

Awards Program Highlight of Wisconsin Meeting

Jersey breeders from Parish 8 hosted the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association (WJBA) on March 1, 2014, at Knox's Silver Valley Supper Club in Manitowoc. Members tended to organization business, honored adults and juniors for achievements and were treated to a tour of D & D Jerseys in Newton following the meeting.

The Senior Jersey Breeder award was presented to Don Mielke, who owns AmeriMilk Farm in Menasha. He is the fifth generation to operate the farm, which has been in the family since the late 1800s.



Mielke

The resident dairy herd was Brown Swiss until he was 12, when the cows were sold. Mielke missed tending the cattle, so purchased a handful of Guernsey cows two years later and then began buying registered Holsteins by the time he was 17. The herd was primarily Holstein until 1998, when he purchased his first Jersey calf from a fundraiser held by the Calumet County Holstein Breeders.

When he delved into the issue of fertility and longevity, he saw Jersey advantages and purchased two more heifers from the Top of the World Sale. Over the years, several other key foundation animals were purchased. Today, the herd is primarily high-component little brown cows, with 38 of the 54 stalls being occupied by Jersey cows. AmeriMilk Farm raises all its bull calves to fulfill A.I. contracts, merchandise locally as herd bulls, or for sales of Jersey beef.

The herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2013 lactation average of 21,711 lbs. milk, 1,157 lbs. fat and 779 lbs. protein on 30 cows. The fat mark ranks sixth in the nation among herds with 10-39 cows. The farm is home to nine Excellent and 27 Very Good cows (none lower) and has an appraisal average of 86.1%.

Mielke has developed several outstanding cow families over the years. One foundation purchase, Debcott Jades Tahoe, Excellent-92%, produced 22,000 lbs. milk, 1,391 lbs. fat and 798 lbs. protein at 4-1, which is a Hall of Fame record with 2,759 lbs. cheese yield. Her daughter, Ameri Milk Jace Tamara, is the highest appraised cow in the herd at Excellent-94%. She produced four Hall of Fame records and has lifetime totals



Outgoing Wisconsin Jersey Queen Julia Owens, right, and newly-crowned queen Miranda Randall.

of more than 150,000 lbs. milk to date. A pair of maternal sisters out of "Tamara's" maternal sister are both Excellent as well.

Mielke had a career in the dairy genetics field for 25 years. His last years were with USDA's Aglink program, where he taught the practice of artificially inseminating cows and promoted U.S. dairy genetics abroad. This work took him to 23 different countries across the globe.

He was named a Wisconsin Master Agriculturist by *Wisconsin Agriculturist* magazine in 2011 and earned the Progressive Breeders Registry award from the Holstein Association 10 times.

Julia Owens, Frederic, was named Junior Jersey Breeder. The daughter of Roger and Kimberly Owens is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin (UW)-River Falls majoring in dairy science. She was crowned Wisconsin Jersey Queen in 2013.

Owens is a fourth-generation Jersey breeder whose herd of five Registered Jerseys is managed with the family farm,



Owens

Owens Farm, in the northwestern corner of the state. Among her favorites is the oldest member of her milking herd, O.F. Thor Laurene, Excellent-93%. The nine-year-old is a three-time Junior All-Wisconsin winner and was Reserve Supreme Champion of the Polk County Fair in 2011. She has lifetime credits of 134,396 lbs. milk, 6,730 lbs. fat and 4,955 lbs. protein in 2,327 days.

Owens began showing cattle through the Little Britches program at the county fair at the age of six and has since exhibited at the Wisconsin State Fair, the International Jersey Show and The All American Junior Jersey Show. Owens has also been successful with Jersey steers at the county fair's competitive quality meats auction, which auctions steers hand-picked by the judge from all beef entries.

Owens is a member of the Indian Creek

4-H Club, the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and the UW-River Falls Dairy Club.

Dave Endres, Lodi, received the Distinguished Service Award. Endres and his family operate Endres Jazzy Jerseys, a Registered Jersey dairy that milks 700 cows and raises 600 Jersey beef steers.

Endres Jazzy Jerseys is enrolled on REAP and has a 2013 lactation average of 19,962 lbs. milk, 1,006 lbs. fat and 741 lbs. protein. The herd ranks among the top 25% of REAP herds for JPI with a herd average JPI of +71.

Endres and his late wife, Patty, started dairy farming with Holsteins in 1986 and purchased their first Jersey in 1990. The herd became all-Jersey in 1992.

Endres is the current president of National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ), a position he's held since 2009, and has served as director of the organization since 2002. The dairy was a tour stop for the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings hosted by the state in 2011.

He was a member of the Farm Bureau board of directors at the county level from 1991-2002 and is a state media contact on dairy and agricultural issues for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin. He served on the state's policy and development committee and chaired its dairy committee. Endres also sat on the agriculture advisory board for the Madison Area Technical College and sits on the board of Alto Cooperative.

Darice Riebe, Cumberland, was named Farm Woman of the Year. Darice and her husband, Roger, and their family operate Meadowridge Jerseys, a Registered Jersey herd of about 300 head which has been in the Riebe family since 1925.

Darice has been a vital part of the family business since she married into the Riebe family 38 years ago. She helps with morning and evening chores and feeds calves until they are 2-3 months old. She also registers all animals, handles transfer of ownership materials and gathers information for prospective cattle buyers. Darice is the go-to person for information about heifers in the outside pens. She does the farm bookkeeping and maintains and orders supplies. She is an integral part of the family's favorite pastime—showing cattle. Darice handles fair and futurity entries,



Riebes

(continued to page xx)

Wisconsin Meeting

(continued from page xx)

prepares the farm exhibit and cooks food for the family for seven shows each year, including The All American Jersey Show and the International Jersey Show.

The Riebes also operate a USDA-licensed kennel for about 40 adult dogs of five different breeds. Darice maintains all health and whelping records and keeps an accounting of individuals who made purchases, information which needs to be kept for five years to meet the requirements of the American Kennel Club, USDA and state and county inspectors.

Darice is also a proud grandmother to six granddaughters and babysits some of them five days a week.

Junior Awards

Miranda Randall of Soldiers Grove was crowned as the 2014 Wisconsin Jersey Queen. She also received a scholarship from the WJBA. The daughter of Robert and Marla Randall is a freshman at UW-Platteville majoring in animal science with a dairy emphasis. She belongs to the university's dairy club and is vice president of the Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeders Association (WJJB). She attended Jersey Youth Academy in 2013.

Randall and her family operate a 25-cow Registered Jersey dairy. The past five years, she has given non-farm youth the chance to experience the show ring by helping them to care for, prepare and show the farm's Jerseys at local shows and fairs. She has served her 4-H club as vice president, secretary and treasurer. She was senior class president and student government treasurer and a member of the National Honor Society. She mentored students through the Peer Assistance and Leadership and the Champions of Learning programs and also played softball and volleyball.

Sydney Endres of Lodi received the Steffanus Traveling Plaque for winning the senior youth achievement contest. The reigning National Jersey Queen also received a WJBA scholarship. The daughter of Dave Endres is a freshman at UW-Madison with a double major in dairy science and life science communications and a minor in Spanish.

Endres attended the second Jersey Youth Academy in 2011 and received the Bob Toole Youth Award in 2013. She served her local FFA chapter as treasurer and secretary and has been active in the organization's Food for America program. In high school, she was captain of the cross-country track and cross-country ski teams and played soccer. She was a class officer the last three years of school,

president of the student council and wrote for the school newspaper.

Janelle Remington of Juneau was named runner-up in the senior division of the youth achievement contest and received a WJBA scholarship as well. The daughter of Richard and Gail Remington is a freshman at UW-Madison majoring in dairy science.

Heifers from her herd of 22 Registered Jerseys are raised on the home farm; cows are milked and housed at a neighboring dairy farm.

Remington placed eighth in the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest in 2012, received the Jack C. Nisbet Scholarship in 2013 and attended the third Jersey Youth Academy.

She was high individual of the 4-H dairy judging contest at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show in 2011 and a member of the team that topped the FFA contest at World Dairy Expo the same year.

Remington has been president and vice president of her local FFA chapter and is a leader for the Richwood Rangers 4-H Club and the Dodge County 4-H Dairy Club.

Austin T. Nauman, Norwalk, won the intermediate division of the youth achievement contest and will receive either \$150 off the purchase of a calf from the Badger Treasure Sale or \$75 cash. Emma Olstad, Stoughton, was runner-up in the intermediate division and will receive either \$100 off the purchase of a calf from the Badger Treasure Sale or \$75 cash.

Jena Schoneck, Marion, won the junior division of the youth achievement contest and will receive a Registered Jersey heifer calf donated by Hallet Dairy Farm LLC, Casco. Emma Schoneck, Marion, was runner-up in the contest and received a show halter in memory of Louis Haeuser.

Jacob Leum, Viroqua, was given the Patty Endres Memorial Award. Leum attended the third class of Jersey Youth Academy and was an escort for the National Jersey Queen Contest held during festivities for the National Jersey Jug Futurity in November.

In addition to Randall, Endres and Remington, WJBA scholarships were awarded to Logan Voigts, Platteville, and Cole Hoyer, West Salem.

The Rainbow Dairy Trophy for the cow with the high protein record owned by a junior was given to Mayerlane Brown Cow Vivacious, owned by Frederick Ullom of



Leum

Bloomer. The Excellent-90% daughter of Forest Glen Avery Action-ET, GJPI +68, produced a 4-3 record of 27,523 lbs. milk, 1,581 lbs. fat and 1,123 lbs. protein (3x milking).

Cheyenne Hughey, Stitzer, won the 2014 Badger Treasure Production Contest with her entry, Orthridge Influence Albion. The Very Good-84% daughter of Galaxies Influence-ET, GJPI +62, produced a first lactation with an m.e. of 24,838-1,049-786 and a cheese yield of 2,712 lbs. to top the contest. Actual production for the 1-11 record is 21,280 lbs. milk, 896 lbs. fat and 665 lbs. protein (3x milking). "Albion" was consigned to the 2011 Badger Treasure Sale by Orthridge Farms, Lancaster.

Seth D. Hunt, Barron, placed second and Ryan T. Griswold, Ixonia, took third.

Production Awards

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

Tauchen Harmony Valley Inc., Bonduel, was high herd for milk with a 2013 herd average of 22,300 lbs. milk, 1,078 lbs. fat and 779 lbs. protein on 73 cows. Woodmohr Jerseys, Bloomer, topped its peers for fat with a herd average of 20,065 lbs. milk, 1,207 lbs. fat and 770 lbs. protein on 42 cows. Killian Jerseys, Blair, was high for protein with 21,216 lbs. milk, 1,108 lbs. fat and 882 lbs. protein on 24 cows.

Trescher Town-View Dairy, Cashton, was most improved for both milk and protein. The dairy owned by Annette and Steven Trescher increased the 2013 herd average by 2,362 lbs. milk and 107 lbs. protein versus 2012. The herd average stands at 19,289 lbs. milk, 909 lbs. fat and 689 lbs. protein on 28 cows.

The state's leading living lifetime production contest was topped by O.F. Mannix Kate, owned by Owens Farms Inc., Frederic. The Very Good-80% daughter of Rock Maple Brook Mannix, GJPI -21, has lifetime credits of 218,739 lbs. milk, 10,414 lbs. fat and 7,943 lbs. protein in 3,727 days and nine lactations. The 13-year-old freshened with her ninth calf in January 2013 and has four lactations in excess of 20,000 lbs. milk. She made her best record of 21,800 lbs. milk, 1,013 lbs. fat and 770 lbs. protein at 8-11.

The state's high 305-day record for milk and protein production for 2013 was produced by GR Waunakee Dale Petty 2333-ET, Excellent-90%. The daughter of PR Oomsdale Jace Gratit Garden-ET, GJPI +135, is owned by Gerald Laufenberg of Mount Horeb. She produced a 3-9 record of 33,230 lbs. milk, 1,752 lbs. fat

(continued to page xx)

Wisconsin Meeting

(continued from page xx)

and 1,200 lbs. protein (3x milking). The record ranks among the top 10 records in the nation for 2013 for every measure of production.

The fat record was produced by Norse Star Governor Finesse, owned by Derek Sokolowski and Wade Kessenich, de Forest. The Excellent-90% daughter of Griffens Governor-ET, GJPI -15, made a record of 25,830 lbs. milk, 2,082 lbs. fat and 966 lbs. protein (3x milking) at 3-0. The record was the high fat record in the nation for 2013.

Business Meeting

In the business meeting, members heard reports from the WJBA secretary and the audit and resolutions/acknowledgements committees and were brought up to-date on organization finances for the fiscal year 2013.

Lisa Pettis, co-editor of the *Wisconsin Jersey Booster*, encouraged breeders to send news from their parishes and fairs for the magazine.

Don Mielke spoke about the travel cost sharing program for juniors that was introduced last year. Stipends were given to seven juniors to help defray the cost of travel to Jersey events in 2013, including All American festivities in Louisville, Ky. An application can be downloaded from the WJBA website at <http://jerseysites.usjersey.com/wisconsinjerseys/Images/Documents/Junior%20Cost%20Sharing%20Program%20Application.pdf>.

The Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Show will be held on April 25 at the Vernon County Fairgrounds in Viroqua. The showmanship contest will be held the day before, on April 24. Mike Berry, Albany, Ore., will be the judge. The Wisconsin Jersey Futurity will be held in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Jersey Show at the Marshfield Fairgrounds on August 13. This year's class has 113 entries currently. Showmanship classes will be held the day before, on August 12.

Several guest speakers spoke about activities of the national Jersey organizations, including AJCA President Chris Sorenson, AJCA Director Walter Owens, NAJ Director Marion Barlass, NAJ General Manager Erick Metzger and AJCA Director of Field Service Kristin Paul.

Metzger talked about NAJ's work in promoting changes in the recent Farm Bill and outlined organization priorities for the next three years. He encouraged Jersey breeders to attend the upcoming AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings in Alexandria, Va., in June, noting the event will include an



Directors serving the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association include (front row, left to right) Lisa Pettis; Randy Hallet; Joyce Owens, secretary; Natalie Kessenich; Derek Orth, treasurer; (middle row) Mike Fremstad, president; Mark Ashmore; Bob Randall; Wade Schoneck; (back row) Jim Engel; Brandon Owens; Don Mielke, vice president; and Joe Stanek. Missing from the photo is Stephanie Hughes.

opportunity to visit Capitol Hill. Metzger also urged members to participate in the USJersey Sustainability Marketing Contest, which will announce awards at the meetings.

Paul reported on the Wisconsin State Sale, which will be an online sale for the second time this year. Bids will be accepted beginning April 28 and closed out on May 6 beginning at 1:30 p.m. The event will also include the Badger Treasure Sale for juniors. Paul spoke about the benefits of having an online sale versus a live animal sale.

Other guests included Carol Curtis, a reporter from the Wisconsin State Farmer, and queen contest judges, Diane L. Bonde of Kiel and Brenda Moyer of Souderton, Pa.

Officers elected to serve the WJBA in 2013 were: Mike Fremstad, Westby, president; Don Mielke, vice president; Joyce Owens, Frederic, secretary; and Derek Orth, Lancaster, treasurer. Randy Hallet, Casco, and Joe Stanek, North Branch, Minn., were elected to serve as at-large directors and Jim Engel, Kewaunee, was elected to serve Parish 8.

Officers elected to serve the junior club were: Jacob Leum, president; Miranda Randall, vice president; and Sydney Endres, secretary/treasurer.

Next year's meeting will be hosted by Parish 1 in Marshfield.