

James S. Huffard III

James S. Huffard III, Crockett, Va., will be honored as Master Breeder of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) on June 27, 2008, at the Breeders Recognition Banquet in Asheville, N.C.

The Master Breeder award is bestowed annually to a living AJCA member, family, partnership, or corporation that, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, has *bred outstanding animals for many years and thereby made a notable contribution to the advancement of the Jersey breed in the United States.*

Several years ago, the Registered Jersey herd at Huffard Dairy Farms celebrated 75 years of continuous operation by three generations of the Huffard family. The farm didn't broadcast the passage of that milestone in grand fashion, but rather, it continued its uninterrupted focus on "breeding production-pure genetics since 1929."

For the past three decades, the mastermind of the breeding program at Huffard Dairy Farms has been James Schultz Huffard III—better known as "Jimmy" to those who travel in Jersey circles. Huffard has built on the herd that was established by his grandfather, earned the respect of his peers and created a legacy for himself as a Master Breeder of Jersey cattle.

"Though I have worked with countless breeders of all types of cattle around the world, very few have the mental interest and drive that Jim has to create that next great one for Huffard Dairy Farms and from which other breeders can succeed," noted Jeff Ziegler, Manager of Protein and Specialty Sire Programs at Select Sires Inc., in his letter supporting Huffard's nomination as Master Breeder.

"Jim is a long-term thinker. He realizes that the current mating has consequences not just for the first generation, but for the second and third generation too, as it sets the stage and plays a significant role."

"Not many dairy farms print a herd sheet that lists a minimum of five generations of sires on every cow to see breeding trends—both successful and not," continued Ziegler. "He is a student and teacher of the pure art of breeding."

Since he took the helm of management of Huffard Dairy Farms in 1975, the man



who has been dubbed "the perfect blend of Southern Gentleman and Restless Rebel" by his peers has sent more than 60 bulls to A.I. that bear the Schultz prefix or one that is used for animals bred in partnership with other Jersey breeders (L&H, H&B and Fairway).

Among the most notable are past performers, Schultz Performing Legend, Schultz Brook Hallmark and H&B Alf Paragon-ET and members of the current Active A.I. list, Schultz Declo Rescue, Schultz Paragon Redwood-ET, Fairway Topkick Deacon-P and Schultz Dudley Restore-ET. Combined, these bulls have sired more than 20,000 daughters and the names "Legend" and "Hallmark" are carried in the lineage of more than 315,000 animals registered with the AJCA. Thousands of dairy cows in other regions of the globe are also sired by Huffard-bred bulls.

The success of this A.I. program is founded on the dams of these sires and their herdmates. For 17 of the past 20 years, Huffard Dairy Farms has ranked in the top 10 in the nation for production among similar-sized herds. It has a 2007 AJCA lactation average of 20,435 lbs. milk, 908 lbs. fat and 721 lbs. protein on 353 cows—a mark that ranks it eighth for milk production and 10th for protein

among herds with 300 or more cows. Huffard Dairy Farms is home to 48 Excellent and 252 Very Good cows and is ranked in the 87th percentile for Jersey Performance Index (JPI) among herds enrolled on AJCA performance programs. With the April 2008 genetic evaluations, the herd has average Predicted Transmitting Abilities of +498M, +18F and +15P and a JPI of +76 on 427 cows.

Production-pure genetics have always been paramount to the Huffards. Jim's grandfather and father purchased bulls from high-production herds early on and then used leading A.I. bulls when artificial insemination became available. Huffard learned from his elders and applied the concept in his own way, bringing several key foundation females to the herd. Among his first purchases was Zev of Ogstons Vicky, from the herd of Master Breeder, John Bishop VI, in Columbus, N.J., in 1976. When he was just 25 years old, Huffard made the mating that resulted in "Legend," who went on to sire 11,345 daughters and 535 sons registered in the AJCA herdbook.

"Legend" daughters were not just top producers; they had another characteristic which was important to Huffard—longevity. In recent years, "Legend" daughters have led the lifetime production contests in both the United States and Canada. Windy Acres Legend Carla, Excellent-92%, topped a milk, fat or protein division of the contest from 2001 to 2004 and Cherish Legend Rose, Excellent-92%, ranked first in the milk and protein contests in 2002. In Canada, it was Rexlea Performing Hostess-ET, SUP-EX 92-7E, who earned the President's Cup for lifetime production from 2003 to 2006 and recently celebrated her 20th birthday in the Sheardown's herd in Schomberg, Ontario.

"While the best of the 'Legend' daughters were profitable animals themselves, his greatest breed-wide genetic impact has come through the contributions of many of those daughters in the maternal background of some of the most influential A.I. proven sires in the past decade," noted C. A. Russell, Yosemite Jersey Dairy, Hilmar, Calif., who served with Huffard on the

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AJCA Master Breeder

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AJCA Type Advisory Committee.

Among the 754 sires in A.I. programs with "Legend" in their lineage are such notables as AU Lester Topkick-ET, Rock Maple Brook Mannix, Rock Maple Brook Montana-ET, Windy Willow Montana Jace, and Wilsonview Khan Morgan-ET.

Another Huffard-bred bull that has positively influenced the breed is Schultz Brook Hallmark, who descends from his family's breeding and also represents Jim's belief in AJCA programs. When he returned to the family farm after graduating from Virginia Tech, Jim enrolled all eligible animals in the Genetic Recovery Program. One of these animals was OA Schultz Kings Monkey, the sixth dam of "Hallmark." The cow family has been a foundation family at Huffard Dairy Farms, with many members ranked on the Top 1 1/2% List for JPI and more than half a dozen sons in A.I.

"Hallmark" made his debut into Active A.I. in May 1999 and obtained his highest ranking among his peers in August 2000, ranked seventh for Productive Type Index (the predecessor of JPI). He became the breed's most heavily-used sire of sons in 2002 and remained on the Active A.I. list through August 2006. To date, the AJCA has registered 6,847 daughters and 654 sons. Significant populations of "Hallmark" daughters also reside in Australia, Canada, Great Britain and South Africa.

"Hallmark" is known for siring daughters that do well in the milk string and the show ring. Included in this elite list are the reigning world fat champion, Norse Star Hallmark Bootie, and the former world protein champion, QA/WF Hallmark Delirious, both appraised Excellent-90%. "Hallmark" is the sire of the Premier Performance Cow of The 2004 All American Jersey Show, Sunset Canyon Hallmark Belle 1-ET, Excellent-93%, and the Reserve Winner of the 2005 National Jersey Jug Futurity, Senn-Sational Hallmark Laine, Excellent-91%.

The influence of "Hallmark" now is being felt through his sons, who account for a dozen sires on the Active A.I. list, and his grandsons, which include the Huffard-bred maternal brothers, "Rescue," "Redwood" and "Restore."

With "Hallmark" on the maternal side of these bulls, Huffard combined two of his best cow families to produce their dam, Schultz Hallmark Renae, Excellent-90%. "Renae's" sixth dam is Schultz Forester Rainbow, Very Good-82%, the herd's top cow during the 1970s, and her ninth dam is Schultz Sweet Flossy, the state's top milk and fat producer in 1955.

With the April 2008 genetic evaluations,

"Rescue" has sired 1,066 daughters in 277 herds and ranks as one of the breed's best sires for improving health and fertility traits—increasingly important sire selection criteria.

Huffard's commitment to breed improvement, though, extends far beyond the barn doors of the family farm in southwest Virginia. Currently, he is vice president and director for National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ). He was president of the AJCA from 2001-2004, chairs the Vision 21 Committee and is a member of the Investment Advisory Committee.

A strong advocate for young sires, Huffard was a charter board member of Dixieland Jersey Sires Inc. and twice served the organization as president. Frequently, he promoted the use of young sires in the farm's advertisements in the *Jersey Journal*.

"Jim willingly samples every young bull Select Sires is associated with," said Ziegler. "He does the same for several other organizations as well, showing his true interest in genetically improving the breed."

"He uses the best proven bulls for his herd, but will quickly turn conversations to young sire daughters he's just calved that make him quiver with anticipation."

"While serving with Jim on the AJCA Type Advisory Committee, I quickly learned that he believes in developing a functional cow that modern management practices can profit from," Ziegler commented. "He appreciates the fancy one and has developed a bull in 'Hallmark' that can do just that. However, his real satisfaction lies in walking the barns while looking at his records and seeing who is paying their way on an everyday basis."

"Although some herds can lay claim to more bulls enrolled in A.I. sampling programs, few have compiled the record of breed-leading genetics that is the continuing legacy of the Huffard herd, where the consistent focus has been on deep cow families developed over numerous generations in a commercial environment," summed Mike Stiles, president of the Virginia Jersey Cattle Club and fellow Master Breeder recipient with his family at Waverly Farms, Clearbrook, Va.

"When you apply that setting and the depth of thoughtful analysis that Jim applies to planning every mating in the herd, the genetic superiority of the bulls follows logically. His fellow breeders of Registered Jerseys around the globe have individual cows and whole herds that are much more profitable as a result of his effective breeding program."

Master Breeders

- 1944 William MacPherson, Thomasville, Ga. (deceased)
- 1945 W. R. Kenan, Jr., Lockport, N.Y. (deceased)
- 1946 George W. Sisson, Jr., Potsdam, N.Y. (deceased)

- 1947 E. S. Brigham, St. Albans, Vt. (deceased)
- 1948 Guy Miller, Modesto, Calif. (deceased)
- 1949 Dr. Howard D. Odum, Chapel Hill, N.C. (deceased)
- 1950 Judge J. G. Adams, Asheville, N.C. (deceased)
- 1951 N. M. Tibbles, Independence, Ore. (deceased)
- 1952 Frank W. Barber, Fayetteville, Tenn. (deceased)
- 1953 Herman F. Heep, Buda, Texas (deceased)
- 1954 Dale Dean, Ridgeway, Mich. (deceased)
- 1955 Maurice Pollak, Lincroft, N.J. (deceased)
- 1956 J. L. Hutcheson, Jr., Rossville, Ga. (deceased)
- 1957 John R. Sibley, Spencer, Mass. (deceased)
- 1958 J. Chester Elliff, Tulia, Texas (deceased)
- 1959 A. W. Sweet, Sixes, Ore.
- 1960 Col. H. G. Wilde, Lenox, Mass. (deceased)
- 1961 C. Edward Knolle, Sandia, Texas
- 1962 Russel Hoar, Newark, Ohio (deceased)
- 1963 William Ross Proctor, Pittstown, N.J. (deceased)
- 1964 Clifton F. Russell, Rossville, Ga. (deceased)
- 1965 Chester Folck, Springfield, Ohio (deceased)
- 1966 C. Scott Mayfield, Athens, Tenn. (deceased)
- 1967 E. E. Greenough, Merced, Calif. (deceased)
- 1968 Henry Uihlein, Lake Placid, N.Y. (deceased)
- 1969 Charles S. Kelly, Hudson, Wis. (deceased)
- 1970 H. Fowler Hupman, Springfield, Ohio (deceased)
- 1971 Milton Humbert, Cleveland, Tenn. (deceased)
- 1972 Willis Rupert, New Waterford, Ohio (deceased)
- 1973 Earl Hutchinson, Tunbridge, Vt. (deceased)
- 1974 Antone J. Regli, Ferndale, Calif. (deceased)
- 1975 Mrs. Diana Ryan, Newport, R.I. (deceased)
- 1976 James and Georgia (deceased) Pappas, Modesto, Calif.
- 1977 Mrs. H. G. Wilde, Lenox, Mass. (deceased)
- 1978 Henry W. Black, West Baldwin, Maine (deceased)
- 1979 John Bishop VI, Columbus, N.J.
- 1980 Mrs. A. G. Rankin (deceased) and Sons, Faunsdale, Ala.
- 1981 W. L. Payton, Stephenville, Texas (deceased)
- 1982 Curtis Hobson, Athens, Tenn.
- 1983 Stanley N. Chittenden, New Lebanon, N.Y. (deceased)
- 1984 Walter H. and Joan Brown, Hughson, Calif.
- 1985 Newell Mills, Fallon, Nev.
- 1986 John R. Owen, Lewisburg, Tenn.
- 1987 Robert S. Pike (deceased) and Family, Cornish, Maine
- 1988 Ray Chamberlain, Wyoming, N.Y. (deceased)
- 1989 Ralph (deceased) and Betty Reichert, Riley, Kans.
- 1990 Stanley K. Bansen, Dayton, Ore. (deceased)
- 1991 Henry P. Knolle, Sandia, Texas (deceased)
- 1992 Phil V. Fanelli, Hilmar, Calif.
- 1993 Dr. J. J. Malnati, Newberry, S.C.
- 1994 Walter and Sally Goodrich, West Danville, Vt.
- 1995 Edward, Harold, and Donald (deceased) Wright, White River Junction, Vt.
- 1996 Elmer D. Larson, Roy, Wash.
- 1997 Albert Bradford, Turner, Maine
- 1998 Robert Stiles Family, Clearbrook, Va.
- 1999 Robert and Barbara (deceased) Howard, Tillamook, Ore.
- 2000 Charles L. Lutz, Newton, N.C. (deceased)
- 2001 Duane Kuhlman, Snohomish, Wash.
- 2002 Duane Wickstrom, Hilmar, Calif.
- 2003 James Chaney, Bowling Green, Ky.
- 2004 Charles J. Steer, Cottage Grove, Tenn.
- 2005 William G. Mason Family, Buhl, Idaho (deceased)
- 2006 Aaron F. Richards, Farmington, Utah (deceased)
- 2007 Robert Bignami, Orland, Calif. and Harlan Askeland (deceased), Orland, Calif.
- 2008 James S. Huffard III, Crockett, Va.