

## Awards Highlight of Wisconsin Meeting

Members of the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association met for their annual meeting on March 2, 2013. The event was hosted by Parish 7 Jersey breeders at the Western Seasons Grand Hotel in Wau-paca. An extensive awards ceremony was the highlight of the event, honoring senior and junior Jersey breeders for service and achievements in the past year.

The Senior Breeder Award was presented to Allen Hentsch, who operates Spring Creek Farms, a 95-cow Registered Jersey herd, in Hixton.

Hentsch is a second-generation Jersey breeder. He began helping with the breeding program in 1992 and took the reins for breeding decisions six years later. He strives to breed cows with a desirable balance of type and production and has been using the breed's top bulls for Jersey Performance Index (JPI) from the onset.

Spring Creek Farms ranks among the top 50 herds in the country for JPI with a herd average JPI of +69 (December 2012) on 88 cows. Eleven members of the milking string rank among the top 1.5% for JPI or Genomic JPI. Two heifers rank on the list of the Top 500 Heifers for GJPI. Hentsch has sent several bulls from the high-indexing "Lana" cow family to A.I. in recent years, including Spring Creek Abe at Sexing Technologies and Spring Creek Alexander Justice at Accelerated Genetics.

The herd has a 2012 AJCA lactation average of 19,829 lbs. milk, 894 lbs. fat and 684 lbs. protein on 81 cows. With the most recent herd appraisal in November 2012, the farm in the western part of the state is home to seven Excellent and 54 Very Good cows and has an appraisal average of 81.5%.

Spring Creek Farms is a diversified operation, which also raises steers and a small herd of beef cows and farms 1,900 acres every year.

Jacob Leum, Viroqua, was honored



Julia Owens, right, was crowned as the 2013 Wisconsin Jersey Queen. Sydney Endres will serve on the court with her as Wisconsin Jersey Princess. All photos courtesy Danielle Nauman/Dairy Agenda Today.

with the Wisconsin Junior Breeder Award. Leum is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville majoring in animal science, with an emphasis on dairy. He is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, which he serves as vice noble ruler of activities, and president of the Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeders Association.

Leum established his herd of Registered Jerseys with the purchase of two heifer calves as youth projects a decade ago. His herd has grown to 38 head, largely from internal growth. Leum is in charge of the



Leum

breeding program at the family farm and performs all the inseminations. The savings from breeding fees allow him to invest in better Jersey genetics. He has consigned cattle to the Wisconsin State Sale and loans

animals to non-rural youth for showing at the fair on a routine basis.

Leum exhibited a class winner at the Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Junior Show five times—four times with a home-bred animal—and has won showmanship at the county, state and national levels.

He received the James W. Crowley Dairy Leadership Award from Wisconsin 4-H in 2011 and was selected for the organization's Citizen Washington Focus in 2010. He was president of the Westby FFA chapter twice and received both the Chapter Degree and the Star Chapter Award in 2011. He recently received his state FFA degree and earned a first gold award with his dairy entrepreneur project at the state level.

The Distinguished Service Award was given to Dennis Post of Clinton. Post is the outgoing secretary of the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association, a position he held for the past five years. He has also served his local Jersey parish as vice president, secretary and secretary-treasurer and been a member of the Wisconsin State



Juniors receiving production awards were Colin Wussow, Kaila Wussow, Julia Owens and Abby Tauchen. Kaila earned the Stargazer Jerseys High Protein Award as overall winner with her entry, Rocha latola Whistle-ET.

Show committee.

Post was a co-chair of the annual meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ), which were hosted by his home state in 2011, and has helped behind the scenes at the All American Jersey Sale, the Pot O'Gold Sale and the National Jersey Jug Futurity for more than 25 years. He



Post

takes pride in the extensive collection of Jersey Marketing Service shirts he has received for volunteering at The All American Jersey Sale over the years. He was associate chair for the National Jersey Jug Futurity last year and chairs the prestigious event this year.

Dennis drove a school bus for 21 years and currently works in the parts department at Thomas School Bus. He caught his Jersey passion from childhood friends Bill and Marion Barlass of Janesville. He became a member of the Jersey family when Bill asked him to attend The All American Jersey Show in 1981. In the years since, he has missed just one event due to a conflict at work.

Linda Owens, Frederic, received the Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year award. Owens and her husband, Wilfred, operate Owens Farms Inc. with his brothers and their wives and families. The 725-cow dairy is a charter member of REAP and has contributed to Equity since 1980. Wilfred and Linda received the Young Jersey Breeder Award in 1984.

Though her role on the dairy has changed over the years, Owens, who was raised on a Holstein farm, has been an integral part of the Jersey business since she and Wilfred married in 1970. In the early years, she fed calves. She started milking in 1983 when the herd was expanded and a second barn built. She has also lent a hand in the fields baling hay, chopping silage and hauling manure and cleaning calf pens by hand. Today, her major area of responsibility centers around farm book keeping as she pays the bills, maintains financial records, registers calves and completes transfer of ownership applications. She also watches for signs of heat in breeding age heifers and then moves them to pens

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for servicing.

Linda also breaks most of the cattle for shows, which is a big job since the family has exhibited animals at the Minnesota State Fair every year since 1970. Among the highlights was when she showed O.F. Lester Ladyslipper, Excellent-94%, to Reserve Intermediate Champion and Overall Premier Performance Cow honors at The All American Jersey Show in 1996. That same year, Linda topped the lady's showmanship class in Louisville, Ky., at the halter of "Ladyslipper."

Off the farm, she is a local 4-H club advisor and has been a project leader for 37 years. She is superintendent of the Polk County Fair and was secretary-treasurer for the local Jersey parish for 15 years. She has served her church as secretary-treasurer for the ladies group for 31 years, financial secretary for 29 years and lay leader the past four years.

### Junior Awards

Julia Owens, Frederic, was crowned as the 2013 Wisconsin Jersey Queen. The daughter of Roger and Kim Owens is a high school senior who plans to attend the University of Wisconsin (UW)-River Falls in the fall and major in animal science.

Her herd of Registered Jerseys includes three cows—all Excellent or Very Good—and one replacement heifer. Her highest-appraised cow, O.F. Thor Laurene, Excellent-93%, was Reserve Supreme Champion of the Polk County Fair in 2011 and earned the production award at the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Show the past two years. Owens has twice sold a Jersey steer in the county fair livestock sale, which auctions just 35 steers which are hand-chosen by the judge from all beef entries.

Owens is active in 4-H and FFA and a member of the National Honors Society and the high school track team.

Sydney Endres, Lodi, was named Wisconsin Jersey Princess. The daughter of NAJ President David Endres is a high school senior who plans to double major in dairy science and agriculture communications and minor in Spanish at either UW-Madison or Virginia Tech in the fall. She is president of the student council, writes for the school paper and volunteers at the FFA clothing pantry at school. She attended the second Jersey Youth Academy in 2011.

Kaitlyn Riley, Gays Mills, won the senior division of the youth achievement contest. The daughter of Jody and Paulette Riley is the first alternate National Jersey

Queen and was selected for the third Jersey Youth Academy this summer. She is a junior at the UW-Madison majoring in agricultural journalism and currently works as a newscaster for the campus radio station, WSUM.

Riley is a member of the Association for



Riley

Women in Agriculture (AWA) and the Badger Dairy Club. She serves the AWA as the public relations officer and chairs the public relations committee. She was the special events and decorations chair for the

Badger Dairy Club Sale in 2012 and is a former co-editor of the club's yearbook.

Riley's herd of Registered Jerseys currently numbers a dozen head. She has been showing Jerseys since she was nine. She was president of the county state fair team for three years and served as herdsman for two years.

Janelle Remington, Juneau, was named runner-up in the contest. The high school senior is the daughter of Richard and Gail Remington. She plans to attend UW-Madison this fall and major in dairy science. Her herd of Registered Jerseys includes 11 cows and an equal number of replacement heifers. Seven of her cows are appraised Excellent and four are Very Good.

At the All American Junior Jersey Show in 2012, Remington showed the first-place senior heifer calf, Gil-Bar RM Coffee, and the second-place junior yearling heifer, Kyles Louie Moonlight.

She was high individual in the 4-H dairy judging contest at the Pennsylvania All-American in 2011 and a member of the team that topped the FFA contest at World Dairy Expo the same year. Janelle won senior showmanship at World Dairy Expo in 2011 and was named Supreme Showman at the Dodge County Fair in 2012.

Remington was captain of the varsity volleyball and basketball teams and named honorable mention conference player in both sports. She has served her local FFA chapter as president and vice president and belongs to the National Honor Society.

Colin Wussow, Cecil, won the junior division of the contest and received a Registered Jersey calf donated by Sorenson's Hillview Jersey Farm, Pine River. Iris Quinlan, Alma Center, received the Lois Haeuser Memorial Award and a halter as runner-up in the junior division.

The Patty Endres Memorial Award was given to Abby Tauchen of Bonduel. This is the second year of the award, which is

given to a Wisconsin junior who exhibits outstanding leadership qualities.

Scholarships were presented to Endres, Leum, Remington and Riley and three other juniors: Kelly Wirkus, Athens; Miranda Randall, Soldiers Grove; and Maighdlin Farrell, Richland Center.

Kaila Wussow, Cecil, won the Stargazer Jerseys High Protein Award with Rocha latola Whistle-ET. The Very Good-85% daughter of SC Gold Dust Paramount latola-ET, GJPI +93, produced a 3-9 record of 26,660 lbs. milk, 1,223 lbs. fat and 963 lbs. protein to earn the award. Wussow purchased "Whistle" from the Pot O'Gold Sale in 2008 and then won the ensuing production contest three years later.

### Production Awards

Production awards were given for herd averages and individual cow production by age.

The 30-cow herd owned by Gerald Laufenberg of Mt. Horeb and managed in the herd owned by Kevin Ihm of Barneveld was the state's high herd for all measures of production with a 2012 herd average of 24,708 lbs. milk, 1,172 lbs. fat and 886 lbs. protein on three times daily milking.

The herd with the greatest improvement in milk production during 2012 was Bellwood Jerseys, owned by Roger Camp, Evansville. The milk production average increased 1,892 lbs. in 2012 versus 2011.

The most improved herd for protein production was Nic-Nat and Buck-Shot Jerseys, DeForest. The herd owned by Natalie and Wade Kessenich bettered protein production in 2012 by 90 lbs. versus 2011. The farm is also home to a cow that produced a new state record for 305-day fat production, Jeff-Ro Country Rollo. The Very Good-84% daughter of BW Country-ET, GJPI +71, produced a 3-0 record of 27,140 lbs. milk, 2,156 lbs. fat and 969 lbs. protein.

Two cows owned by Norse Star Jerseys, Westby, produced new state records for milk and protein production. Norse Star Moment N2387 is the new milk champion. The Very Good-84% daughter of WF Centurn Seize the Moment-ET, GJPI +15, produced 33,010 lbs. milk, 1,425 lbs. fat and 1161 lbs. protein at 4-3. Norse Star Tequila Katie, Excellent-94%, produced a 3-7 record of 29,980 lbs. milk, 1,494 lbs. fat and 1,232 lbs. protein. She is sired by Tower Vue Prime Tequila-ET, GJPI -51, and was Reserve Intermediate Champion and Best Bred and Owned Female of The All American Jersey Show in 2011.

In the state's leading living lifetime production contest, two cows named "Go-

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diva" shared the spotlight for the second consecutive year. Barlass Lester Godiva, owned by Barlass Jerseys LLC, Janesville, produced 263,350 lbs. milk, 11,099 lbs. fat and 9,157 lbs. protein in 5,180 days. The Very Good-88% daughter of Highland Magic Duncan, GJPI -63, has a best record of 5-7 305 29,480 42% 1,232 3.4% 1,007 93DCR.

MJ Candy DC Godiva, owned by Woodmohr Jerseys, Bloomer, was the high lifetime producer for components. The Excellent-95% daughter of Duncan Chief, GJPI +27, produced 242,433 lbs. milk, 12,657 lbs. fat and 9,461 lbs. protein in 4,776 days.

Seventeen Wisconsin herds were recognized for producing Hall of Fame records for actual cheese yield production that is 150% of breed average for the previous year. Norse Star Jerseys led the way with 98 members of the milking string producing Hall of Fame records in 2012. D & D Jerseys, Newton, received 14 Hall of Fame certificates during the year; Gerald Laufenberg earned nine certificates.

### Business Meeting

Jersey breeders were treated to a presentation by Becky Houze, a student at Harper Adams University in the United Kingdom who is spending a year on two Registered Jersey dairies through the AgriVenture program operated by the International Agricultural Exchange Association. To meet the practical experience requirement for her degree, Becky is currently working as an intern at Barlass Jerseys and will then travel to Hi-Land Farms in Wyoming, N.Y.

Becky talked about her home country and farm, which is the second largest of 25 herds on the Isle of Jersey. The cow population on the Isle numbers 3,000 and the human population 97,000. The Isle uses a quota system that allows dairy producers to set their own prices, which currently run about 42-43 pence per liter (about .63 per quart U.S.). The country does not import milk and recently signed contracts to export frozen yogurt and ice cream to Spain and Japan. Though residents on the Isle pay no income or property taxes, they are only eligible to purchase property after they have been residents for 15 years.

Accomplishments of the Jersey breed in 2012 were relayed by AJCA President Chris Sorenson, Pine River, NAJ President David Endres, Lodi, and Director of Field Services Kristin Paul—all hail from the Badger State.

During 2012, the national Jersey organizations set new records for animals

registered, cows enrolled on REAP, herds on REAP, JerseyTags sold, cows appraised and contributions to Equity. The year caps a decade of dramatic Jersey breed growth that includes a 49% increase in animals identified, a 57% increase in REAP cow enrollments and a 43% increase in cows scored in the Jersey type appraisal program.

Nine Wisconsin juniors have been selected to attend Jersey Youth Academy in Columbus, Ohio, in July—more than from any other state. The group includes Sean Brown, Dodgeville; Mitchell Endres, Lodi; Allison Foster, Portage; Cassandra Krull, Lake Mills; Jacob Leum; Miranda Randall; Morgan Randall, Soldiers Grove; Janelle Remington; and Kaitlyn Riley.

Jersey breeders elected to serve the Wisconsin club include: Donna Phillips, Newton, president; David Allen, Reedsburg, vice president; Joyce Owens, Frederic, secretary; and Derek Orth, Lancaster, treasurer. Don Mielke, Menasha, and Bob Randall, Soldiers Grove, were elected to fill two director-at-large vacancies on the board.

Serving the junior association in 2013 will be: Jacob Leum, president; Morgan Randall, vice president; and Kaila Wussow, secretary.

Wisconsin juniors held a dessert auction that raised \$1,310 for junior activities.

Next year's meeting will be hosted by Parish 8 at Knox's Silver Valley Banquet Hall in Manitowoc.