

National Jersey breeders convene in Lancaster

LANCASTER — A record crowd of Jersey breeders from across the United States converged on Lancaster this week for the annual meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Club and National All-Jersey, Inc.

Nearly 600 Jersey cattle enthusiasts attended the national meetings, the highest ever in the AJCC's 117-year history.

Many individuals were feted during the four-day event, including some aggressive new leaders in the Jersey breed, as well as some long-time contributors to the growth and success of the Jersey organization.

Among the Jersey newcomers were the recipients of the highly coveted Young Jersey Dairyman Awards. Seven couples overcame stiff national competition to earn these Young Jersey honors, which were awarded during the AJCC Awards Breakfast on Wednesday morning. The winners were:

- Dean and Chris Blackhurst, of Pleasant Grove, Utah;
- Dennis and Cheryl Cline, of Waterville, Iowa;
- Edwin and Cheryl Ettinger, Mocksville, N.C.;
- Roger and Anita Marcoot, Greenville, Ill.;
- Bill and Kathleen Schaeffer, Acme, Wash.;
- Richard and Paula Schlotterbeck, Lewisburg, Ohio, and;
- Dan and Connie Schweigert,

Tremont, Ill.

Also presented at the Wednesday morning awards breakfast were national production trophies, which went to a couple of the Jersey breed's old favorites.

Referred to as the "perennial winner," Basil Lucy Minnie Pansy captured two lifetime awards. The 19-year-old Pansy, owned by William Henry Diley and Sons, of Canal Winchester, Ohio, received for the seventh time the Ogston Farm Trophy for Living Lifetime Milk and the High Lawn Farm Trophy for Living Lifetime Fat.

Her lifetime production record stands at 275,624 milk, and 13,342 fat in 5,173 days.

Winning the President's Trophy for the breed's top lactation was SLJ Faithful Mary Francis, owned by Hays State Line Jerseys, Seneca, Mo. At 7 years and 6 months she produced 22,910 pounds milk and 1,285 pounds fat in 305 days.

Among the veteran Jersey breeders to earn recognition at the national conference was Newell Mills, of Fallon, Nev. During the AJCC annual meeting, he was honored with the receipt of the club's Master Breeder Award.

Also at the annual meeting, retiring executive secretary J.F. Cavanaugh presented his final annual meeting address, in which he expressed his optimism for the future of the Jersey breed. "I like



Co-chairs Helene and Robert Dreisbach (left) and Angie and Donald Koontz were congratulated and thanked for organizing the successful AJCC/NAJ annual meetings.

our goal," he concluded with his trademark phrase, "Making owning Jerseys more profitable



M.E. Core, soon-to-be AJCC executive secretary.

than owning any other breed of dairy cattle."

Assuming the position of executive secretary will be current treasurer and assistant secretary, M.E. Core. During the AJCC annual meeting, he reviewed the breed organization's favorable performance status and financial stability.

Participation in Jersey performance programs is now at a 20-year high with 724 TPE and DHIR herds, and type appraisers scored a record number 40,567 cows on over 1000 farms this year.

DHIR production per cow has risen to a new high of 12,501 pounds milk, and 598 pounds fat.

During Tuesday's National All-

Jersey, Inc. annual meeting, the year-end review was also bright. Assistant Secretary Calvin Covington stated, "NAJ is making you money. In 1984 as a result of being paid on an Equity Pricing system, Jersey dairymen received an additional \$16 million."

In addition, over 100,000 pounds of Jersey Pride Natural Cheese was sold in 1984, the first full year of the commodity's existence.

In addition to attending the AJCC and NAJ annual meetings, convention participants also enjoyed the festive Tuesday evening annual banquet, which honored Jim Cavanaugh. Other conference highlights included the National Heifer Sale, held at the Solanco Fairgrounds, and several tours of Lancaster County Jersey farms.

The Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club was congratulated for hosting the highly successful annual meeting. Due to the hard work and fund-raising efforts of the club members, conference costs were kept to a minimum, which contributed to the record attendance figures.

Co-chairing the national Jersey convention were Robert and Helene Dreisbach, Hamburg, and Donald and Angie Koontz, Fredonia



Ten busloads of Jersey breeders came to view the cows at George and Doris Hough's MilkHoney Farm, as well as several other top Jersey herds in Lancaster County.

Cavanaugh recognized for service

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — The crowd was billed as the largest ever as almost 600 Jersey breeders gathered at the Americana Host Farm Resort Tuesday evening to honor their retiring leader, J.F. "Jim" Cavanaugh.

Recognizing 38 years of dedicated service and leadership to the Jersey breed, "The J.F. Cavanaugh Recognition Banquet," part of the American Jersey Cattle Club's annual meeting, honored the retiring executive secretary of the Club.

For his outstanding and unselfish service toward the advancement of the Jersey breed, Cavanaugh was honored with the AJCC Distinguished Service Award at the banquet. Presented by C.L. Collins Jr., AJCC president, the award marked the celebration of accomplishments by Cavanaugh for the Jersey cow.

A major and combat fighter in the Army Air Corps for four years during World War II,

Cavanaugh left in 1946 to return to the Hoard's Dairyman staff. He joined the AJCC staff in 1947 as assistant secretary, and in 1953 he became the first editor of the Jersey Journal.

Instrumental in launching the All-Jersey milk program in 1957, he continually emphasized the increase of production of the Jersey cow and the expansion of milk marketing programs.

He preached improving the profitability of the Jersey cow and urged breeders "to make owning Jerseys more profitable than owning any other kind of dairy cattle."

Because of Cavanaugh's foresight, a major advancement toward this end came with the AJCC adoption of the USDA Sire Summary in 1967 as the official method of ranking Jerseys.

Cavanaugh's leadership brought the Jersey breed to its present strong position in the dairy marketplace. Under his guidance the Genetic Recovery Program advanced, the Equity Program began, and the Jersey

Pride Cheese Program was launched. Jersey Marketing Service also expanded, and the linear appraisal system was also initiated.

As the first breed association to ever begin many of these programs, the AJCC and Jersey breeders enjoyed countless advancements and recognition under Cavanaugh's 38-year tenure, the longest in the 117-year history of the AJCC.

His friends and co-workers at the banquet on Tuesday evening roasted the celebrated leader as Jersey breeders filled in the applause. Numerous gifts and plaques were also presented by several state clubs to the distinguished executive secretary.

As host of this annual meeting, the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club presented Cavanaugh with a quilted wall hanging of a Jersey cow at the conclusion of the banquet. Angie Koontz, Fredonia, made the presentation and echoed the sentiments of Jersey breeders nationwide.



Retiring AJCC Executive Secretary J.F. "Jim" Cavanaugh receives best wishes and a fancy Jersey cow from Angie Koontz, representative of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club.