

PA Jersey Breeders and Youth Celebrate the Jersey Breed at the 2016 Annual PA Jersey Meeting in Clarion

Clarion, PA, March 4 and 5, 2016 – In early March, the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Association (PJCA) held its annual meeting at the Park Inn by Radisson Hotel in Clarion, PA. Over 100 Jersey enthusiasts attended the weekend with nearly 30 youth participating in various contests.

The weekend began Friday afternoon with the PJCA board of directors meeting where the board and volunteers continued the process of planning and organizing the upcoming 2017 American Jersey Cattle Association-National All-Jersey (AJCA-NAJ) Annual Meeting, “The Jersey Address” to be hosted by the PJCA in Gettysburg, PA.

While the director meeting took place, PA Jersey youth competed in the speech and dairy jeopardy contests. The annual dairy jeopardy contest, facilitated by the Penn State Dairy Science Club, boasted a large number of participants. Winners from each contest were celebrated at the Friday night youth banquet. Also acknowledged at the banquet were the winners of the youth production contest, junior and senior scrapbook winners, achievement award recipients, and the first year project award winner. To see a full list of the PA Jersey junior winners please see below. Two PA Jersey youth were awarded scholarships at the banquet, Willow Voegtlen and Andrew Theobald.

Friday night, the 2015 PA Jersey Queen, Willow Voegtlen, said her goodbye as the 2016 PA Jersey Queen contest was held. The two qualified contestants vying for the honor were Brooke Ostrander and Jaydyn Isiminger. Both girls began their dairy careers with Jersey projects and have continued that tradition over the years. Though both proved themselves worthy of the title throughout the contest, Brooke Ostrander of Bradford County was crowned the 2016 PA Jersey Queen, while Jaydyn Isiminger was crowned as the 2016 Alternate PA Jersey Queen.

Saturday morning the annual meeting of the PJCA was held with over 80 members in attendance. The speaker for the morning was Neal Smith, the Executive Secretary and CEO of the AJCA-NAJ. He spoke of the rapid growth that has been witnessed over the last few years within the Jersey breed and the opportunities available for even more growth in coming years. He also praised the past leadership of the AJCA and the hard, just decisions they have made to further the breed and support Jersey breeders.

Three awards were given Saturday morning. The first was the 2016 PJCA Distinguished Service Award and is awarded to members of the association who have devoted lots of time, energy, and wisdom to the association and the Jersey breed as a whole. This year’s award was well deserved and awarded posthumously to Gary Miller of Crawford County. His family accepted the award on his behalf as members reflected on his accomplishments and all that he has done for the association. From teaching youth how to show, fit, and handle cattle to being

the driving force in keeping the PJCA youth trip to Louisville possible for many years, Gary devoted his life to being passionate about the breed and the industry as a whole.

The second award went to Scott and Karen Nolt of Bradford County as the 2016 PJCA Young Jersey Breeder. The Nolt's own and operate Country Path Farm where they milk both Holsteins and Jerseys. Their animals have quite the presence in the show ring via their daughters who compete, and win, at all levels. In addition to this award, they were also recipients of the 2015 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year Award given by the Bradford County Conservation District.

The last award of the day was the Norman Genetic Award, believed to be the longest running Jersey genetic award in the country, is awarded to the PA herd with the highest average Jersey Performance Index (JPI). This year's recipient was Spruce Row Farm, Inc., the Peters family of Crawford County and has an average JPI of 51 based on 234 cows. Spruce Row has been honored with this award for the last five years.

In addition to individual breeder awards, several PA Jersey cows and herds were recognized for their top production in 2015. The production awards are ranked based on a cheese merit formula. Individual certificates were awarded to the top cows in each age category and to each farm with the highest fat, protein, and milk in four different size categories. The top protein cow for 2015 was VanFel Kobalt Tillie 770 owned by Vanderfeltz Jerseys with 1,141 pounds of protein. Vanderfeltz Jerseys also had the highest average protein test of all PA Jersey herds with 814 pounds of protein on 132 cows. Below is a list of the top cows in each age group.

The big news within the Association right now is the 2017 AJCA-NAJ Annual Meeting being hosted by the PJCA in Gettysburg on June 21-25, 2017. The meeting "The Jersey Address" will include farm tours, Gettysburg battlefield tours, specific tours and activities for the youth. As planning continues, there are lots of opportunities to become involved within the committees and even more the month and week of the event. If you're interested in helping or looking for more information or would like to help sponsor the event, please contact Chairmen, David and Aggie Norman at 570.324.5631 or david.norman@frontier.com or Fundraising Chairmen, J. Craig and Susan Wicker at 814.364.9807 or wickfsvetclin@aol.com.

Throughout the weekend there was a silent auction showcasing everything from Jersey salt and pepper shakers to homemade cheeses and cookies. Members were asked to bid on over two dozen items to help raise money for the youth fund. A big thank you to those who donated items and to everyone who bid, over \$500 was raised for the fund. The Association would also like to thank the meeting sponsors: AgChoice Farm Credit, COBA/Select Sires, Dairy Farms of America, Land O'Lakes, Renaissance Nutrition, and Select Sire Power.

For more information or to stay updated with PA Jersey Association news and events like or page on Facebook (Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Association) or our youth page (Pennsylvania Jersey Juniors). You can also contact the Executive Secretary Jessica Peters at 814.282.5206 or via email at pennsylvaniajerseys@gmail.com.

Scrapbook Winners-

1. Jr. – Katelyn Taylor
– Audrey Staples
2. Sr. – Willow Voegtlen

First Year Project Award-

1. Jillian Anderson
Maxwell Knapp

Achievement

2. Jr. – Jordan Anderson

Speech Contest:

Jr. Division:

- 1st – Kaylee Knapp
- 2nd - Audrey Staples
- 3rd – Ellie Curtis

Int. Division:

- 1st – Madison Davis
- 2nd – Maggie Whitenight
- 3rd – Jordan Anderson

Sr. Division:

- 1st – Sawyer Whitenight
- 2nd – Hannah Diehl

Dairy Jeopardy Contest:

Jr. Division:

- 1st – Nicole Arrowsmith
- 2nd - Kaylee Knapp
- 3rd – Jacob Bramm

Int. Division:

- 1st – Caroline Arrowsmith
- 2nd – Jordan Anderson
- 3rd –Olivia Bramm

Sr. Division:

- 1st – Roy Bramm
- 2nd – Ayla Blatt
- 3rd – Jaydyn Isiminger

Jacob M. Brunges Youth Production Contest

1 st Jessica Nolt 3-11 305D	30,572M	Elsbree Marshall Arkansas 1,182F 1,002P 1,012 m.e. Protein
2 nd Katelyn Nolt 4-9 305D	25,969M	Lost Hill Influence Ram 1,088F 860P 937 m.e. Protein
3 rd Naomi Diehl 1-11 305D	19,694M	Musser Run Dawson Sweetpea 757F 639P 791 m.e. Protein
4 th Nicole Arrowsmith 8-10 305D	19,677M	Pennwood Primetime Addie-ET 1,032F 745P 753 m.e. Protein
5 th Hannah Diehl 1-11 305D	17,029M	Musser Run Riley Mamie 784F 590P 749 m.e. Protein
6 th Shelby Alexander 2-1 305D	16,778M	Rog-Al Golda Nixie 916F 547P 706 m.e. Protein
7 th Zachary Alexander 6-5 305D	18,849M	Rog-Al latola Peppermint 1,216F 710P 703 m.e. Protein
8 th Caroline Arrowsmith 7-4 305D	20,908M	Ty-Ly-View Excite Foxie 1,072F 714P 700 m.e. Protein
9 th Andrew Theobald 2-2 305D	16,330M	CA Theo Dominican Kesha 752F 560P 672 m.e. Protein
10 th Riley Thompson 3-2 305D	15,424M	Cerenity Eclipse Aurora 752F 523P 659 m.e. Protein

2015 Pennsylvania High Lactation Animals by Age & Cheese Yield Dollars

Sr. Yearling: Reich Spring Valentino Iridessa owned by Barbara Aldrich in Franklin County.	23,300M	1,189F	814P	Cheese Yield = \$3,697.50
Jr. 2 Year Old: South-Mont Tbone Farrah owned by South-Mont Farms in Bradford County.	22,196M	1,253F	819P	Cheese Yield = \$3,778.95
Sr. 2 Year Old: Mains Bold Erma owned by Mount Rock Jerseys LLC in Cumberland County.	25,207M	1,306F	916P	Cheese Yield = \$4,107.08
Jr. 3 Year Old: PR Mains Allstar Arianna owned by Mount Rock Jerseys LLC in Cumberland County.	21,996M	1,419F	914P	Cheese Yield = \$4,210.85
Sr. 3 Year Old: Mains Region Priscilla owned by Mount Rock Jerseys LLC in Cumberland County.	26,288M	1,502F	944P	Cheese Yield = \$4,439.26
4 Year Old: Vanfel Region Juliet 843 owned by Vanderfeltz Jerseys in Susquehanna County.	27,189M	1,439F	1,116P	Cheese Yield = \$4,763.77
5 Year Old: Bellevue Darby of SSF owned by Bill Curley in Luzerne County.	30,658M	1,556F	1,116P	Cheese Yield = \$4,957.50
6 & 7 Year Old: GR Wingert Mecca Annette 2173 owned by Wingert Farms in Huntingdon County.	29,923M	1,697F	1,096P	Cheese Yield = \$5,085.98
8 & 9 Year Old: Sam Emily of Central Valley owned by Alexis Pheasant in Blair County.	31,716M	1,251F	1,087P	Cheese Yield = \$4,506.99
10 Years & Over: EDN-RU Remake Pattys Prissy owned by Jessica McMurtrie in Centre County.	20,412M	1,103F	727P	Cheese Yield = \$3,350.94

Pennsylvania 2015 Top Jersey Herds

Herd Size	Award Category	Herd Owner	County	# of Cows	Milk	Fat	Protein
7-29 Cows	Milk, Fat, & Protein	Paul H. Zimmerman, Jr.	Franklin	15	22026	1004	754
30-59 Cows	Fat	Roger Alexander	Tioga	33.2	16625	996	581
30-59 Cows	Milk & Protein	Cliff & Andrea Sensenig	Lancaster	58.9	19264	953	688
60-99 Cows	Milk, Fat, & Protein	Southmont Farms	Bradford	88.5	3X 21435	1000	775
100 & Over	Milk, Fat, & Protein	Vanderfeltz Jerseys	Susquehanna	132.4	21470	1012	814