

Mike Stiles Named Sixth Max Gordon Winner

One of the men behind the scenes of one of the most successful show strings and Registered Jersey farms in the world, was recognized by his peers in Louisville, Ky., on November 9, 2008.

Mike Stiles of Waverly Farm, Clear Brook, Va., was named the sixth recipient of the Max Gordon Recognition Award.

It is a recognition given annually to honor integrity and credibility in the show ring. Stiles' name was engraved on a rotating trophy featuring a sculpture of Wonderful Dreaming Givia, the first All American Grand Champion female, bred and exhibited by Max Gordon.

"Mike was a unanimous choice for the award this year," said Phil Gordon, Syracuse, Ind., son of the man for which the award is given. "His unwavering graciousness in good times and bad, exhibits the professionalism and integrity that Mike possesses. He is always a gentleman."

Presenting this award to Stiles during the milkout of the National Jersey Jug Futurity was most fitting, as Stiles and his family have won the class four times—more than any other breeder in the shows 56-year history. Other All American honors include being named Premier Breeder 16 times; Premier Exhibitor 11 times; exhibiting the National Grand Champion six times and showing the Reserve National Grand Champion eight times.

Mike, along with his brother, Paul, and their families, own and operate Waverly Farm—one of the most decorated Jersey dairies in the country.

The herd began in 1967 when their parents, Robert and Hazel, moved their 50-cow herd from Montgomery County, Md., to Clear Brook, Va. Since the dairy began, they have bred over 1,500 Excellent cows including 38 that have been appraised Excellent-94% or higher including, WF Barber Shasta, one of only five cows in history to be appraised Excellent-97%.

The herd currently is home to over 400 Registered Jerseys of all ages. In the milking herd there are over 100 cows with production records exceeding 20,000 lbs. milk, 1,000 lbs. fat, or 800 lbs. protein. The farm and their partnerships have placed over 100 sires in A.I. sampling programs including popular sires, WF/L&M Duncan Barber-ET, Blackys Big Time, WF Brook Bomber and W.F. Generator Justin.

Each year the farm exhibits at the Montgomery County (Md.) Fair, Maryland State Fair, Mid-Atlantic Regional Show, Central National Jersey Show and The All American Jersey Show.

Mike is known not only as a successful manager and breeder of Excellent Jerseys,



Mike Stiles, center, is the sixth recipient of the Max Gordon Recognition Award. Presenting the trophy during festivities of the National Jersey Jug Futurity are Gordon's daughter and son Phyllis Dragoo and Phil Gordon.

but he has judged shows around the United States, Ecuador, and twice in Australia. In 2005, Mike was selected to judge The All American Junior Jersey Show. He has judged the Central National Jersey show and many county and state fairs.

For the past 20 years, Mike has served on the All American planning committees including a year as General Chair of the All American events. He was the chair of the All American Sale and All American Open Show committee and continues to serve on the Open Show committee today.

In 1991, Mike served as co-chair of the National Heifer Sale. In addition, he currently serves as president of the Virginia Jersey Breeders Association and is a board member of the Virginia PDCA, where he is their current president.

The Stiles family was recognized by the American Jersey Cattle Association in 1998 as Master Breeders. National Dairy Shrine awarded them the Distinguished Dairyman Award in 1999 and they received the W. Ray Murley Virginia Distinguished Dairyman Award the same year.

With the time spent away promoting the Jersey, additional help on the farm is often needed. Providing assistance are: Mike's son, Zach, and Paul's son, Todd. Chad Powers, a Virginia Tech graduate, is herdsman. Mike's wife, Patricia, keeps the financial books and assists with calf feeding and milking. Additional part-time help is provided by Patricia and Mike's daughters, Laura and Claire, and Chad's wife, Brooke.

The Max Gordon Recognition Award, in its sixth year, is given to an exhibitor who possesses the five key elements for which the award's namesake stood: sportsmanship, ethics, professionalism, ability and promotion of the Jersey cow.

Each of the previous winners were on hand to make congratulate Stiles—Harry Mykrantz, Ohio (2007); Ronnie Rider, Ky. (2006); Chuck Myers, Ohio (2005); Charles Luchsinger, N.Y. (2004); and Ron Mosser, Ind. (2003).