

NE dairy exhibitors spotlighted at NAILE

Gala Jersey Jug Futurity is NAILE'S 'formal affair'

(Editor's Note: Lancaster Farming correspondent Donna McConaughy traveled to Louisville, Ky. last week for the North American Livestock Exposition. On these two pages are her stories about dairy exhibitors from Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York and about the Jersey Jug Queen.)

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—The lights dim, the crowd hushes and the spotlight shines on contestants as they enter the coliseum. The tuxedoed judge and the escorts in white begin their work.

While this event is a beauty contest, the contestants are not pretty girls, they are Jersey cows.

The National Jersey Jug Futurity, considered to be the top futurity of its kind by the dairy registry—and other breed registries as well—is in its 31st year. The Futurity pits three-year-old cows against each other in a high-stakes contest.

The entrants are nominated as calves and pay a fee when nominated and once a year for the next three years. The nomination fee funds the event while the other fees are earmarked for the premium fund. First prize for the 1984 Jersey Jug Champion was \$1,200, and the pot is sure to grow for future shows.

The Jersey Jug Futurity got its name and start from the Little Brown Jug, the internationally famous harness race for three-year-old Standardbred pacers. Russell White, of Galena, Ohio, watched the growth of the harness futurity and after attending a Jersey show in Plain City, Ohio, became interested in organizing a futurity for Jersey breeders. The purpose of this show would be to stimulate more interest in the Jersey breed and to further the enjoyment of owning Jerseys.

The name Jersey Jug was selected not only for its thought association with the Little Brown Jug but also because of the metal

containers which the dairymen on the Island of Jersey formerly used to hold and transport milk.

In 1954, White's idea became reality. The first Jersey Jug Futurity was held in a tent in Delaware, Ohio. While the first show was only marginally accepted with 24 females, and 12 bulls entered, it was the beginning of White's vision of the ultimate show: glamorous, suspenseful, and most important of all, exciting to breeders and audiences.

By the time the Jug moved to the Ohio State Fair in 1956, it was drawing exhibitors and spectators alike. Then, in 1959, the Futurity became a national event with sponsorship coming from The American Jersey Cattle Club as part of the All American Show and Sale.

Executive secretary of the American Jersey Cattle Club, James Cavanaugh said the present day Jersey Jug competition is the Kentucky Derby of the cattle world. It is held each year in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition. Using money generated from the initial nomination fee, the Jug committee creates a three-hour production featuring queens, huge silver trophies, colorful green banners, white and green robed leadsmen and of course, fine Jersey cows.

Ruth McCarthy of Jefferstown, Ky., coordinates the pageantry of the show. "We try to outdo ourselves every year", McCarthy said. "We, of course, have a limited budget, but during the past few years, we've used draft horses and wagons, vintage cars, horse drawn carriages, and this year Corvette sports cars to lead the parade of entrants."

Creating the aura of the show is a major part of the committee's work. They attribute the Futurity's success to the glamour of the show.

"The Jersey people said 'let's have some fun', so we have created

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Winning this year's Jersey Jug Futurity was Gil-Bar Unique Bonnie, exhibited by Shamsie Ranch and Pinehurst Farm and Robert Fisher of Louisiana, Texas and Ontario, Canada.

Md. Holsteins score high marks in jr. dairy show

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Maryland junior exhibitors represented their state well in dairy competition at NAILE.

In Holstein competition, Michael Iager of Dulton, Md., took home first place honors in the two-year-old class. His daughter of Ocean View Sexation was a home-bred cow. In the open show Pinky won second place honors.

A second place was won by Gus Schwartzbeck of Union Bridge, Md., with his senior calf, Del Myr Able Sophie. A daughter of Del Myr Valiant Able, this senior calf placed fourth in open competition.

Maryland's other entry in Holstein competition was Artie-Jay Astronaut Christine, a junior yearling shown by Robert Johnson of Dickerson, Md. This Paclamar Astronaut daughter was fourth in both the junior and open shows.

Maryland also exhibited several head in the All-American Jersey Junior Show. Susie Heath of Westminster, Md., placed fifth with her summer yearling and tenth with her senior calf. In the intermediate calf class, Thomas Mullineaux of Keymar showed Gaywinds Stardust Blossom to win a tenth place award. These awards were garnered in the biggest ever All-American Junior Jersey Show which is "the" National Jersey

Show.

The Maryland junior string included a Brown Swiss summer yearling owned by Stacy Bassler of

Rocky Ridge, Md. This home-bred daughter of H. Brigeen Elegant Lou placed second in junior competition and eighth in the open show.



Maryland was represented in Holstein competition by exhibitors (left to right) Bobby Johnson, Gus Swartzbeck, and Mike Iager. They are shown with Mike's top two-year-old.



Susie Heath is at the halter of the second place Brown Swiss summer yearling owned by Stacy Bassler of Rocky Ridge, Md.

Pa. Ayrshire named NAILE Jr. Champion

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Ayrshire included three exhibitors from Pennsylvania who traveled to



Continuing Pennsylvania's strong representation was the Hunter family of Washington County. Their top animal was a senior calf named junior champion of the junior show. Pictured are: Shelli and Richard Hunter, and Pam Pedigo, Kentucky Ayrshire Queen.

Kentucky for the southern National Ayrshire junior and open shows.

Pennsylvania exhibitors brought home a championship in this breed. Richard Hunter of West Alexander in Washington County exhibited the junior champion female. Toll Gate Ayr. Hammond Sheena, a senior calf out of Hammon Oracle, claimed this honor. In addition, she received first place in the Best Bred and Owned class. Sheena was also recently named the junior champion of the Pennsylvania All-American Open Show this year.

Richard's sister Shelli exhibited an intermediate calf which placed ninth in the junior show.

The Hunters farm a 420-acre dairy farm. This operation is owned by Richard's father, uncle, and grandfather. The milking herd consists of 20 Holsteins and 60 Ayrshires, all registered. The senior calf represents a three generation cow family owned by Richard.

Also exhibiting in the junior Ayrshire show was Amy Kline of Mars, Pa.

Palace Ayrshires of Cochranville competed in the 1984 Southern National Ayrshire Open Show. Their winnings included second place three-year-old and third place two-year-old.