

## Pennsylvania Jersey breeders Gather for State Meeting

Members of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Association met for their annual meeting on April 13 and 14, 2012, in Meadville. The event was kicked off with the Pennsylvania State Jersey Sale and Pennsylvania Pot of Gold Sale on Friday evening. A business meeting, awards ceremony and farm tours were held on Saturday.

The Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Award was given to John and Lois McConnell, Volant. The couple and their three daughters operated Hillcrest Farm until the herd was recently sold. The family has actively supported the state Jersey organization for a number of years. John has served as president and also chaired the state sale several times. The girls have represented the family well in the show ring and served as Pennsylvania Jersey royalty.

The Norman Genetic Award was presented to Spruce Row Farm, Meadville. The dairy is operated by Jeff and Janet Peters and their children, Jessica and Cole. Spruce Row Farm is enrolled on REAP and has a 2011 lactation average of 21,028 lbs. milk, 857 lbs. fat and 739 lbs. protein on 165 cows, measures that rank fourth for protein and fifth for milk in the nation among herds with 150-299 cows.

Spruce Row Farm has ranked among the best herds in the nation for Jersey Performance Index (JP) for many years and currently is #18 with an average JPI of +73 (April 2012) on 189 cows. Four bulls bred by the family rank on the list of Active A.I. Jersey Bulls, including SR Impuls Stone-ET, #13 with a GJPI of +175, and the breed's top polled bull, SR Nathan Pro-P, with a GJPI of +144. Eighteen members of the milking string rank among the top 1.5% for JPI or GJPI.

The dairy operated by the Peters family was one of the farm tours on Saturday. At Spruce Row Farm, cow comfort and calf care are paramount. Cows are housed in a freestall barn and rest on a shredded newspaper pack. They are fed a total mixed ration and baleage throughout the day.

### Junior Awards

Anna Flick, Fenelton, was crowned as the 2012 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen. The daughter of Randy and Beth Flick is a junior at Sanford-Brown Institute in Pittsburgh and majoring in anesthesia technology. She has participated in Jersey projects for a dozen years and now owns two cows and two heifers. She has won many honors in the show ring and was

crowned as the Butler County Dairy Princess in 2008. She earned the Tina M. Schultz Memorial Award for superior efforts in promoting the dairy industry. Anna has also been active in school, church and community functions.

Tucker Hardy, Tyrone, received the top award in the senior division of the youth achievement contest. He also won the Jacob M. Brunges Production Contest with Knob View Alta Mae. The Very Good-80% daughter of Harbor Crest TG Paddy-ET, PA JPI -29, produced a record with an m.e. of 983 lbs. protein. Actual production of the 5-6 record is 24,430 lbs. milk, 1,355 lbs. fat and 968 lbs. protein (3x milking).

Andrew Theobald, Waymart placed first in the intermediate division of the youth achievement contest and Stephanie Younker, Mohrsville, topped the junior division.

The first year project award was given to Camryn Moyer, Roaring Branch. The junior scrapbook award was presented to Mason Davis, Dawson.

Juniors were also honored for their accomplishments in the speech and dairy jeopardy contests. Amanda Mitcheltree, Blacksburg, Va., won the senior division of the speech and dairy jeopardy contests. John Curtis, Corry, topped the intermediate division of the speech contest while Mason Davis earned top honors in the junior division. Olivia Leshner, Bernville, won the junior division of dairy jeopardy.

A silent auction was held for the benefit of youth programs and raised nearly \$600 towards the cause.

### Production Awards

Pennsylvania breeders also received recognition for herd averages and individual cow production in 10 age categories based on cheese yield dollars.

In the category for small herds with 7-29 cows, Highland H Farms, Brockway, took the top prize for milk, fat and protein with a herd average of 19,701 lbs. milk, 946 lbs. fat and 723 lbs. protein on 16 cows. Among herds with 30-59 cows, Philip Petersheim, Meyersdale, was the high milk producer with 17,832 lbs. milk on 34 cows. Wooden Bridge Farm, Kutztown, had high averages for components with 875 lbs. milk and 647 lbs. protein on 34 cows. In the category for herds with 60-99 cows, Cow Comfort Dairy Inn was honored as the top milk producer with 19,631 lbs. milk on 71 cows. Earnest L. Derr Jr., Linden, was the leading producer for components with 889 lbs. fat and 692 lbs. protein on 81 cows. Among large herds with 100 or more cows, Mount

Rock Jerseys, Newville, led all measures of production with 20,833 lbs. milk, 1,007 lbs. fat and 761 lbs. protein on 815 cows.

Mount Rock Jerseys also earned five certificates for individual cow production. Mains Impuls Molly was the high-producing junior two-year-old with a cheese yield value of \$3,906. Abe Lucky L Sue made the high cheese yield dollars record among senior two-year-olds with \$4,265. Iatola Lucky L Kenia, Excellent-90%, was the top yielding junior three-year-old with \$3,955. Among five-year-olds, VVF Golden Dawn, Very Good-83%, produced the high cheese yield dollars record of \$4,501. Wester Coun Jot Kelly, Very Good-84%, was the high-producer among cows 6-7 years old with a record with a value of \$4,615.

Ryan D. Clark, Tyrone, took home two certificates for his high-producing senior yearling, GR Normandell Grieves Sensation, Very Good-84%, and four-year-old, SR Sultan Catch, Excellent-90%. "Sensation" made a record with a cheese yield value of \$3,729 and "Catch" produced a record with a value of \$4,341.

Other Jersey breeders to receive recognition for individual cow production were: Brian L. Martin, Kutztown, with Country Lane Brazo Bingo, the high-producing senior three-year-old with \$4,188; Katelyn Marie Beachy, Keymar, Md., with Gaywinds Extreme Caroline, Excellent-90%, the top cow 8-9 years-of-age, with \$3,923; and Roger and Kathleen Alexander, Liberty, with Rog-Al Topkick Pasha, Excellent-91%, the leading aged cow with \$3,613.

### Business Program

In the business meeting, Cari Wolfe, Director of Research and Genetic Program Development for the AJCA, spoke about the Jersey Haplotype 1 (JH1). Wolfe explained that when the undesirable recessive gene is inherited from both sire and dam, no live calf will be born. She went on to say that JH1 can be managed in the breeding program. The AJCA has reported JH1 status (JH1C for carriers and JH1F for tested free) on performance pedigrees and other genetic reports for cows and bulls genotyped with the 6K test or higher since November 2011. Wolfe noted that JH1 is already accounted for in Jersey Performance Index (JPI) and Net Merit Dollars because Daughter Pregnancy Rate is included in the calculation of each multi-trait selection tool. As well, JerseyMate automatically eliminates matings of designated JH1 carrier bulls to designated JH1 carrier females.

Wolfe also talked about the new 8K

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