

Awards Banquet Highlight Wisconsin Meeting

Jersey breeders from the Badger State met for the annual meeting of their state Jersey organization on March 4, 2017. The event was hosted by Jersey breeders from Parish 3 at the Deer Valley Lodge in Barneveld. Members tended to organization business, honored their peers and watched virtual tours of 10 Jersey herds across the state.

Ralph and Becky Levzow of Rio were presented with the Wisconsin Breeder of the Year award. They operate Levzow Dairy Farm with their son, Kenneth, a full-time employee, and daughter and son-in-law, Amanda and Ryan Seichter, a pair of agriculture teachers and FFA advisors who lend a hand when they can. The 180-cow milking string is half Jersey and half Holstein. The family also farms 875 acres and raises Jersey steers that are marketed locally and to a packing plant in Green Bay. The Jersey herd has a rolling herd average of 17,689 lbs. milk, 846 lbs. fat and 644 lbs. protein.

Red Rock Jerseys was established in 1996 with the purchase of six Jersey heifers from fellow Wisconsin Jersey breeder James Peterson of Kewaskum as youth projects for their children, Amanda and Kenneth. Additional foundation purchases were made from other breeders and the Wisconsin State Jersey Sale.

Levzow Dairy Farm hosted the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association (WJBA) summer picnic in 2002 and a sire daughter tour for Accelerated Genetics in 2013. The Levzows also recently opened the dairy to students enrolled in the capstone program at the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison, which integrates coursework learning with real-life experience.

The Levzows are also active off the farm. Ralph has served as director for the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association (WJBA). Becky has served the club as treasurer. A highlight was their involvement with the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings hosted by Wisconsin in 2011, where



Marla Randall was honored with the Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year award. She celebrated the honor with her family, including husband, Robert, and two of her children, Miranda and Kalen. Daughter Morgan was unable to attend.

they helped with planning, fundraising, registration and childcare, operated the grilled cheese sandwich stand at the National Heifer Sale and provided ice cream at All-Lynn Jerseys. Ralph has also served Columbia County Farm Bureau and Columbia County DHI as director and president and Foremost Farms USA and Ag Source Cooperative as director. Becky has been active with the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin. She is a sonographer with Meriter Hospital in Madison.

Lloyd Heinz, Shawano, received the Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award. Heinz has served on the board of the WJBA and regularly supports Jersey sales, consigning his best to sales such as The All American Jersey Sale, the Pot O'Gold Sale, the National Heifer Sale and the Wisconsin State Sale, and also buying elite genetics on a frequent basis.

His herd of Registered Jerseys is managed with the Holstein and crossbred herd at Tauchen Harmony Valley in Bonduel, where he helps with all mating decisions and other farm chores. The former police officer launched his career as a dairy producer in 1983, when he began purchasing Holstein genetics with Gary Tauchen. Jersey genetics were added in 2000 when the Tauchens said they could get a Jersey to produce 20,000 lbs. milk and Heinz bet



Wisconsin Jersey Queen Allison Foster and Wisconsin Jersey Princess Crystal Noble present the Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award to Lloyd Heinz, a long-time supporter of the Wisconsin Jersey breeders and their youth programs.

they couldn't. His first purchase, Hillview Barber Barshu {6}, from the Top of the World Sale, proved the doubter wrong and paved the way for future brown cows when she produced more than 24,000 lbs. milk in her first lactation and made a subsequent record over 30,000 lbs. milk.

Today, the 67-cow herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2016 lactation average of 20,642 lbs. milk, 1,042 lbs. fat and 761 lbs. protein. Heinz Jerseys ranks #10 in the country for genetic merit with a herd average JPI of +68 (April 2017). Ninety-eight percent of the milking string has been genotyped. Several bulls have been placed in A.I., including JX Milk-N-More-LH Lou Gerry {3}-ET, GJPI +49.

Allison Foster, Portage, received the Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeder of the Year award and was crowned as the Wisconsin Jersey Queen. Foster's interest in Jerseys came through her father, who grew up on a Jersey farm, and uncle, who handed her the lead of a show calf when she was five. Hooked on showing, she borrowed heifers for the fair, saved her money and purchased her own Registered Jersey at the age of 12.

Today, she owns a herd of 16 head in partnership with her brother, Jarrett, that are managed with the herd at Lowland Legacy Jerseys in Juneau. Showing continues to be a favorite pastime. In 2015,



Ralph and Becky Levzow receive the Jersey Breeders of the Year award from Wisconsin Jersey Queen Allison Foster.



Junior club advisor Debbie Ashmore presents the Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeder of the Year award to Allison Foster.



Allison Foster, left, was crowned as the new Wisconsin Jersey queen and Crystal Noble was named Wisconsin Jersey Princess.

she showed the Reserve Supreme Champion of the Marquette County Fair, Over-Dose Chirps Renegade Chorus {3}, and the Reserve Grand Champion of the Columbia County Fair, Brokenbrick Surefire Biloxi. Allison is also a regular exhibitor at the International Jersey Show, the Wisconsin State Fair and the Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Show.

Allison has served as secretary of the Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeders Association (WJJB). She attended Jersey Youth Academy in 2013 and earned the inaugural Anne E. Perchard Challenge Award in 2016.

She is a sophomore at Ripon College and plans to transfer to UW-Platteville this fall to study dairy science. She then plans to enroll in the veterinary school at UW-Madison to pursue a career as a large animal veterinarian.

Crystal Noble, Viroqua, will serve on the court with Foster as the Wisconsin Jersey Princess.

Marla Randall, Soldiers Grove, was named Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year. She and her husband, Robert, and their family own a Registered Jersey herd. Though she also works full-time off the farm, she has milks the cows every day, even in trying economic times, because her children aren't yet ready to give up their cows. She has supported her children's efforts in the show ring and school functions, teaching them how to become independent by learning how to do things on their own.

Junior Awards

Several other awards were presented to juniors as well. In addition to her Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeder award and Wisconsin Jersey Queen laurels, Allison Foster was named winner of the youth achievement contest and the Patti Endres Memorial Award and received a scholarship from the WJJB.



Winners in the lifetime production contest were Walter Owens, left, representing Owens Farms Inc., and Don Mielke. Owens' entry, O.F. Rocket Neva, won the milk division with 209,777 lbs. milk. Mielke's entry, Ameri Milk Jace Tamara, topped the fat and protein divisions with 13,283 lbs. fat and 8,610 lbs. protein.



Jersey breeders on hand to receive parish production awards were Ron Wussow, representing Milk-N-More Jerseys; Natalie Kessenich for Kessenich Farms LLC; Derek Orth for Orthridge Farms; Tommy Allen for All-Lynn Jerseys; Donna Phillips for D & D Jerseys; Walter Owens for Owens Farms Inc.; and Jacob Leum for Leum Jerseys. D & D Jerseys was the overall production leader.

Samantha Schuessler, Antigo, placed second in the achievement contest, received a WJJB scholarship and won the Rainbow Dairy LLC High Protein Award with Pine Prairie Legal Deena. The Excellent-91% daughter of Tollenaars Impuls Legal 233-ET, GJPI +66, produced an actual 305-day record of 28,360 lbs. milk, 1,231 lbs. fat and 964 lbs. protein (3x milking) at 3-3 to win the contest.

In the intermediate division of the youth achievement contest, Sophie Larson of Reedsburg placed first while Jarret Foster took second place.

Charlie Tauchen, Bonduel, won the junior division of the youth achievement contest. He will receive a Registered Jersey calf donated by Orthridge Jerseys of Lancaster.

Jaylenn Artac, Greenwood, placed second in the junior division. She receives a show halter in memory of Lois Haeuser.

Scholarship awards were also given to Ashley Oberreich of Plymouth and Kaila Wussow of Cecil.

Production Awards

Awards for herd averages and individual cow production were also distributed.

D & D Jerseys, Newton, was the state's leading milk producer with a 2016 herd average of 22,545 lbs. milk, 1,114 lbs. fat and 855 lbs. protein on 83 cows. The dairy owned by Donna Phillips and Dan Stock also ranks second in the nation for milk and protein and third for fat for its 2016 lactation average of 25,637 lbs. milk, 1,251 lbs. fat and 956 lbs. protein. D & D Jerseys also earned milked the largest number of cows to produce Hall of Fame records in 2016 at 19.

Killian Jerseys, owned by Steve and Amanda Killian of Blair, led its peers for

components with a 2016 herd average of 21,948 lbs. milk, 1,189 lbs. fat and 861 lbs. protein on 39 cows.

GM Sandhill Jerseys, owned by Gary and Michelle Popp, was the most improved herd for milk and protein yield, with a 2016 herd average that bettered the average for 2015 by 2,013 lbs. milk and 70 lbs. protein.

Jason Luttrupp, Berlin, received the award for ownership of the high-producing cow for milk, protein and cheese yield for 2016. K&K Impact Olga, Excellent-90%, made a 3-11 record of 36,170 lbs. milk, 1,749 lbs. fat and 1,304 lbs. protein, with a cheese yield equivalent of 4,509 lbs. She is sired by Dutch Hollow Impact-ET, GJPI +25.

Robin Krueger of Kessenich Farms LLC in De Forest took home the award for high fat producer with Jeff-Ro Iatola Godiva, Excellent-90%. The daughter of SC Gold Dust Paramount Iatola-ET, GJPI +23, made a record of 28,120 lbs. milk, 1,940 lbs. fat and 981 lbs. protein at 5-6. In the lifetime production contest, O.F. Rocket Neva, owned by Owens Farms Inc., Frederic, won the division for milk production. The Very Good-85% daughter of O.F. Barber Rocket, GJPI -1, has lifetime credits of 209,777 lbs. milk, 8,653 lbs. fat and 7,708 lbs. protein in 3,288 days. The 12-year-old has 10 lactations—six of them over 20,000 lbs. milk—and a best record of 5-4 305 24,820 3.8% 955 3.5% 875.

Ameri Milk Jace Tamara, owned by Don Mielke, Menasha, topped the contest for lifetime fat and protein production with 204,730 lbs. milk, 13,283 lbs. fat and 8,601 lbs. protein in 3,343 days. She is an Excellent-94% daughter of Windy Willow

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Montana Jace {6}, GJPI +29, with seven lactations—five of them over 20,000 lbs. milk. The 12-year-old made her best record of 24,870 lbs. milk, 1,548 lbs. fat and 1,005 lbs. protein at 7-10.

In the junior production contest, Colin Wussow, Cecil, took home four certificates. His sister, Kaila, received three certificates. Other juniors to place were India Tauchen of Bonduel and Julia Owens of Frederic.

Business Meeting

In the business meeting, Jersey breeders heard from Chris Sorenson, president of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and Marion Barlass, director for National All-Jersey Inc.

Jersey breeders were reminded about the Wisconsin Jersey Futurity, which will be held in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Jersey Show on July 10 in Madison. The judge will be Callum McKiven, Canton de Hatley, Que. Members were also made aware of a new all-breeds futurity that will be held with the Wisconsin State Fair beginning in 2019.

Officers elected to serve the WJBA in 2017 were Brian Barlass, Janesville, president; Donna Phillips, vice president; and Joyce Owens, Frederic, secretary-treasurer. New directors included Brian Barlass and Gerald Laufenberg, Mount Horeb.

Wisconsin juniors also held a meeting, with guest speaker Dr. Christine Kohlman, with the Shireman Veterinary Clinic in Richland Center. They discussed sponsorships for upcoming events and voted to appropriate funds or prizes for several shows, including The All American Junior Jersey Show and the annual Breakfast on the Farm sponsored by the Association of Women in Agriculture at UW-Madison. Elected to serve the junior club this year were Colin Wussow, president, Allison Foster, vice president, and Jarrett Foster, secretary-treasurer. Debbie Ashmore, Boscobel, will continue to serve as the junior club's advisor.

Wisconsin juniors again held their popular dessert auction and a 50/25/25 drawing to raise funds for future activities.

Next year's WJBA annual meeting will be hosted by Parish 4 in Viroqua on March 3, 2018.