

Wisconsin Gears Up for 2011 Annual Meetings

Jersey breeders from Wisconsin Parish 3 hosted the annual meeting of their state Jersey association at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells on March 6, 2010. Breeders across the state got a first-hand look at the resort which will be the locale for the Annual Meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ) in the summer of 2011 and began to finalize plans for the event. Among the highlights is the all-donation National Heifer Sale which will fund Jersey Youth Academy just as the 2005 event funded the AJCC Research Foundation.

Jersey breeders from the Badger State also took opportunity to recognize their peers for achievements made in 2009.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to a pair of educators from the University of Wisconsin (UW): Dr. Edward Jesse and Dr. Robert Cropp. The two were honored for their efforts to establish multiple component pricing and set and maintain quality standards for milk and their support of the Jersey breed. Dr. Jesse is professor emeritus from the UW Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in Madison and was Director of Trade and Policy Studies at the Babcock Institute. Dr. Cropp is a former director of the UW Center for Cooperatives and wrote regular columns for *Hoard's Dairyman* and *The Cheese Reporter*.

David Allen, Reedsburg, was named Jersey Breeder of the Year. He operates All-Lynn Jerseys with his family in the south-central part of the state. The 47-cow herd has a 2009 lactation average of 22,052 lbs. milk, 1,031 lbs. fat and 798 lbs. protein, a mark that ranks fourth for milk and protein and 10th for fat among herds with 40-79 records. With the April 2010 genetic evaluations, the herd ranks third in the nation for Jersey Performance Index (JPI) with an average JPI of +69.

Allen started his dairy career with unregistered Holsteins. Registered



Secretary Dennis Post presents Wisconsin Distinguished Service Awards to Dr. Edward Jesse, left, and Dr. Robert Cropp.

Jerseys were added to the herd in 1984, when a cow and bred heifer were purchased for daughter, Rachel, from the Second Jersey Protein Sale in Fond du Lac. Two years later, an additional 11 head were purchased from the Protein Sale. The Holsteins were phased out and the herd has been all-Jersey since the early 1990s.

Allen has focused on quality over quantity. He has been an early proponent of genotyping and brought several quality females to the farm because of their genomic evaluations. The Allens have improved the quality of their Jersey herd through an extensive embryo transfer program. They have sold genetics internationally to Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark and New Zealand and placed many bulls in A.I.

Allen also sits on the boards of both the Milwaukee Cooperative Milk Producers and The Lakeshore Federated Dairy Cooperative.

Wade Kessenich, de Forest, was named Junior Jersey Breeder of the Year. The 19-year-old operates Buckshot Jerseys. He recently completed the UW dairy short course and returned to the 500-cow Holstein and Jersey farm owned by his parents, Jeff and Robin. His Registered Jersey herd numbers 16 milking cows and 20 heifers.

Kessenich was a member of the inaugural Jersey Youth Academy class last summer and served his local FFA chapter as president his senior year. He competed on the 4-H dairy judging team



David Allen, left, receives a plaque for Wisconsin Jersey Breeder of the Year from Mark Wallace.

that topped World Dairy Expo in 2005 and was sixth individual overall. Kessenich enjoys showing and exhibited the Grand Champion of the Central National Junior Jersey Show, Gil-Bar Sparkler Juliann, in 2008.

Connie Jump, Richland Center, was named Jersey Woman of the Year. She and her husband, Jeff, and their children, Cody, 15, and Molly, 13, operate Jump Family Dairy.

The dairy has grown from 4-H projects for the children and today represents 65 milking cows, about 90% Jersey and the balance Dutch Belted. A parlor was built in 2006 and a compost barn followed two years later.

Though she did not grow up on a dairy farm, Connie embraced the opportunity to learn all she could about the industry, especially calf care. Today she also maintains herd records on the computer and oversees daily chores.

Connie is also active in community, church and youth organizations and is a full-time accountant during tax season.

Jersey breeders were also honored for production accomplishments for herd averages and individual production by age. Ron and Nicolle Wussow, Cecil, received the award for the high herd for milk and fat production in 2009 with a herd average of 22,143 lbs. milk, 1,116 lbs. fat and 752 lbs. protein (3x milking) on 65 cows. Steve and Amanda Killian, Blair, earned the award for high herd for

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Shari Strickhouser, Parish 2 Director, congratulates Wade Kessenich for being named Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeder of the Year.



Cassey Krull, right, was crowned as the 2010 Wisconsin Jersey Queen and Abby Tauchen was named 2010 Wisconsin Jersey Princess.



Juniors earning production awards were (front row) Logan Voights, Colin Wussow, Tommy Allen, (back row) Wade Kessenich, Kaila Wussow and Natalie Kessenich.

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protein production with a herd average of 19,351 lbs. milk, 972 lbs. fat and 756 lbs. protein on 42 cows.

The herd owned by Mark and Caitie Paulsen, Briggsville, had the largest gains in milk and protein production. Typro Jerseys produced 4,226 lbs. more milk and 153 lbs. protein in its herd average in 2009 as compared to 2008.

The cow that produced the top 305-day record in Wisconsin for milk, fat, protein and cheese yield was Hi-Land Paramount Patric, owned by Jory Fremstad, Westby. The Excellent-90% daughter of Rock Ella Paramount-ET, GJPI +93, made 35,650 lbs. milk, 2,130 lbs. fat and 1,391 lbs. protein, with a cheese yield equivalent of 3,311 lbs. at 5-1. She is also the reigning National Class Leader for fat, protein and cheese yield among cows 5-9 years-of-age.

In the junior awards program, Cassy Krull of Lake Mills was crowned as 2010 Wisconsin Jersey Queen and will represent the state in the national Jersey queen contest held during All American festivities in Louisville, Ky., this fall. Abby Tauchen, Bonduel, was named 2010 Wisconsin Jersey Princess.

Jessica Owens, Frederic, placed first in the senior youth achievement contest and earned a trophy and \$250 cash award. Nicole Allen, Reedsburg, placed second in the achievement contest and received a \$150 cash award. The two will compete in the 2009 National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest, with winners announced this summer.

Kaila Wussow, Cecil, placed first in the junior youth achievement contest and received a Registered Jersey calf donated by David Allen. Her prize, All Lynns Alexander Farrah, is a P9 daughter of Forest Glen Artist Alexander, GJPI +135, born in December 2009. Cody Jump earned the Lois Haeuser Memorial Award and a show halter for placing second in the junior youth achievement contest.

Wussow also received the Charlie Price Protein Award with her brother, Colin, for Michael Centurion Darla. The Excellent-93% daughter of Sunset Canyon Michael-ET, GJPI +65, produced a record of 4-11 305 3x 31,130 4.9% 1,732 3.3% 1,158 96DCR.

Scholarships were presented to Jonathan Holewinski, Shawano, Jessica Owens, Abby Tauchen and Kelly Wirkus, Athens.

Members also heard the latest industry news from a number of guests. AJCA Director Chris Sorenson spoke about the "Golden Decade of Jersey Breed Expansion," noting significant gains in participation in all breed improvement programs over the past 10 years. During 2009, the AJCA recorded 95,557 animals in the herd book, enrolled 867 herds and 127,291 cows on REAP, appraised 83,431 cows, and sold 145,963 units of JerseyTags—all records.

Newly elected NAJ President David Endres discussed the work of the milk marketing branch of the national Jersey organization. NAJ is supporting efforts to increase the minimum solids not fat content of milk across the country to match standards mandated by California.

Director of Field Services Kristin Paul encouraged breeders to advertise on the state page in the *Jersey Journal*, as a portion of the advertising costs are returned to the Wisconsin association. This past year, the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association used some of the advertising rebate to establish a website hosted by USJersey.com.

Breeders were invited to attend several upcoming Jersey events, including the state picnic, which will be hosted by Steven and Amanda Killian at their farm in Blair on July 3. The event will feature a potluck picnic at noon, a meeting at twilight and music in the evening.

The junior show of the Wisconsin State Fair will be held on August 5 and the open show will be August 15. The Wisconsin State Show is scheduled for August 17 and



David Allen, center, donated a Jersey calf to the winner of the junior division of the youth achievement contest, Kaila Wussow, right. Cody Jump placed second and earned a show halter in memory of Lois Haeuser.

18; Chad Ryan, Fond du Lac, will be the judge. The Wisconsin Jersey Futurity will be held in conjunction with the state show.

Officers were elected to serve the association as follows: Amanda Killian, president; Ralph Uhe, Janesville, vice president; Dennis Post, Clinton, secretary; and Nicolle Wussow, treasurer. Directors elected to serve two-year terms were David Allen and Ron Wussow.

Junior officers are Abby Tauchen, president; Wade Kessenich, vice president; and Danielle Brown, Dodgeville, secretary.



Parish production awards were presented to (front row) Steve Killian, Linda Owens, Donna Phillips, Bill Barlass, (back row) Ron Wussow, Don Mielke, Jason Fremstad and Ron Kutz.



All-Wisconsin awards were presented to (front row) India Tauchen, Austin Nauman, Colin Wussow, Sean Brown, (back row) Danielle Brown, Abby Tauchen, Bryce Krull, Natalie Kessenich and Kaila Wussow.