

## Wisconsin Breeders Honored for Achievements

Jersey breeders from Parish 4 welcomed approximately 90 Jersey enthusiasts to Viroqua for the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association (WJBA). The event, held on March 3, 2018, at the Church of Christ, included a business meeting, awards banquet and post-meeting tour of the Jersey farm owned by the Rob Klinkner family of Viroqua.

Gordon Barlass, Janesville, received the Wisconsin Senior Breeder Award. The third-generation Jersey breeder operates Gil-Bar Jersey Farm with his wife, Michelle, and their son and daughter-in-law, Ryan and Kristy.



**Barlass**

The Barlasses exhibit their cattle as a pastime and a means of promoting the breeding program. Among their laurels are banners for both Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor and Grand Champion. A showing standout that was bred by Barlass is Gil-Bar Unique Bonnie, Excellent-94%, winner of the National Jersey Jug Futurity in 1984 and the first Jersey to be named Supreme Champion of World Dairy Expo two years later.

Barlass has been breeding Registered Jerseys for 47 years, focusing on type, production and longevity. Today, the 300-cow Registered Jersey herd has an appraisal average of 83.7% and includes 22 Excellent and 135 Very Good cows.

Off the farm, Barlass has served on committees for the Wisconsin State Jersey Show, the Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Show and World Dairy Expo. Three times, he has served on the All American Show Committee. The past 25 years, he has judged county and state fairs and coached



Donna Phillips was named Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year. Her husband, Dan Stock, and daughters, Erica and Emalee, helped her to celebrate the laurels. Their D&D Jerseys herd was also high herd for milk and protein. Herd member, DoDan Lauren Abe Laurel won the fat and protein divisions of the lifetime production contest.



Walter Owens, center, receives the Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award from AJCA President Chris Sorenson and Wisconsin Jersey Queen Crystal Noble.

youth football.

Walter Owens, Frederic, was given the Distinguished Service Award. He and his family operate Owens Farm Inc. The 650-cow Registered Jersey herd has been enrolled on REAP since its inception in 1995 and is a charter contributor to Project Equity.

Owens is the current vice president of the AJCA and has been a director since 2013. He sits on the Jersey sire committee for Select Sires and served two terms as president of the WJBA. He sat on the board of Polk-Burnett DHIA for three decades and served the organization 10 years as president. For nearly 40 years, he has been the county club's dairy judging coach. He was co-chair of the all-donation National Heifer Sale in 2011 and received the AJCC Young Jersey Breeder Award with his wife, Joyce, in 1989.

The Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year award was presented to Dr. Donna Phillips, Newton. She and her husband, Dan Stock operate D&D Jerseys.

Donna grew up on a Registered Jersey dairy farm in Illinois and moved to Wisconsin to pursue a career in veterinary medicine after she graduated from the University of Illinois in 1993. She met and then married Dan in 1997. The couple



Jerry and Phyllis Luttrupp receive awards on behalf of son, Jason, for ownership of a pair of cows that won awards for individual cow production. K&K Impact Olga made the state's top milk, protein and cheese yield records in 2017 and K&K Fanatic Love 2596 topped the milk division of the lifetime production contest. Queen Crystal Noble makes the presentation.



WJBA President Brian Barlass, right, presents the Wisconsin Junior Breeder Award to Austin Nauman.

purchased a farm two years later and began milking cows in 2002. They received the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder award in 2005.

D&D Jerseys has ranked among the top 10 herds in the nation for production each of the past 10 years. This year, the 80-cow herd ranks third for milk and protein and ninth (tie) for fat with a 2017 lactation average of 25,310 lbs. milk, 1,209 lbs. fat and 937 lbs. protein. The herd ranks #10 for genetic merit, with a herd average JPI of +76.

Donna is currently serving as a director for the WJBA.

Austin T. Nauman, Norwalk, received the Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeder award. He operates Smokin' Hot Genetics. He established his Jersey herd with three purchases from the Wisconsin State Sale in 2008. Today his herd of 16 head is managed with the herd at West Croix Genetics in New Richmond, where he is herdsman. His nine milking cows average 89%, with five appraised Excellent-90% or higher.

Among his favorite pastimes is showing. A highlight was showing Smokin Hot Lightning Strikes, Reserve Junior Champion of the All American Jersey Show and Supreme Junior Champion of the North American International Livestock Exposition in 2016. Another standout is Smokin Hot Rendition Letitia, Excellent-93%, who was named Best Bred and Owned in her classes at the International Jersey Show and the open and junior shows at the All American in 2015.

Down the road, Austin plans to begin an invitro fertilization program and begin consigning to Jersey sales.

He attended Jersey Youth Academy in 2015 and graduated from the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course in 2017. He served his local FFA chapter as president and treasurer and earned a gold award in his dairy entrepreneurship proficiency project in 2016. He was secretary of the West Beaver Creek 4-H Club and a member of the dairy judging and dairy bowl teams.

*(continued to page xx)*