

# PA Guernsey breeders finish exciting 51st year

**BY DONNA TOMMELLEO**  
**WEST MIDDLESEX** — Mother Nature's final winter show wasn't enough to deter nearly 200 Guernsey Breeders and their families from attending the 51st Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeder's Association, last weekend.

Outside, the Northwestern Pa. howling winds dumped inches of snow and ice, causing slippery roadways. But inside, the festivities were warm and jovial; the attitudes reflected anticipation that comes only with spring. "There's something happening in the Guernsey breed," predicted

field representative Ruth Ann Benedict, a life-long advocate of the high-protein, high-fat breed. "I can feel the enthusiasm."

Benedict's enthusiasm, shared by many others, was spawned by last year's turn around. Although economic woes continue to plague individuals, communities and the nation, the PGBA prepared for hard times, tightened its belt and realized a profit for the first time since 1972.

According to business manager Lee Yost, the association, which now boasts more than 330 members, cut back on staff and reduced salaries. The belt tightening was complemented on the plus side by increased cow sales (10 in 1981) and rental of the Guernsey pavillion in Lancaster.

The pavillion, used for cow sales, automobile and stereo shows, to name a few, became so popular that at the close of one Guernsey sale, Yost barely had time to step down from the auction box before antiques from an upcoming sale were brought in the back door.

The Association's streamlined activities followed a bleak period in the golden breed's history. The breed suffered a major blow when handlers stopped bottling milk under the breed's several trademarks. The loss of trademarks resulted in a loss of royalties. Hence, one had to look high and low for a bottle of Golden Guernsey milk in the retail market.

But the move was underway in the Guernsey society to prove to handlers and manufacturers that not all milk is alike. During the annual banquet Saturday night, Arnold Knight, secretary of the Wisconsin Guernsey Breeders' Association, explained to his Pennsylvania colleagues what America's Dairyland is doing for the Guernsey breed.

Following the Wisconsin breeders' trademark losses, Knight explained that breeders chipped in two cents a hundredweight to create a fund that would help make the dairy industry aware of protein in milk.

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The PGBA Outstanding Girl Debbie Lehman of York, far left, is joined by Judith Harding, Brookville and Jeff Hartz, Dalmatia, as the three juniors display their production awards for milk and fat.



Field Representative for the PGBA Ruth Ann Benedict heads a line of hungry convention-goers during the 51st Annual banquet, held at the Sheraton Inn in West Middlesex, Mercer County.



Honored for Outstanding Individuals or Herd Records in the Guernsey breed are from left to right: John Myers, Littlestown—High Cow for Fat; Mervin K. Myers, Littlestown—High Herd for Fat; Richard Staner, Windsor—High Cow for Milk.



The Association's business manager Lee Yost and wife Martha give the old "box-step" a whirl at the close of the convention's first day.



## Sales highlight PGBA convention

**MERCER** — The Fourth Annual Blue Halter Calf sale, which highlighted the 51st Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association, kicked off with a fancy Minnes Choice daughter out of an Excellent Top Hornet.

Crumdale Choice Frick, consigned by Richard and Steven Staner of Windsor, topped the sale with a \$2,000 price tag. Guernsey junior member David Renkert of Douglassville purchased the 5-month-old heifer.

The sale, which discounted any junior toward the purchase of an animal, grossed \$14,500 and averaged \$725 on 20 head.

Ohio youngster Mark Bates of Southington paid \$1,650 for a 6-month-old McDonalds Jackpot daughter. The calf, consigned by Russell and Ethel Fetter and Lee Smetzer of Big Prairie, Ohio, is out of a 2-year-old with more than 5,500 pounds of milk in just 130 days.

Robert B. Smith of Annville

consigned the third top-seller, Lebanon Valley Blue Ribbon. The 3-month-old Jackpot daughter brought \$1,050 and was purchased by Tammy Gill of Creston, Ohio.

The 51st Annual Meeting Sale was topped by a 5-year-old Hollirex daughter. Summerfield Hollirex Ina brought \$3,000 and was purchased by William and Nancy Cannon of Sharon. The Cannons were among several Northwestern Pa. breeders that hosted the Convention and Sale.

The top-selling cow was consigned by Lawrence County breeder Theodore Ferris of New Wilmington.

Homer Martin of Orrville, Ohio paid \$2,500 for Dolly Run B T Jackie. The first-calf heifer, a Co Hill Farms T H Big Tex daughter was consigned by Dolly Run Farm of Centerville.

John Fox of Enon Valley bought the third high-seller, Kelsos Telear Carlee for \$1,550. The

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A \$3,000 bid from Bill Cannon of Sharon claimed this Hollirex daughter which topped the 51st Annual Meeting Sale at the Mercer 4-H Park, last Saturday. From left to right the

group includes: Jeannice and Theodore Ferris, consignor; Gary Fisher of Portersville, contender; Cannon, buyer; Don Cannon at halter; John Merryman and Lee Yost in the box.