

## Breeders Appreciate the “Simple Things” at Pennsylvania Meeting

As members of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Association (PJCA) gathered to recognize outstanding achievements of their members, they also were present to learn about the outstanding accomplishments of one very special Jersey breeder. Faced with life-changing obstacles after an accident, Heather Perry of Saegertown, Pa., gained an entirely new perspective and has been sharing her joy for the “simple things” in life since then. She was the featured speaker of the annual meeting of the PJCA, held at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Williamsport, Pa., April 1-2, 2011.

Heather has been a long-time dairy supporter, and was named the alternate Pennsylvania State Dairy Princess in 1997. After suffering a closed head injury in 2001 that caused her to rely on the use of a wheelchair, Heather was not detoured from her life goals. She continued to show Jersey cattle with the help of an electric wheelchair, proving to herself she could accomplish more than she ever thought possible, which ultimately included obtaining a college degree. Defying the odds again, Heather was eventually able to walk down the aisle with her high-school sweetheart, Phillip, after a 10-year romance and five-year engagement—which had been postponed after her accident. Less than two years later, Heather and Phillip welcomed their first child, Aleah, followed by a son, Brian, two years later.

Heather’s journey has inspired the masses as she has spoken at numerous events, including the 2010 Women in Dairy conference. Her husband, Philip, milks cows on the 120-cow Jersey farm owned by Heather’s family. Perseverance and hope are two mindsets that can be found in abundance within this family, something Heather hopes will inspire others to appreciate the small and simple



Directors for the youth division of the PJCA include; president, Tucker Hardy, standing; vice president, Jaylene Leshner, right; secretary, Ashley Blair, left; membership chair, Becky Theobald, center.



Winners of the Youth Achievement contest, from the left, Hannah Bachman, one of two senior achievement winners, Andy Theobald, intermediate achievement, Sawyer Whitenight, junior achievement, and Destiney Rabe for her first year project.

things in life, no matter how detrimental the outcome may appear, dreams are always within reach.

### Youth Awards

There were many things to be thankful for as members of the PJCA gathered to celebrate the previous year’s achievements and honor the association’s members. The first night of the two-day event was dedicated to the younger generation of Pennsylvania dairyman, one of the most active Jersey youth groups in the nation.

First on the jam-packed agenda was recognition of the PJCA Jersey youth that were named 2009 National Youth Achievement Winners: Logan Horst, Mi-Rose Jerseys, Mercersburg, Pa., a three time national achievement winner, and Stacey Theobald, Riverside-F Farm, Waymart. There were also several Pa. Jersey youth to win national Jersey scholarships, including: Hannah Renea Bachman, Ulyssess, winner of the William A. Russell Memorial Scholarship; Michelle Morian, Atlantic, winner of the V.L. Peterson Scholarship; and Logan Horst, winner of the Bob Toole Youth Award in 2010.

The association also recognized the Pennsylvania Jersey youth that participated in the 2010 All American Jersey Show in Louisville, Ky., and the members that will be attending the Jersey Youth Academy. Tucker Hardy, Belleville; Logan Karchner, Nescopeck; Jesse Kline, Chambersburg; Jaylene Leshner, Bernville; Amanda Mitcheltree, New Castle; Charlie Moyer, Roaring Branch; Maria Noble, Gillett; and Stacey Theobald, will all be members of the second academy class in July 2011.

Next on the evening’s agenda was the introduction of the 2011 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen candidates, with Carolyn Moyer, Roaring Branch, presiding over this section of the banquet. Five girls gave their individual presentations and answered an on-stage, impromptu question



Ernest and Dorothy and David and Aggie Norman of Normandell Jerseys in Liberty, Pa., were honored by being named the winners of the 2011 PJCA Distinguished Service Award.

before the new queen and alternate were announced later in the evening. In the end, it was Michelle Morian, Mish-Ro Jerseys, wearing the crown to represent the PJCA. Michelle is the daughter of Gary and Denise Morian and is currently a senior majoring in business marketing and Christian religion at Liberty University. Michelle has participated with Jersey projects for 12 years, in which her experience spans from judging contests to showmanship contests.

Maria Jo Noble, Nobledale Farm, Gillett, was named the alternate PJCA queen. Maria is a junior at Troy Area High School, and the eighth generation of the Noble family to raise Jerseys, behind her parents, Stuart and Elaine. She has had much experience showing Jerseys and exhibited the junior-two-year-old with the highest parent average for protein at The 2004 All American Jersey Show.

As the evening progressed, several other Jersey youth were recognized for their Jersey projects. Elaine Noble, Gillett, announced the winners of the PJCA speech contest, in which participants were broken up into three age categories and could focus on any phase of the Jersey business. In the junior division, Sawyer Whitenight, Stillwater; Olivia Leshner, Bernville; and Maggie Whitenight, Stillwater, placed first through third, respectively. Laura Leshner, Bernville; Logan Karchner, Nescopeck; and Andy Theobald, Waymart, took home the top three places in the intermediate division. In the senior division of the speech contest it was Jaylene Leshner, Bernville; Corbin Wood, Littlestown; and Ashley Blair, Sugar Grove, earning the top three placings. Each divisional winner was given the opportunity to present their winning speeches during the banquet.

Kate Hardy, Belleville, announced the winners of dairy jeopardy contest, the newest contest among the programs available to PJCA juniors, coordinated by the Penn State Dairy Science Club.

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The competition took place earlier in the day on Friday as the juniors gathered to compete in the dairy industry-focused contest, modeled after the popular television game show. Taking places first through third in the junior division were Sawyer Whitenight, Kassidy Ryman, Nescopock, and Matt Boop, Millmont, respectively. In the senior division it was Jaylene Leshner, Laura Leshner and Ashley Blair claiming the top three places.

Delivering multiple other youth contest awards during the banquet was Renee Norman, Normandell Farm, Liberty. Achievement awards went to Destiney Rabe, Tunkhannock, for her first year project; Sawyer Whitenight, Junior Achievement; Andrew Theobald, intermediate achievement; and Hannah Bachman, Ulyessess, and Corbin Wood, winning senior achievement awards. In the scrapbook competition, Mason Davis, Dawson, was the winning participant from the junior division, and Andrew Theobald took first place in the intermediate division. The PJCA also awarded two \$500 scholarships to Hannah Bachman and Stacey Theobald.

In the Jacob M. Brunges Production Contest, it was Tucker Hardy who was recognized for his high-producing cow, Sniders Future Fenola, Excellent-94%. "Fenola" had an m.e. protein record of 1,146 lbs. and made a 305-day record at 7-8 of 28,497 lbs. milk, 1,671 lbs. fat, 1,055 lbs. protein. The second place position was a tie between Hannah Bachman and Sterling Hardy, Belleville. Fourth through 10<sup>th</sup> places went to Becca Black, Liberty; Jackie Chyle, Pleasant Mount; Lily Fries, Prompton; Charlie Moyer, Roaring Branch; Ashley Derr, Linden; Austin Acel, Guys Mills; Andrew Moyer, Roaring Branch; Andrew Theobald and Becky Theobald, Waymart.

An award was also given to the top record in the 2011 Pennsylvania Pot of Gold Production Contest. Ryan Lawton, Newark Valley, took home first place and \$598 for his cow, Normandell Geronimo Violet,



Michelle Morian, front left, was crowned the 2011 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen. Also pictured, 2011 Alternate Pennsylvania Jersey Queen, Maria Noble, front right. Pictured in the back row are contestants, Michelle Carbonara, Anna Flick and Allison Walmeyer.

Very Good-83%, with an m.e. record of 29,307-1,399-1,019 at 1-11. "Violet" was purchased from Normandell Farms at the 2008 Pennsylvania Pot of Gold sale.

Rounding out the youth portion of the meeting, Shannon Gardner, Dayton, gave the youth committee report.

### Breeder Awards

In the senior portion of the two-day event, one of the long-standing Pennsylvania Jersey families was awarded the state association's top honor. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ernest and Dorothy Norman and David and Aggie Norman of Normandell Jerseys in Liberty, Pa. This Jersey family has spanned three generations and more than 100 years in the dairy business. The 100% Registered Jersey herd consisting of 70 milk cows, with a 2010 AJCA lactation average of 16,909-910-635, is owned in partnership between the two couples.

The herd has long been recognized for their outstanding breeding, having bred the former world milk production champion, Normandell Khan Ariel, Very Good-84%, before she was purchased by Norse Star Jerseys, Westby, Wis. They currently have a cow on the top 1.5% list for JPI and another on the top 1.5% list for GJPI.

David served as the secretary/treasurer of the PJCA for more than 20 years and



Leading the senior division of the PJCA are Directors, front row, Shannon Gardner, Ryan Clark, Susan Wicker, Elaine Noble, Matt Derr, Sara Barlass, AJCA Area Representative. Back row, Amy Theobald, Jeff Peters, Steve Paxton, David Norman, Alvin Vance, Jessica Peters.

was elected to serve as a director for the American Jersey Cattle Association in 2009. The Norman family is a President's Club donor to the AJCC Research Foundation for contributions that exceed \$10,000. They have also long valued the importance of genetics in the Jersey breed and have sponsored the Norman Genetic Award for more than three decades.

This year's 2011 winner of the Norman Genetic Award was William Eick, Windy Acre Jerseys, Columbia Crossroads, for a fourth consecutive year. The award is given each year to the herd with the highest traditional JPI in the state. After the April 2011 genetic evaluations, his herd of 65 cows ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation with an average JPI of +61 and Predicted Transmitting Abilities of +362M, +20F and +14P.

### Production Awards

Production awards for herds and individual cows by age based on cheese yield dollars were also given. Among the smallest herds with 7-29 cows, Highland H Farms, Jefferson, had the top herd for all production measures with a herd average of 21,667 lbs. milk, 1,032 lb. fat and 788 lbs. protein.

Wolfe Bros. Farm, Wellsboro, led their peers with 30-59 cows for milk and protein production with a herd average of

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19,700 lbs. milk and 713 lbs. protein. JEMI Jerseys, Newburg, took home the award for fat production among herds with 30-59 cows with a herd average of 1,019 lbs.

In the category for herds with 60-99 cows, two herds earned recognition. Cedar Acres, Mohnton, was first for milk and protein at 18,319 lbs. milk and 658 lbs. protein, and Normandell Farms, was the high fat herd at 874 lbs.

Among large herds with 100 or more cows, Brian Martin, Kutztown, was first for all measures of production with a herd average of 19,632 lbs. milk, 918 lbs. fat and 715 lbs. protein on 132 head.

Daniel R. Mains, Newville, took home six certificates for individual cow production as PR Mains Karl Sweetie was the top senior yearling with a cheese yield

of \$3,548; Northwinds Lovabull Moxie was the high junior two-year-old with a cheese yield of \$3,438; Wester Nathan Janeen Jackie was the top-producing senior two-year-old with a cheese yield of \$3,923; Mains Lieutenant 197 took top honors among junior three-year-olds with a cheese yield of \$4,044; Jastay Legion Ashanti was the high senior three-year-old with a cheese yield of \$4,260; and Wester Coun Jot Kelly claimed the top spot in the five-year-old division with a cheese yield of \$4,308.

Other certificates were awarded to Melvin Peachey, Belleville, for the high four-year-old, Edn-Ru Doughboy Lorans Della, at \$4,638 cheese yield; Harold Harpster, Boalsburg, for the leading six and seven-year-old, Edn-Ru Furor Idas Irma, at \$4,160 cheese yield; Chyle Land Dairy, Pleasant Mount, for the top eight and nine-year-old, Chyle-Land

Cosmo Very, at \$3,571 cheese yield; and Sweetpeas Jerseys, Susquehanna, for the high aged cow, Ladyholm-N Jewels Jade, at \$4,746 cheese yield.

### Officers

Association officers re-elected for 2011 include Shannon Gardner, president, and Gary Miller, Centerville, vice president. Jessica Peters, Meadville, was elected to serve as the new secretary/treasurer. Ryan Clark, Tyrone; Matt Derr, Linden; Steve Paxton, Grove City and David Norman were elected to serve as directors.