

## Owens, Fremstad, Peterson and Brown Honored at Wisconsin Meeting

Wisconsin Jersey breeders took opportunity to break from a seemingly endless winter and near-record snowfall to honor achievements made by some of their own on March 7, 2009. The annual meeting of the state Jersey organization, hosted by Parish 2 at the Johnstown Community Center near Janesville, also featured a business meeting and industry updates from several guests.

Among the guests was Ted Halbach from the University of Wisconsin, who shared news about activities of the university and talked about changes made to the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association scorecard. Other guests were Randy Thompson from the Rock County Extension Service, Ashley Huibregtse, the reigning Alice in Dairyland, and representatives of the national Jersey organizations, who collectively relayed accomplishments for the breed's record performance in 2008. The breed delegation included AJCA Director Chris Sorenson, NAJ Directors, Marion Barlass and Dave Endres, and AJCA-NAJ Field Service Coordinator Kristin Paul.

In the awards ceremony, Wilfred Owens, Frederic, was named as the Wisconsin Jersey Breeder of the Year. Owens operates Owens Farms Inc., a REAP herd of 700 milking cows and 650 replacement heifers, with his wife, Linda, his father, Harold, and his brothers, Walter and Roger, and their wives.

Of the 17 bulls that Owens Farms has sent to progeny test programs since 1998, a baker's dozen have been returned to active A.I. service. Included in this group are O.F. Barber Rocket, O.F. Mannix Rebel-ET and O.F. Montana Saber-ET, who have sired a combined total of more than 19,000 registered progeny. Owens Farms is a routine exhibitor at the Wisconsin and Minnesota State Fairs, the Wisconsin State Show, the Wisconsin Spring Spectacular, World Dairy Expo and The All American Jersey Show. The farm bred and exhibited O.F. Lester Ladyslipper, Excellent-94%, who was Grand Champion of The All American Junior Jersey Show in 1996 and Premier Performance Winner of The All American Jersey Show in 1996 and 1998.

Owens has been an AJCA Director and member of the All American Show and Sale Committee. Owens Farms has contributed to Project Equity since 1980 and is a donor to the AJCC Research Foundation. Wilfred and Linda received the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder Award in 1987 and



Jaclyn Peterson, left, was crowned as the 2009 Wisconsin Jersey Queen and Kari Knuth was named 2009 Wisconsin Jersey Princess.



Pat Peterson, front right, was presented with the award for the Wisconsin Jersey Woman of the Year. With her are husband, Dean, and daughters, Jackie, back left, and Alana.

Wilfred was presented with the Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

Danielle Brown, Dodgeville, was named as the Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeder of the Year. The daughter of Mark and Angela Brown, Ma-Brown Jerseys, owns nine Registered Jerseys and has shown five Junior All-Wisconsin winners in her show career. Brown is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in dairy science, with plans to double major in life science communications or political science. This past fall, she won the William A. Russell Memorial Scholarship.

The Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award was given to Mike Fremstad, Westby. Fremstad was recognized for his years of service to the local, state and national Jersey organizations. Most recently, Fremstad served two terms as AJCA Director for District 10.

Pat Peterson, Viroqua, earned the organization's award for Jersey Woman of the Year. Peterson and her husband, Dean, and their daughters, Jackie and Alana, operate Peterson Jerseys in west central Wisconsin. Though she works full-time off the farm as Director of the Vernon County Unit on Aging, she is the first to arrive in the barn in the morning and the last to leave at night. Content with responsibilities behind the scenes rather than in the spotlight, Peterson has



Danielle Brown received the Wisconsin Junior Jersey Breeder Award and earned a \$250 scholarship from the organization as well.



The Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award was given to Mike Fremstad. Receiving the award with Fremstad are wife, Merna, and granddaughter, Grace.

worked in the food stand at the Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Show and helped juniors serve food at the accompanying sale for many years. Peterson has also been a 4-H leader, judged many county fairs and organized sewing, knitting and crocheting workshops for juniors and quilting workshops for adults.

Production achievements were also recognized for herd averages and individual production in 10 age categories. Hallet Dairy Farm LLC, Casco, received the award for high milk production. The herd owned by Randy and Julia Hallet has a 2008 herd average of 22,801 lbs. milk, 980 lbs. fat and 738 lbs. protein on 38 cows. Killian Jerseys, owned by Steve and Amanda Killian, Blair, was presented with the award for high protein production, with a herd average of 20,797 lbs. milk, 1,071 lbs. fat and 821 lbs. protein on 32 cows. Milk-n-More Jerseys, owned by Ron and Nicolle Wussow, Cecil, took honors for high fat herd. The herd of 53 cows has a 2008 herd average of 22,395 lbs. milk, 1,129 lbs. fat and 758 lbs. protein (3x milking).

The herd owned by Tim Bowers, Marion, made the state's most significant gains in milk and protein production over the previous year's marks. The Jersey herd increased its production by 3,821 lbs. milk and 134 lbs. protein in 2008 as

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compared to 2007.

D&E Paramount Violet, owned by David Allen, Reedsburg, was again named as the state's high cow for Jersey Performance Index (JPI). The Very Good-88% daughter of Rock Ella Paramount-ET, JPI +158\*, carried a JPI of +310 after the January 2009 genetic evaluations and was ranked fourth nationally. Allen's herd of All-Lynn Jerseys was also the state's top herd for the index, with an average JPI of +126 (January 2009) on 64 cows.

In the junior awards program, Michelle Owens, Frederic, was presented with a trophy and \$250 cash award for winning the Wisconsin Youth Achievement Award. Wade Kessenich, de Forest, placed second in the contest and earned a \$150 cash award. Both youth will represent the state in the 2008 National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest.

Sean Brown, Dodgeville, won the achievement award in the junior division of the contest and received a Registered Jersey calf donated by Shari Strickhouser, Elkorn. Kaila Wussow, Cecil, placed second in the junior division and received a show halter.

Jaelyn A. Peterson, Viroqua, was crowned as the new Wisconsin Jersey Queen. Kari Knuth, Osseo, will reign with her as Wisconsin Jersey Princess.

Scholarship awards were given to Danielle Brown, Wade Kessenich, Carrie Jo Leum, Viroqua, Jaelyn Peterson and Trisha Stanek, Prairie du Chien.

In the business meeting, Bill Barlass, Janesville, asked members to consider fund raising ideas for the 2011 AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings, to be hosted by the state at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Ideas for potential fund-raisers should be directed to any co-chair of the meeting, which includes Barlass and his wife, Marion, and Mike and Merna Fremstad, Westby, and Dennis Post, Clinton.

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The Wisconsin Jersey Futurity will be held in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Jersey Show on August 19, in Marshfield. Mark Reuth, New Oxford, will judge the futurity and George Barlass, Janesville, will serve as official for the showmanship classes. The calf which will be auctioned at the Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Sale to raise funds for the futurity will be donated by Gordon and Michelle Barlass, Gil-Bar Farm, Janesville.

The following were elected to serve the organization as officers for 2009: Amanda Killian, Blair, president; Ralph Uhe, Janesville, vice president; Nicolle Wussow, Cecil, treasurer; and Dennis Post, secretary. Dave Oberreich, Plymouth, and Uhe were elected to serve the organization as directors-at-large.

*\*JPI created from a genomic evaluation.*



Brian Barlass, left, past vice president of the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association, presents the Wisconsin Senior Breeder Award to Wilfred Owens.