

Pennsylvania Recognizes Jersey Breeders

Members of the Pennsylvania Jersey Breeders Association met for their annual meeting on March 27 and 28, 2015, at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg. The event marketed the kick-off of preparation for the annual meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ), which will be hosted by the organization at the same facility in June 2017. Jersey breeders also took opportunity to recognize adult and junior members for achievements in an awards ceremony and to socialize with their peers.

The Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Award was presented to Lori Sollenberger of Everett. She has been a longtime supporter of the state Jersey organization and served several years as youth director.

Sollenberger operates Hidden Hills Dairy LLC and Hidden Hills Jerseys in the rolling hills of south central Pennsylvania. She and her husband, Rex Knepp, create seven varieties of raw milk cheese and market them through farmer's markets, mail order, local grocery and natural food stores and the Penn's Corner Farm Alliance, a cooperative that sells foods to consumers and restaurants and also operates an online store.

Jerseys have been on the farm since 1955, when her parents, Ray and Elaine, established the farm. After she earned a degree in dairy science from Penn State University in 1981, Lori returned home to operate the farm as a partnership with her parents and brother. The herd ranked nationally for production and genetic merit for many years and was dispersed in 2005. Shortly after, she began to make cheese.

Today, the Jersey herd is 8-10 milking cows, which are intensively grazed from April through October and fed grass hay from the farm during winter months.



President Paxton gives the Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Award to Lori Sollenberger.

The 225-acre farm is used primarily as permanent pastures and to grow hay and other value-added products. About 45% of the milk is used in the production of cheese; the balance is used to raise veal calves.

The Pennsylvania Young Jersey Breeder Award was given to Ryan and Jennifer Clark of Tyrone. The couple operates Windy Lane Jerseys. They have grown the herd from 28 cows in 2007 to more than 200 today and plan to continue to expand the herd to 400 cows.

The Registered Jersey herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2014 lactation average of 21,904 lbs. milk, 1,056 lbs. fat and 839 lbs. protein on 153 lactations, marks that rank third in the nation for protein and fourth for milk and fat among herds with 150-299 cows. With the latest appraisal in March 2015, the herd includes eight Excellent and 151 Very Good cows and has an appraisal average of 81.2%.

Both Ryan and Jennifer graduated from Penn State. Ryan initially worked for Cargill Animal Nutrition as a dairy consultant until 2009, when he began working on the dairy full time.

The Clarks make the farm available to dairy challenge teams for practice sessions and regularly speak to others about careers and opportunities in the dairy industry. The Clarks received AJCA Young Jersey Breeder in 2014.

Two herds received the Norman Genetic

Award for high herd average for Jersey Performance Index (JPI). Spruce Row Farm, Meadville, and Van De Jerseys, Transfer, each had a herd average JPI of +41 following the December 2014 genetic evaluations. This is the fourth consecutive year Spruce Row Farm, operated by the Jeff and Janet Peters and their children, Jess and Cole, earned the state's highest award for genetic merit.

Junior Awards

Willow Voegtlen, Columbia Crossroads, was crowned as the 2015 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen. She was also recognized for placing in the senior division of the youth achievement contest and topping the senior division of the scrapbook contest. The high school senior is the daughter of Tim and Janis Voegtlen. She owns a mixed herd of 10 Jerseys and eight Brown Swiss, Holsteins and Milking Shorthorns. Her cattle are managed with the herd at Sugar Branch Farm in Columbia Crossroads, where her father is a herdsman.

Voegtlen is active in 4-H and FFA and has shown cattle at the local, state and national levels. She twice placed first in the 4-H public speaking contest at the Bradford County Fair and was a member of the dairy judging team that topped the contest held at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show and then went on to compete at the North American International Livestock Exposition in 2014.

In addition to Willow, three other juniors were recognized in the senior division of the youth achievement contest: the late Renee Clowney, Gettysburg; Wesley S. Noble, Gillett; and Andrew C. Theobald, Waymart.

Stephanie L. Younker of Bernville topped the intermediate division, while Madison Davis, Dawson, and Riley Sue Thompson, Smethport, were honored in the junior division.

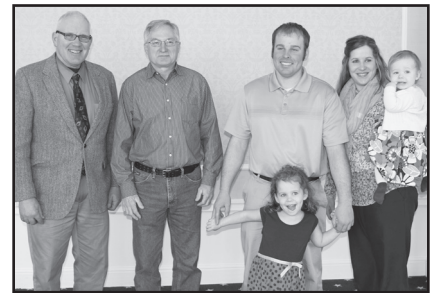
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Steve Paxton, president of the Pennsylvania Jersey Breeders Association, left, presents the 2015 Pennsylvania Young Jersey Breeder Award to Ryan and Jen Clark and their daughters, Leanne and Kylee. All photos courtesy Reneé Norman-Kenny.



The outgoing Pennsylvania Jersey Queen, Maria Jo Noble, right, crowns the new Pennsylvania Jersey Queen, Willow Voegtlen, and congratulates the new alternate queen, Cassidy Greenwood.



Jersey breeders on hand to receive production awards from President Paxton, left, included Will McAnlis, representing Mount Rock Jerseys LLC, and Ryan and Jennifer Clark and their daughters, Leanne and Kylee.

Pennsylvania Meeting

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First year project awards were given to Malia M. Baney, Wampum, and Carley Fries, Prompton. Katelyn Taylor, Allenwood, won the junior division of the scrapbook contest.

In the speech contest, Sawyer T. Whitenight, Sillwater, topped the intermediate division with a speech entitled, "Smart Choices for Hard Times," which explained how Jerseys can help dairy producers battle times of low milk prices. Riley Sue Thompson won the junior division with a speech about caring for newborn calves.

In the dairy jeopardy contest, Jaylene S. Leshner, Bernville, was the winner in the senior division while Caroline Arrowsmith, Peach Bottom, earned the top prize in the junior division.

Jessica Nolt, Canton, won the Jacob M. Brunges Production Contest with Elsbree Marshal Arkansas. The Very Good-86% daughter of BW Marshal, GJPI +88, produced a 3-1 record of 25,870 lbs. milk, 1,055 lbs. fat and 809 lbs. protein, with a protein m.e. of 943 lbs., to win the contest.

Laruen L. Exlary, Bolivar, earned the top prize in the Pennsylvania Pot of Gold Production Contest with her entry, Columbus Eclipses Gretta. The Very Good-83% daughter of Maack Dairy Eclipses-P-ET, GJPI -29, produced a first lactation with an m.e. of 21,217—1,020—727. Cheese yield dollars (CY\$) on the record is \$3,298.70. "Gretta" was consigned to the Pennsylvania Pot of Gold Sale in 2012 by Christopher T. Curtis of Corry.

Production Awards

Awards were also given for herd averages, high protein cow and individual cow production in 10 categories based on age and cheese yield dollars.

Vanderfeltz Jerseys, Lawton, led the state for protein production with a herd average of 20,236 lbs. milk, 1,007 lbs. fat and 762 lbs. protein on 129 cows. The herd owned by Joe and Melinda Vanderfeltz also was the fat leader for large herds with 100 or more cows and includes the state's leading protein producer, TBone Flossy of 764. The Excellent-91% daughter of Richies Jace TBone A364, GJPI +51, produced a record of 26,980 lbs. milk, 1,377 lbs. fat and 1,134 lbs. protein at 4-0 to top her peers.

Vanderfeltz Jerseys also took home two certificates for individual cow production. VanFel Louie April 742, Very Good-85%, was the high four-year-old with a record of 29,400 lbs. milk, 1,443 lbs. fat, 1,090 lbs. protein and a CY\$ of \$4,735.74. Her herdmate, Nobledale Legion Cher, Very

Good-86%, led five-year-olds with 27,510 lbs. milk, 1,545 lbs. fat, 1,108 lbs. protein and a CY\$ of 4,886.97.

Mount Rock Jerseys LLC, Newville, was the high herd for milk production among large herds with 100 or more cows with a herd average of 21,051 lbs. milk, 986 lbs. fat and 757 lbs. protein. The dairy received three certificates for individual cow production. Mains Bold Princess{4} led junior two-year-olds with 29,610 lbs. milk, 1,140 lbs. fat, 979 lbs. protein and a CY\$ of \$4,089.04. The top senior two-year-old, Mains TBone Rose, made 28,370 lbs. milk, 1,126 lbs. fat and 1,045 lbs. protein. The CY\$ on the record is \$4,207.70. J3 Mains Allstar Xtra, Very Good-86%, out-produced her junior three-year-old peers with 25,450 lbs. milk, 1,457 lbs. fat, 962 lbs. protein and a CY\$ of \$4,412.04.

Among herds with 60-99 cows, Southmont Farms, Canton, was the leader for all measures of production with 21,205 lbs. milk, 1,023 lbs. fat and 759 lbs. protein.

In the category for herds with 30-59 cows, Herman Cook, Peach Bottom, was the top milk producer with 18,130 lbs. milk, 831 lbs. fat and 616 lbs. protein. The herd owned by Harold E. Harpster, Boalsburg, was tops for components with 17,293 lbs. milk, 964 lbs. fat and 666 lbs. protein.

Among small herds with 7-29 cows, David Myers, Summerhill, surpassed his peers with a herd average of 21,245 lbs. milk, 943 lbs. fat and 740 lbs. protein. Brewer Jerseys, Bangor, was the fat leader with 18,615 lbs. milk, 996 lbs. fat and 687 lbs. protein.

Three other Jersey breeders took home awards for individual cow production. Ryan D. Clark, Tyrone, received three of them for members of the milking string at Windy Lane Jerseys. Windy Lane Sparky Traci-P, Very Good-80%, was the high-producing senior yearling. She produced a record of 24,830 lbs. milk, 1,213 lbs. fat and 876 lbs. protein, with a CY\$ of 3,889.67. Seatuck Jaden Twizzler, Very Good-84%, topped the division for cows 6-7 years-of-age with 25,360 lbs. milk, 1,361 lbs. fat, 1,034 lbs. protein and a CY\$ of \$4,451.82. Among cows 8-9 years old, the top cow was GR AF/FS Garden Cherry{3}, Very Good-86%. She made a record of 30,010 lbs. milk, 1,349 lbs. fat and 1,036 lbs. protein, with a CY\$ of \$4,496.66, to top her peers.

Katie A. Reichard, Waynesboro, received the award for the high senior three-year-old, Reich Spring Senior Clover, Very Good-85%. She made 31,680 lbs. milk, 1,449 lbs. fat and 1,054

lbs. protein, with a CY\$ of \$4,688.08.

Among the eldest matriarchs 10 years and older, a cow owned by Benuel and Mary Stoltzfus, Honey Brook, took top honors. Hi-Land Carth Helga Heather, Excellent-91%, produced a 10-9 record of 23,964 lbs. milk, 1,293 lbs. fat and 719 lbs. protein, with a CY\$ of \$3,622.17.

Business Meeting

A bulk of the meeting centered on plans for the upcoming AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings. Jersey breeders from the state will focus not only on Pennsylvania Jerseys, but also showcase the historic Gettysburg area and promote Pennsylvania agriculture.

In other business, the organization agreed to continue to fund travel to the All American Junior Jersey Show for youth who exhibit cattle at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Jersey Show in Harrisburg, Pa.

A silent auction of donated items raised \$400 for Pennsylvania juniors.

Officers elected to serve the organization in 2015 were: Steve Paxton, Grove City, president; Ryan Clark, vice president; and Jessica Peters, secretary. Directors for the organization are: George Dean, Chicora; Matt Derr, Linden; Mark Gardner, Dayton; Paul Moyer, Roaring Branch; Elaine Noble, Gillett; David Norman, Liberty; Jeff Peters; Marisa Reitenour, Mohrsville; Craig Rhein, Pine Grove; Lori Sollenberger; Amy Theobald, Waymart; Adam Vance, Alverton; and Susan Wicker, Centre Hall.