

Wisconsin Breeders Recognize Peers

The Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association (WJBA) held its annual meeting on March 7, 2015, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Marshfield. The event was hosted by Parish I Jersey breeders, which includes six counties in the north central part of the state. Members tended to organization business, learned more about industry topics from guest speakers and honored their peers for achievements from this past year.

Brian Barlass, Janesville, was the guest speaker. He and his family operate Barlass Jerseys, a 400-cow Registered Jersey dairy in Rock County. Barlass won the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest in 2005 and graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in dairy science. He and his wife, Nicole, represented Wisconsin in the national Outstanding Young Farmers competition in 2013. He also coaches high school wrestling.

Barlass spoke about his trek to South Africa as winner of a Jersey Educational Travel Award. The award provided Barlass with a scholarship to attend the World Jersey Conference in Cape Town in September 2014. The conference focused on breeding in the age of genomics, growth of on-farm processing and direct-marketing of milk and how Jerseys are helping people of eastern Africa to become self-sustaining.

The Barlass presentation highlighted farms and other industries of South Africa, portrayed conventional agriculture practices and illustrated the beauty of the region's landscape and people.

Shari Strickhouser, Elkhorn, was named the Wisconsin Senior Breeder. She is a third-generation dairy farmer who operates Stephan Jerseys with her husband,



Strickhouser

Dan, on a 91-acre farm in the southeastern part of the state. The 62-cow Registered Jersey dairy is enrolled on REAP. With the latest herd appraisal in August 14, the herd includes nine Excellent and 41 Very Good cows and has an appraisal average of 84.6%.

Strickhouser purchased her first Jerseys from Gil-Bar Jerseys of Janesville in 1993. Gil-Bar breeding remains a strong influence in the herd today. The bull Gil-Bar Unique Sparkler, JPI -221, is found in the lineage of many cows in the herd. Upwards of 25% of the herd traces to



Kaitlin Artac, left, was crowned as the 2015 Wisconsin Jersey Queen and Kaila Wussow was named 2015 Wisconsin Jersey Princess. All photos courtesy *The Country Today*.

two early female purchases from Gil-Bar Jerseys.

Many cows bred and sold by Strickhouser have done well in the show ring. Stephen Comerica Viola was Supreme Champion of the Iowa State Fair in 2013 and Grand Champion of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Jersey Show in 2014. Stephan Sparkler Vera-ET was Grand Champion of the Central National Jersey Show in 2009. Her daughter, TJ Classic Minister Venus-ET, is the reigning National Grand Champion and was National Reserve Grand Champion and National Jersey Jug Futurity winner in 2013. She was also tapped Supreme Champion of World Dairy Expo and the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in 2014.

Strickhouser graduated from the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison with a degree in agricultural journalism. She received the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder Award in 2009 and was named Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year the following year.

Miranda Randall, Soldiers Grove, was named the Wisconsin Junior Breeder. The daughter of Robert and Marla Randall is a sophomore at the UW-Platteville majoring in dairy science.

She is a fifth generation Jersey breeder who established her own herd with a gift from her father, a Jersey calf she named Hallmark Emily. "Emily" was her first Excellent cow as well and made 19,790 lbs. milk, 862 lbs. fat and 666 lbs. protein in her second lactation. Today her herd numbers six Registered Jerseys and includes her second Excellent cow, Kellview Action Alice.

Randall has served the Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeder Association (WJJB) as vice president and was named Wisconsin Jersey Queen in 2014. She attended Jersey Youth Academy in 2013.

The Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year award was given to Karen Allen, Reedsburg. At All-Lynn Jerseys, operated by Allen and her family, she is the opera-

tion's primary calf raiser and caretaker and the family's chief chef and peace-maker. For many years, she has been an integral part of the success of the business she established with her husband, David.

In addition to family meals, Karen regularly prepares food for farm visitors and also cooks meals for the family when traveling to shows, sales and meetings. She has helped to raise numerous young grandchildren at the farm over the years. It is common even today for the house to be filled with youngsters while older family members work on the farm. The Allen grandchildren were featured on the cover of the May 2011 issue of the Jersey Journal, the year the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings were hosted by Wisconsin.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Bill Maness, Stitzer. Though he is a recent transplant to Wisconsin, Maness has worked on many Jersey farms across New England and the southeastern part of the country. Through his company, Jersey Origins, he has developed a database that can create extended pedigrees and trace cow families to importation from the Isle of Jersey. Most recently, he has helped the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association proof and format materials and adopt new computer software. He is now working on a history book for the organization that will be published in 2017.



Allen



Maness

Junior Awards

Kaitlin Artac, Greenwood, was crowned as the 2015 Wisconsin Jersey Queen. The eldest daughter of Wayne and Lisa Artac is a high school senior who will attend UW-Eau Claire this fall and major in biology. She plans to transfer to UW-Madison and pursue a career as a physician's assistant.

Artac's herd of six Registered Jerseys is managed with the family herd, Golden Pride Jerseys. She is active in her local 4-H club and local FFA chapter and has served each as president and treasurer. She was a member of the 4-H dairy judging team that topped the state contest in 2014 and the FFA dairy judging team that competed at World Dairy Expo in 2012. She earned the Clark County 4-H Youth Achievement Award and the Clark County

4-H Citizenship Award, which allowed her to attend the Citizen Washington Focus at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center.

She enjoys showing at the Wisconsin State Fair, the Central Wisconsin State Fair and the Clark County Fair, where she has earned laurels as Supreme Dairy Showman.

Artac is a member of the National Honor Society, the Student Council and a number of other school clubs. She also plays varsity volleyball.

Kaila Wussow, Cecil, will join Kaitlin on the royal court as the 2015 Wisconsin Jersey Princess. The daughter of Ron and Nicolle Wussow is a senior at Bonduel High School and plans to attend UW-River Falls this fall and major in dairy science.

She won the Pot O'Gold Production Contest in 2008 and 2011 and the National Youth Production Contest in 2007.

Wussow is active in her local 4-H club and FFA chapter, serving every office in the former and chairing several committees of the later. She is a member of the dairy quiz bowl and dairy management teams that topped the state contest and will compete at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show and NAILE this fall. She won the FFA state dairy entrepreneurship proficiency award at the state level and has been chosen to compete for the State Star Farmer Award.

Wussow also enjoys showing and received the George Barlass Herdsman Award at the Wisconsin State Fair in 2013.

Jacob Leum, Viroqua, won the senior division of the youth achievement contest and earned a cash award of \$250. He also received a WJBA scholarship. The son of Tom and Donna Leum is a junior at UW-Platteville majoring in animal science. He is currently interning with Alta Genetics.

His herd has grown to more than 30 head from just two Registered Jersey calves purchased as youth projects a little more than a decade ago. Among other chores, he does a great deal of the genetics work for the herd, from heat synchronization, to service sire selection and insemination.

Leum received the V.L. Peterson Scholarship in 2013 and the Bob Toole Youth Award in 2014. He sat on the Junior Activities Committee of the All American Jersey Show and attended the third Jersey Youth Academy. As well, he has received the Wisconsin Junior Breeder Award and the Patty Endres Memorial Award and served as president of the WJJB.

Janelle Remington, Juneau, placed second in the senior division of the achievement contest and earned a cash award of \$150. She also received a WJBA scholarship. The daughter of Richard

and Gail Remington is a sophomore at UW-Madison majoring in dairy science. She placed eighth in the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest in 2012 and received the Jack C. Nisbet Scholarship in 2013. She attended the third Jersey Youth Academy.

Colin Wussow, Cecil, topped the intermediate division of the youth achievement contest. He receives a \$150 discount toward the purchase of a calf from the Badger Treasure Sale or a \$100 cash award. He is a brother to Kaila and a freshman at Bonduel High School.

Colin won the National Youth Production Contest in 2009 with Michael Centurion Darla, Excellent-93%, two-time Reserve Junior All American. He also exhibited the Grand Champion of the 2014 Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Junior Show, Milk-N-More WJM Connect Vivian-ET.

He is the vice president of the Bonduel 4-H Club and has been a member of the county dairy judging and quiz bowl teams. He belongs to FFA and is a member of the school's football, wrestling and track teams.

Frederick Ullom, Bloomer, was the runner-up in the intermediate division. He receives \$100 towards a Badger Treasure Sale purchase or a \$75 cash award.

In the junior division of the youth achievement contest, Olivia Bowers, Marion, was named winner. The daughter of Tim and Meredith Bowers will receive a Registered Jersey calf donated by Sunsett Dairy, owned by Alan, Stephanie, Bryce and Gavin Hughes of Greenwood.

Bowers is a second-grader at Marion Elementary School. Her herd of six head is managed with the family's 220 Registered Jerseys at Bowers Rolling Meadows Farm, owned by her parents and paternal grandfather, David. She is the fifth generation to breed Registered Jerseys, along with her siblings, Tylor and Connor, and takes a special interest in the cattle-end of the business. She is a member of the Sunrise 4-H Club, showed at the county fair for the first time last year and enjoys playing softball, swimming and horseback riding.

Blake Sanders, Boscobel, placed second in the junior division of the achievement contest and received a show halter donated by the late Lois Haeuser family in her memory.

The Patti Endres Memorial Scholarship was given to Sean Brown of Dodgeville. WJBA scholarships were also presented to Sydney Endres, Lodi, Cheyenne Hughey, Stitzer, Olivia Peter, Lake Mills, and India Tauchen, Bonduel.

In the youth production contest, the

Wussow siblings, Kaila and Colin, took home the Rainbow Dairy LLC High Protein Award for their entry, Milk-N-More KCW Amenity Delight-ET. The Very Good-87% daughter of Sunset Canyon Amenity, GJPI -84, produced a record of 3-0 305 27,020 4.6% 1,236 3.5% 959 94DCR to win the contest. She is out of "Darla."

The Wussows earned another five certificates between the two of them for individual cow production based on age. Other juniors to receive certificates were Hannah and Frederick Ullom, Bloomer, and Julia Owens, Frederic.

All-Wisconsin and Reserve All-Wisconsin awards were also presented to seven juniors for achievements at the Wisconsin State Show.

It was also reported that four Jersey youth participated in the WJBA youth cost-sharing program, which awards \$125 for travel to a Jersey event. The juniors who participated in 2014 were: Alleah Anderson, Cumberland; Austin Nauman, Norwalk; Colin Wussow; and Kaila Wussow.

Production Awards

The 66-cow herd owned by David Allen was the state's high herd for milk and protein and also made the most significant gains in herd average over the previous year. The 2014 herd average is 25,479 lbs. milk, 1,173 lbs. fat and 905 lbs. protein (3x milking). This averaged increased by 8,234 lbs. milk and 288 lbs. protein versus the herd average for 2013. Cows are housed at Ryan Dairy, owned by Tim and Ann Ryan, in Plain and managed with their Holstein herd.

A member of the milking string at All-Lynn Jerseys was the state's high producer for milk, protein and cheese yield. All Lynns Louie Venetia-ET produced a 5-0 record of 42,360 lbs. milk, 1,674 lbs. fat and 1,423 lbs. protein, with a cheese yield of 4,648. The record was also the top 305-day milk and protein record in the nation and ranked second for cheese yield. The Very Good-83% daughter of BHF-SSF Parade Louie-ET, GJPI +24, has two other lactations—both over 25,900 lbs. milk, 930 lbs. fat and 850 lbs. protein—and a GJPI of +147.

Nic-Nat Jerseys and Wade Kessenich, De Forest, was the high herd for fat with a 2014 herd average of 20,995 lbs. milk, 1,202 lbs. fat and 758 lbs. protein (3x milking) on 149 cows.

Jeff-Ro Country Rollo, owned by Jeff Kessenich and Robin Krueger, De Forest, led the state and the nation for fat production in 2014 with a 4-1 record of

(continued to page xx)

Wisconsin Meeting

(continued from page xx)

26,880 lbs. milk, 2,450 lbs. fat and 884 lbs. protein in 289 days. The daughter of BW Country-ET, GJPI +14, is appraised Very Good-84%.

In the lifetime production contest, O.F. Mannix Kate led her peers for all measures of production with 233,403 lbs. milk, 11,084 lbs. fat and 8,469 lbs. protein in 4,073 days. The Very Good-84% daughter of Rock Maple Brook Mannix, GJPI -69, is owned by Owens Farms Inc., Frederic. Though no longer in the herd, "Kate" calved 10 times during her 14-year life and had seven lactations over 19,000 lbs. milk. She has four registered daughters.

Cows were also recognized for production achievements in nine age categories based on milk, fat and protein yield.

Sixteen herds were recognized for earning Hall of Fame records for actual cheese yield 150% above breed average for the previous year. Norse Star Jerseys, Westby, led the way with 93 records in 2014. D & D Jerseys, Newton, earned 20 certificates during the calendar year.

Business Meeting

Members heard about milestone achievements of the Jersey breed for 2014 from several speakers, including AJCA President Chris Sorenson, AJCA Director Walter Owens, NAJ Director Marion Barlass and Director of Field Services Kristin Paul.

Cumulatively, they reported the national Jersey organizations broke records for animals registered (118,235), cows on performance programs (162,536), cows appraised (109,963), JerseyTag sales (331,001) and contributions to Project Equity (projected at \$835,000). The breed also reached new levels of production during 2014 (19,560 lbs. milk, 944 lbs. fat and 713 lbs. protein on a standardized basis).

Members were invited to participate in several upcoming shows and sales. The Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Show and Sale at the Vernon County Fairgrounds in Viroqua in early May. The sale and showmanship will be held on May 1 and the show the following day. The judge will be Callum McKinven, Canton de Hatley, Que.

The Wisconsin State Jersey Show will be August 11-12 in Marshfield. The Jersey futurity will be held the first day at 12:30 p.m., with showmanship following at 3:00 p.m. The show will be the following day at 9:00 a.m. Norman Nabholz, West Union, Iowa, will officiate. Wayne and Lisa Artac and their family will provide a meal on

August 11 at 6:00 p.m. Donations are appreciated.

The Wisconsin State Jersey Sale will be an online event again this year, with bidding opening May 4 and closing horse-race style on May 12 at 1:30 p.m. The Badger Treasure Sale, open only to juniors, will also be held in conjunction with this sale.

Officers were re-elected to serve the WJBA as follows: Mike Fremstad, Westby, president; Don Mielke, Menasha, vice president; Joyce Owens, Frederic, secretary; and Derek Orth, Lancaster, treasurer. New board members are Wayne Artac, Debbie Ashmore, Boscobel, and Rodney Hodgson, Shawano. Directors-at-large elected to serve were Brett Barlass and Don Mielke.

Junior officers elected were: Miranda Randall, president; Julia Owens, vice president; and Allison Foster, Portage, secretary-treasurer.

A dessert auction was held to raise funds for the junior association, with Rodney Hodgson serving as auctioneer. A total of \$1,320 was raised from the sale of the goodies.