, as the result of an “affaire d’amour” between Jim Barnhouse’s bull, BF Louise Grey Mountain, and our Monarch Oak Stephanie. Grey Mountain’s dam, Erncliff Louise II, was one of the very top Murray Grey cows of her day. She was long, deep, tall, had a wide topline and square rump. She came from the herd of English Murray Greys on the Dorbrock farm in Colt’s Neck, New Jersey, managed by John Gerow, Sr.



Sabrina’s dam was sired by Michaelong Canadian Invasion, son of the noted Michaelong Roman Invasion. She was out of a large dun dam, Firetree Miss D-109, from one of the earliest U.S. herds in Shelbyville, Kentucky.

Sabrina began her show career in 1986 as part of the display in the probationary period for OMGA at the Ohio State Fair. The OMGA was required to display for three years before we could be accepted for a breed show. She also showed at the Washington County and Waterford Community Fairs, handled and shown by Rachel and Jared Huck.

When Sabrina’s showing days were over, she began to produce champions like her daughters Fancie and Shannon and son Extra. We have called her our “Mother of Champions”, and now that her progeny are producing their own champions, she’s also our “Grandmother of Champions.” She is shown in the photo above, at age 17 years, and below, with her four-month-old calf.

Sabrina has a great udder capacity which she passes on to her daughters. Judges often comment on the size, attachment and small teats. Sabrina’s Milk EPD of +9 puts her in the top 1% of the AMGA Percentile Band. Her calving ease of +1.0 EPD puts her in the top 5% in that category. After being tugged on by so many calves (her own and any others that drop by for an extra snack), her once well attached udder is now quite pendulous.



Sabrina has a mind of her own, that’s for sure. We sometimes move cows to the leased farm to balance the herds on pasture. Several times Sabrina has been selected to join the group on that short trip. She hates to go there and when we open the trailer door and the cows step out onto the lush pasture, Sabrina takes one quick look at her destination, makes a 180 degree turn and gets back into the trailer to return to our farm. Now that she is 18 years old and pregnant with her 17th calf, we figure she has earned the right to decide where she wants to be and she remains at home.

She has been a sweetheart and a bossy pain in the neck at times, but always our very special Sabrina.