

Pennsylvania Breeders Honored at Meeting

The Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Association (PJCA) held their annual meeting, sale and banquet over the weekend of April 3 and 4, 2009, in Mercer, Pa. Throughout the two-day event members were honored for their achievements, business meetings were held, and a new queen was crowned.

Kicking off the weekend's events was the directors meeting on Friday, April 3, where officers were elected. Officers elected for the current year are Shannon Gardner, Dayton, president; Gary Miller, Centerville, vice president; and David Norman, Liberty, secretary/treasurer.

During the directors meeting, youth participants offered their speech presentations to other breeders in attendance. Later that evening, the state sale and Pot of Gold Sale were held with the Western Pennsylvania Spring Spectacular at the Mercer 4-H Park.

The 2009 Pennsylvania Pot of Gold Production contest awards were presented at the start of the sale. Austin Vance, Mt. Pleasant, won the production contest and a check in the amount of \$882 for his entry, Pengwen Paramount Cepheus Costar. "Costar" produced a first lactation record with a cheese yield dollar value of \$2,044 and was purchased in 2006 from David Medic, DVM, of Pengwen Jerseys, Clarks Mill. Placing second was Sarah Wright, Cambridge Springs, and third was Wesley Vanderstappen, Transfer.

Banquet and Awards

On Saturday morning, Al Wester, Jamestown, past president and emcee, welcomed the Pennsylvania Jersey breeders and guests to the annual meeting and awards ceremony.

The featured speaker was Cari Wolfe, American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) Director of Research and Genetic Program Development. Wolfe presented the guests with an overview of genomic testing and evaluations and explained how the latest addition to the evaluations will benefit the



Autumn and Curtis Reichard, Pennsylvania Young Jersey Dairyman recipient, are pictured with sons Skyler, back left, and Hayden, back right, and daughter Shaylin.

dairy industry.

During the meeting, Sara Barlass, AJCA-National All-Jersey (NAJ) Area Representative, spoke to the crowd about the tremendous year that that AJCA had in 2008. She also thanked the state organization for becoming the most recent dean of Jersey Youth Academy, as they pledged \$5,000 to the youth event.

Patty Rassau, Sarver, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for her numerous years of service to the Pennsylvania Jersey youth. Rassau has served as the Pennsylvania Youth coordinator for 10 years and has accompanied the state youth herd to The All American Jersey Show during that time. Patty and her husband, Charles, along with their children, Crystal, Matthew, Nathan and Jacob, own and exhibit cattle under the Rassau Farm prefix.

The Pennsylvania Young Jersey Dairyman award was presented to Curtis Reichard, Chambersburg. Curtis and his wife Autumn, along with Curtis' family operate Reich-Dale Jerseys. Reichard represents the eighth generation to farm on the family's farm. He has mentored many youth interested in showing Jerseys through local 4-H and FFA organizations. The couple's children Skyler, Hayden and Shaylin, will be the ninth generation to farm and have begun exhibiting through 4-H. In 2008, the Reich-Dale herd exhibited two All American Jerseys and the National Reserve Intermediate Champion.

The Norman Genetic Award was awarded to William Eick, Windy Acre Jerseys, Columbia Crossroads, for owning the highest Jersey Performance Index (JPI) herd within the state. His herd of 63 cows ranks 18th in the nation with an average JPI of +113 and Predicted Transmitting Abilities of +672M, +30F and +23P.

Breeders from across the state earned awards for herd averages and individual cow production for cheese yield dollars in a number of age categories. David Myers, Summerhill, was the top herd for milk and protein among herds with 7-29 cows with a herd average of 21,154 lbs. milk and 752 lbs. protein on 21 cows. Myers' herd was also named the high herd for protein within Pennsylvania. In the same category, Phillip Petersheim, Meyersdale, took top honors for fat production with a herd average of 958 lbs. fat on 30 cows. In the category for herds with 30-59 cows, Shar-Lynn Jerseys, Leola, placed first for milk and protein with a herd average of 20,716 lbs. milk and 635 lbs. protein on 60 cows, while JEMI Jerseys, Newburg, placed first for fat with a herd average of 862 lbs. fat on 34 cows. Ryan Clark, Tyrone, was top for milk, fat and protein among herds with 60-99 cows. His herd of 72 cows produced 19,078 lbs.



Pennsylvania Jersey youth recognized at the PJCA meeting are pictured above. Front row (L-R): Jaydyn Isiminger, Allison Waltemyer, Amanda Mitcheltree, Becky Theobald, and Laura Leshner. Back row (L-R): Andrew Theobald, Daniel Greathouse, Maria Noble, Jaylene Leshner, Tucker Hardy, Logan Karchner, Walter Greathouse, Wesley Noble, and Sawyer Whitenight.

milk, 876 lbs. fat, and 683 lbs. protein. In the largest herd size, Ray and Heather Campbell, Stoneboro, ranked at the top for milk, fat and protein with a herd average of 20,148 lbs. milk, 934 lbs. fat, and 721 lbs. protein on 3x milking.

Cows earning certificates in individual cow categories for highest cheese yield dollar were: senior yearling, Hackline Rebel Joy 540, owned by Hackline Jerseys, Sandy Lake; junior two-year-old, Hackline Bambro Spark 520, owned by Daniel Greathouse, Sandy Lake; senior two-year-old, Edn-Ru Doughboy Lorans Della, owned by Amy E. Filson, Lewistown; junior three-year-old, Kulp Gen Pmont Rosita-ET, owned by Delaware Valley College, Doylestown; senior three-year-old, My-Try Maximus Dippy, owned by Paul R. Shenk, Myerstown; four-year-old, WF Centurion Calista, owned by Claire Dufford Burdette, Mercersburg; five-year-old, Normandell Cheviot Diana, owned by Normandell Farms, Liberty; six and seven-year-olds, Ladyholm-N Jewels Jade, Heather Pease, Susquehanna, eight and nine-year-olds, Pleasant Nook Sambo Teal, Scott M. Walton, Carlisle; and 10 years and older, OBryans Merit Trena Mae, Jeffrey and Michele Reasner, Newburg. Sweet Peas Ren Dash-ET, owned by Heather Pease received the award for the high protein cow within the state with 1,107 lbs. protein at 7-8.

Youth Awards

During the youth award presentations, four enthusiastic and knowledgeable contestants vied for the crown of the 2009 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen. The contestants were Amanada Holub, Eighty-Four; Jesse Kline, Chambersburg; Amanda Mitcheltree, New Castle; and Allison Waltemyer, LeRaysville.

Outgoing Pennsylvania Jersey Queen, Becky Theobald, crowned Mitcheltree the 2009 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen and Waltemyer was named the 2009

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Pennsylvania Alternate Jersey Queen.

Erika Rhein, Pine Grove, placed first in the senior achievement division, and Stacey Theobald, Waymart, won the senior scrapbook award. In the intermediate division, Tucker Hardy, Belleville and Jaylene Lesher, Bernville, were each awarded the intermediate achievement awards. Jaydyn Isiminger, Union City, was awarded the first year project award and the junior scrapbook award.

Scholarship awards were given to Erika Rhein, Stacey Theobald, and Allison Waltemyer.

In the Jacob Brunges Production Contest, Daniel Greathouse, was awarded first with Hackline Bambro Spark 520. The award is given to the state's high producer of protein on a mature equivalent (m.e) basis. "Spark" produced a 2-3 record of 21,932 lbs. milk, 1,027 lbs. fat, and 793 lbs. protein with an m.e. of 1,006 lbs. protein. Placing second through 10th were Sterling Hardy, Belleville; Becky Theobald, Waymart; Austin Vance; Nicole Black, Liberty; Rebecca Black, Liberty; Maria Noble, Gillett; Tucker Hardy; Andrew Theobald, Waymart; and Ashley Derr, Linden.

The first place speech presentation winners of each division delivered their award winning speeches from the previous day. Sawyer Whitenight, Stillwater, won the junior division, with Jaydyn Isiminger placing second and Andrew Theobald, in third. Placing first in the intermediate division was Rhonda Mitcheltree, New Castle, second was Jaylene Lesher, third was Logan Karchner, Nescopeck, and Laura Lesher, Bernville placed fourth. Allison Waltemyer won the senior division of the speech contest.



The 2009 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen, Amanda Micheltree, center, sits with 2009 Pennsylvania Alternate Jersey Queen, Allison Waltemyer, left, and 2008 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen, Becky Theobald, right. In rear are fellow contestants, Jesse Kline, left, and Amanda Holub.