

Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Honored

Wisconsin Jersey breeders from Parish 2 hosted the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association (WJJB) on March 5, 2016, at the Comfort Inn & Suites Madison North in DeForest. Members tended to organization business, honored junior and senior Jersey breeders and socialized with their peers.

John Selin of Viroqua was presented with the 2015 Wisconsin Senior Jersey Breeder Award. Selin grew up on the family Holstein farm and received his first Jersey from his father as a 4-H project. When Selin started his own dairy, he opted to milk Jerseys.

At one point, the Selin herd included four Excellent-95% cows. Over the years, Selin has exhibited a number of tanbark trail winners, including three All Americans, three Reserve All Americans, a pair of All-Canadians and three Reserve All-Canadians. He has also partnered with several other Jersey breeders on show champions. Among them was Gaymar Imperial Lorna, Excellent-96%, the highest appraised cow to reside at Selin Farm, purchased with Stuart Johnson in 1999. "Lorna" was twice named Grand Champion at the Wisconsin Spring Extravaganza Show. She also was Grand Champion at the state fair and earned laurels of overall production champion three times with records over 1,200 lbs. fat.

Another home-bred standout was J Imperial Sonata, who, at one time held the distinction of being the highest-priced Jersey to sell at auction. "Sonata" was named All-Canadian Senior Two-Year-Old in 1995 and earned Reserve All-Canadian honors in 1996 and 1998.

Selin has been a board member of the WJJB and also served the organization two years as president. He sat on the DHIA board and represented Jersey



John Selin was named Wisconsin Senior Jersey Breeder. He is congratulated by 2015 Wisconsin Jersey Princess Allison Foster, left, and 2015 Wisconsin Jersey Queen Kaitla Wussow.

breeders on the show committee for World Dairy Expo.

Chris Sorenson of Pine River received the Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award. He is serving his fourth term as president of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and also served his state association as president, vice president and director. He co-chaired the National Heifer Sale in 1987 and again in 2011 when it was an all-donation event for Jersey Youth Academy. Sorenson has been town chair the past 14 years and served on the local school board for 13 years.

Sorenson received the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder Award in 1982 and the Wisconsin Senior Breeder Award in 2003.

Sorenson and his family operate Sorenson's Hillview Jersey Farm, which has been in his family since 1929. Though the milking herd was dispersed in October 2015, the Sorensens continue to raise heifers at the farm.

Hillview Jersey Farm is a charter member of REAP and Dairyland Jersey Sires and has contributed to Equity for more than two decades. The Sorensens consign to leading sales, including the National Heifer Sale, the All American Jersey Sale and the Pot O'Gold Sale, and also regularly support the Wisconsin State Sale and



Outgoing Wisconsin Jersey Queen Kaitlin Artac, right, congratulates the new Jersey queen, Kaila Wussow, left, and the new Jersey princess, Allison Foster.

the Badger Treasure Sale with consignments. Several members of their "Keylime-P" cow family have topped elite sales in recent years.

Robin Krueger-Kessenich of DeForest was named Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year. She and her husband, Jeff, farm 820 acres and operate Kessenich Farms LLC and Jeff-Ro Dairy, a mixed herd of 300 Holstein and 175 Jersey cows. The herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2015 lactation average of 20,068 lbs. milk, 1,169 lbs. fat and 740 lbs. protein.

In materials for her nomination, her family wrote, "Our mother is the heartbeat of the farm and family. On a farm, there always needs to be that one person who stays back from the shows, events or meeting to run the farm. That person is our mother. We call her 'Chief' because she holds us all together and is the one we all go to for advice or assistance, especially when it comes to farming." Amongst a myriad of other responsibilities, Robin raises the calves, manages the herd health program, oversees milking parlor procedures, supervises employees and keeps the farm books. Robin is the one who wakes up in the middle of the night to check on cows in the maternity pens or stays up late to pay bills and get paperwork ready for herd health checks in the morning.

It was her passion for Jerseys that laid the groundwork for the breed at Jeff-Ro Dairy today. There was always at least one Jersey cow in the herd, and, when her children started showing and expressed interest in brown cows, the Jersey herd was expanded.

The Kessenich family has hosted several events at Jeff-Ro Dairy over the years, including a tour of the operation after this year's WJJB annual meeting. This year, the dairy also donated the calf given to the winner of the junior division of the state's youth achievement contest.

Off the farm, Robin is involved with the DeForest FFA Alumni, Dairy Farmers of America and the Women in Ag mentor-

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Robin Krueger-Kessenich, center, was named Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year. Family members on hand to help celebrate were, back row left to right, Jacey Kessenich with Kenley Kessenich, Wade Kessenich with Paisley Kessenich, Nicki and Adam Hebgen, Jeff Kessenich, Natalie Kessenich, and, front row, Ava, Ivy and Ela Hebgen.



Chris Sorenson, center, accepts the Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award with his wife, Cheryl, at his left, and their family. Pictured left to right are daughter Hannah Williams with her son Leo; daughter-in-law and son, Lisa and Mike Sorenson; and daughter Rebecca Gerloff with sons Carson and Tucker, front.

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ship group sponsored by Monsanto. She is vice president of the Columbia County DHIA Board and assists with registrations at South Central Wisconsin Tractor Pullers. She serves on the funeral committee for St. Alberts Church and is a former dairy leader for 4-H. Robin was very involved with the registration function of the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings in 2011.

Robin passed her Jersey leadership qualities to her children as well. Her eldest daughter, Nicki, was crowned National Jersey Queen in 2003 and her youngest daughter, Natalie, has served the WJJBA as director. Son Wade was a member of the inaugural Jersey Youth Academy in 2009. Both Natalie and Wade are working at the home farm.

Kaila Wussow, Cecil, was named Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeder and also crowned as the new Wisconsin Jersey Queen. She also topped the senior division of the state's youth achievement contest, received the Patti Endres Memorial Award and an additional scholarship from the WJJBA. The daughter of Ron and Nicolle Wussow is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, majoring in dairy science and agriculture marketing communications and minoring in agriculture business. She plans to return to the farm as the fifth generation to operate Milk-N-More Farms.

Her Registered Jersey herd of 29 head—25 home-bred and four purchased—is managed with the family's mixed herd of Jerseys and Holsteins. Kaila feeds, tags and registers calves, administers vaccinations and medications and does relief milkings, among other chores. She has lent a hand with herd matings and the embryo transfer program and recently had in-vitro fertilization performed on one of her elite type animals. She has sold animals privately and through consignment sales across North America.

Kaila is active in local 4-H club and FFA chapter, serving every office in the former and chairing several committees of the later. She was a member of dairy quiz bowl and dairy management teams that topped the state contest and competed at the Pennsylvania All-American and North American International Livestock Exposition last fall. In 2013, she earned the George Barlass Herdsman Award for sportsmanship at the state fair. In 2015, she won the national FFA dairy entrepreneurship proficiency award.

Wussow has also earned awards with her cattle. In 2013, she exhibited the Reserve Supreme Champion Bred and



2015 Wisconsin Jersey Queen Kaitlin Artac, left, presents scholarships to Julia Owens, Allison Foster and Kaila Wussow. Not pictured is Ashley Oberreich.

Owned at the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Show, Kailas Fame, a granddaughter of the calf she received as a gift for her first birthday. She topped the 2007 National Jersey Youth Production Contest and the 2008 Pot O'Gold Production Contest with Ahlem Jace Charm 15069-ET and won the Pot O'Gold contest again in 2011 with Rocha Iatola Whistle-ET.

Allison Foster of Portage was crowned as the Wisconsin Jersey Princess, placed second in the senior division of the youth achievement contest and received a WJJBA scholarship. The daughter of Tammy and Kevin Foster is a freshman at Ripon College majoring in biology. After graduation, she plans to enroll in the veterinary school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Foster's interest in Jerseys came by way of her father, who grew up on a Jersey farm. She has been showing Jerseys since she was five. Today, she and her brother, Jarrett, co-own about 15 head of Registered Jerseys, which are managed with the herd at Lowland Legacy Jerseys in Juneau.

Foster was a member of the third Jersey Youth Academy and still uses information she learned in the class three years later. She belongs to 4-H and FFA and is active with showing and dairy judging. Among her show highlights are exhibiting Shady Space Mason Pandora to Grand Champion honors at the district show in 2012.

In high school, Foster was a member of the student council, worked on the yearbook and earned the principal's award her senior year. She is now a member of the Ripon College equestrian team.

Both Wussow and Foster will compete in the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest, with winners announced this fall.

Junior Awards

In addition to Wussow and Foster, several other juniors were recognized for achievements.

Holly Oberreich of Plymouth placed first in the intermediate division of the youth achievement contest. Whitney

Weisensel of Waunakee placed second.

Alane Artac, Greenwood, topped the junior division of the youth achievement contest and will receive the Registered Jersey calf donated by Kessenich Farms LLC. Willow Oehmichen, Abbotsford, earned the Lois Haeuser Memorial Award for placing second in the junior contest. She will receive a show halter in memory of the award's namesake.

Scholarships from the WJJBA were also presented to Ashley Oberreich of Plymouth and Julia Owens of Frederic.

India Tauchen, Bonduel, won the Rainbow Dairy LLC High Protein Award for ownership of the high protein cow owned by a junior. GR THVI Allstar Bonnie 7924{5} produced a 2-9 record of 23,400 lbs. milk, 1,339 lbs. fat and 972 lbs. protein in 300 days (3x milking). The Desirable-78% daughter of Sunset Canyon Anthems Allstar, GJPI +71, has a GJPI of +132. Tauchen received another first-place certificate and two second-place certificates in the youth contest for individual cow production based on age.

Other juniors to receive awards in the youth production contest were Julia Owens; Hannah and Frederick Ullom of Bloomer; Colin Wussow of Cecil; and Kaila Wussow.

Tristan Vukosich, Menasha, won the 2016 Badger Treasure Production Contest with Ameri-Milk Time Sally 184. The Very Good-80% daughter of Lencrest On Time-ET, GJPI +8, produced a first lactation with an m.e. of 23,013-1,306-932 and 3,228 lbs. cheese at 1-11 to top the contest. She was consigned to the Badger Treasure Sale in 2013 by Don Mielke, also of Menasha.

Junior All-Wisconsin Awards were distributed to seven juniors, with Alleah Anderson of Cumberland and Julia Owens receiving two awards each. Other juniors earning awards were Bryce Hughes of Pittsville; Willow Oehmichen; Iris Quinlan of Merrillan; Janelle Remington of Juneau; and Hannah and Frederick Ullom. Production Awards

Senior Jersey breeders were also recognized for production achievements based on herd averages and individual cow production by age.

For the second year, All-Lynn Jerseys, owned by David Allen of Reedsburg, was the top herd for milk and protein. The 76 cows have a 2015 herd average of 24,118 lbs. milk, 1,119 lbs. fat and 850 lbs. protein. Cows are housed at Ryan Dairy, owned by Tim and Ann Ryan, and managed with the Holstein herd at the farm in Plain.

All-Lynn Jerseys also took home the

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certificate for the state's high-producing milk cow for 2015. GR Seacord Farm Gannon Mallory{3}, Excellent-90%, produced a 4-6 record of 35,640 lbs. milk, 1,588 lbs. fat and 1,208 lbs. protein (3x milking). She is sired by PR Oomsdale Jace Gratude Gannon{2}-ET, GJPI +87. Allen purchased her from Richard T. Seacord, Greenwich, N.Y., in The All American Jersey Sale in 2010.

Her herdmate, All Lynns Dimension Venetta-ET, won the award for high genetic merit. The Very Good-83% daughter of Sunset Canyon Dimension-ET, GJPI +195, ranks #45 in the national today with a GJPI of +216 (April 2016) and made a first lactation with an m.e. of 27,775-1,404-1,020 at 2-2.

Woodmohr Jerseys, Bloomer, was the high herd for fat with a 2015 herd average of 20,298 lbs. milk, 1,208 lbs. fat and 775 lbs. protein on 43 cows.

The dairy also won the award for the lifetime production cow. MJ Candy DC Godiva, Excellent-95%, has lifetime credits of 284,637 lbs. milk, 15,027 lbs. fat and 11,096 lbs. protein in 5,857 days and 12 lactations. The 19-year-old is sired by Duncan Chief, GJPI -24, and made her best record of 21,180 lbs. milk, 1,081 lbs. fat and 771 lbs. protein at 12-8.

Stephan Jerseys of Elkhorn, owned by Dan and Shari Strickhouser, saw the greatest increase in milk and protein production for 2015 versus 2014 with an additional 3,442 lbs. milk and 128 lbs. protein in the herd average.

The final production award was earned by Robin Kessenich-Krueger with Budjon-Vail-Sloan Georgianna. The Very Good-86% daughter of Bridon Remake Comerica-ET, GJPI -139, produced the state's high record for components and cheese yield during 2015. At 6-9, she made 35,500 lbs. milk, 2,074 lbs. fat, 1,270 lbs. protein and 4,391 lbs. cheese yield (3x milking). The milk wagon also produced a stellar record in her fourth lactation, with 36,840 lbs. milk, 2,146 lbs. fat and 1,302 lbs. protein, which ranks first for fat among cows 5-9 years old on the national class leader list and also ranks for cheese yield and milk.

Business Meeting

Members heard from a number of dairy industry specialists, including the guest speaker, Richard Smith, Jersey sire analyst for ABS Global Inc. and recipient of the 2014 AJCA-NAJ Award for Meritorious Service. The focus of Smith's presentation was finding profitable opportunities in challenging times.

AJCA President Chris Sorenson and NAJ Director Marion Barlass brought the group up-to-speed on activities of the national Jersey organizations and Ray Kuelh spoke about the Wisconsin Purebred Dairy Cattle Association.

Bill Maness, Stitzer, talked about the Wisconsin history book, "*Jerseys in America's Dairyland—A Rich History and a Bright Future*," which is scheduled to debut at the WJJBA annual meeting next year. Jersey producers who breed Jersey cattle now, have in the past or are new to the breed are encouraged to submit information to Maness by October 16, 2016, to be included in the project.

Members were made aware of dates and details for upcoming Jersey events. The Wisconsin State Jersey Sale will be conducted entirely online again, with bidding opening through JerseyBid.com on May 2 and closing on May 10. The Wisconsin State Jersey Show and Futurity will be held on July 29 at a new venue, the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. This year, the show will be held in conjunction with the state Holstein and Red and White shows. The Jack Gorski Memorial Award will be awarded at this event.

Officers elected to serve the WJJBA in 2016 were Brian Barless, Janesville, president; Don Mielke, Menasha, vice president; and Joyce Owens, Frederic, secretary-treasurer. Joe Stanek was elected to serve his second two-year term as director-at-large; Abby Tauchen was elected to serve her first term. Other breeders serving as directors are Wayne Artac, Greenwood; Debbie Ashmore, Boscobel; Rodney Hodgson, Shawano; Rob Klinkner, Viroqua; Hayden Kyle, Elkhorn; Linda Owens, Frederic; Lisa Pettis, Osseo; and Donna Phillips, Newton. Ashmore is also serving as junior advisor.

Juniors gathered for their annual meeting as well. Among the awards they agreed to fund are three class winners at the International Jersey Show in Madison and one at The All American Junior Jersey Show in Louisville, Ky. Juniors will also provide awards for class winners at the Wisconsin State Fair and a lump sum to the Wisconsin State Jersey Show. The junior club also provides shirts for junior exhibitors at the Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Show, contributes to funding of shirts at the state show and sponsors awards for Junior All-Wisconsin and youth production awards at the annual meeting. This year, juniors will sponsor the Association of Women in Agriculture Breakfast on the Farm with the senior club as well.

Juniors are encouraged to participate in the cost-sharing program established by the senior club to defray costs for travel to

The All American in November. Last year, five juniors participated, including Alleah Anderson; Ashley and Holly Oberreich; Kal Randall of Soldiers Grove; and Janelle Remington.

Several functions were orchestrated at the meeting to raise funds for the junior club. A dessert auction cried by Rodney Hodgson raised \$835 and a raffle generated \$350. Juniors will also sponsor a silent auction at the state show to raise funds for the club.

Officers elected to serve the junior club in 2016 were Kaila Wussow, president; Colin Wussow, Cecil, vice president; and Samantha Schuessler, Antiago, secretary.

The WJJBA annual meeting in 2017 will be held March 4 at the Deer Valley Lodge in Barneveld.