

## CHRISTOPHER STUDER

Domare för utställningen på Elmia 2022 är Christopher Studer från Kanada. Nedan skickar han en presentation över sig själv och en hälsning till deltagarna på Elmia.



As most of you know I was the Semex Ayrshire Coordinator for the last 15 of my 27-year career with that organisation. In 2019 Semex made some structural changes that eliminated my position. It was a wonderful organisation to work for. Ever since I was a young man I loved Agriculture, Cows and People. I was able to fulfil my passion for many years working with breeders all over the world.

Early In my career, I met a red hatted gentleman in Canada who was visiting from Sweden. This meeting would develop into a close friendship and my connection with dairy farmers in Sweden. I like to refer to him as my Swedish father. Thank you, Jan Gowenius, in so many ways we share the same passion for cows and people. We learned so much from each other and we had so many good times together.

During my time as Ayrshire Coordinator, it was my work to develop genetics that would keep the Ayrshire/SRB breed moving forward and progressing. It was not an easy task. With a small population, genetic advancement is not as rapid as other breeds with larger populations. But this was a challenge I embraced. Through my research of all the Ayrshire based populations in the world, I

found that the combination of the Swedish SRB and the Canadian Ayrshire to be most complementary. The Canadian Ayrshire had many generations of solid conformation and the Swedish SRB had many generations of high production and excellent health traits. In many ways I truly believe that both populations in Canada and Sweden would be much smaller today if this genetic exchange would have never happened.

Many people have asked me, what are you doing now that you are no longer at Semex? Well, my life has taken a huge change. After my departure from Semex, I got divorced and was diagnosed with cancer. It was a difficult time in my life. But I was surrounded by my friends and family. After a year of immunotherapy treatments (Immunity +. LOL), I am doing well and feeling good! Other things have also changed. I have gone back to my home area. I am doing some crop farming and went back to school to learn to drive large semi-trucks. Still working in Agriculture, I am hauling fertiliser, corn, soya beans and other crops. I am currently working for a local seed and fertiliser company that my family did business with for many years, Agrocentre. It is quite a change from my former jet set lifestyle. But I am happy and have joy in my life every day.

People ask me, but Chris don't you miss the cows? The answer is yes of course I do and maybe one day I will be able to return to cattle genetics in some capacity maybe with another organisation. But for now, I am truly enjoying a second chance at life.

As for my judging career: I have been a judge for many years. I found that judging opened the door for me to make connections in many places around the world. I have judged multiple shows and multiple breeds in Canada, Finland, and Sweden. But I have also judged in the United States, Columbia, and Russia. I enjoy judging, but I am fully aware that the shows do not portray the true genetic situation of any breed, much like how a fashion show does not portray the human race. But shows are important. Shows help strengthen the connection between breeders and the people who work to help them in our great agricultural

industry. Also, everyone likes some healthy competition. One of my greatest joys is to judge the youth, the next generation of dairy farmer or maybe future industry people. I always felt it was so important to encourage the youth in all ways possible. I have also enjoyed showing cattle. At a very young age I would travel to many shows. I still enjoy showing. I love to bring out the best in a cow in the show ring not only to please the judge but also to please the spectators.

I remember being at Elmia a few years back, after the champion cow was selected, I told the youth man showing her “take that cow for a walk around the ring, show the crowd what a champion cow looks like”. I have always been very generous in teaching others how to show, especially the youth.

I have been so looking forward to being back in Sweden to reconnect with old friends and maybe make some new ones. I just hope that I will have the opportunity to visit with each and every one of you.

To the SRB exhibitors at Elmia 2022. I am humbled that you have asked to have me as your judge for your top show that is usually held only every other year. I know that you are glad to be back showing in Elmia after so many years of not having this wonderful exhibition. No matter where I place your cattle today, be proud! Be proud of your passion for cattle breeding. Be proud of your commitment to your breed. Be proud of to see the people attending today and all the industry partners. Be proud of your passion. Just remember this, wherever I place your heifer or cow in the class, you are showing a good one, be Proud! And remember my placing are my opinion, on a different day with a different judge the result could also be different.

