

# Ayrshires to hold national convention in Pennsylvania

GRANTVILLE — The second national breed convention in as many weeks will be held in Pennsylvania when the Ayrshire enthusiasts meet on April 22 to the 25. They will assemble at the Holiday Inn in Grantville for the 111th National Annual Meeting and Sale.

The first three days feature farm visits, tours of nearby attractions, the annual meeting and awards banquet, and the youth program.

Day one finds the group traveling to Masonic Homes Farm and Sycamore Meade Farm, two well respected Ayrshire breeders in the south central portion of the state.

Masonic Homes Farm has been a registered Ayrshire breeder since its beginnings in 1913. They presently milk 120 cows and maintain a 14,000 pound plus herd average.

They are located in the rolling hills outside of Elizabethtown, Lancaster County where they farm over 1,000 acres. In addition to their quality Ayrshires, Masonic Homes also raises beef, swine, poultry, orchards, general farm crops and vegetables. Much of the production of these enterprises is consumed by the 700 guests at the Homes.

From here they will travel to Millersburg and the home of Sycamore Meade Farm and their show champion Ayrshires. This farm is operated as a partnership by Earl Keefer and his daughter and son-in-law, Sandra and Donald Shetterly.

Sycamore Meade is home to approximately 150 head of Ayrshires. They have leased or sold six bulls over the years to various A.I. organizations. They have received six Constructive Breeders awards and numerous 150,000 production certificates.

They will then proceed to visit an Amish Farm and dine at Camp

Hebron. The evening will feature a slide presentation by Eshelman Studios.

The tour takes an easterly direction for day two as they travel down to Elverson to visit Conebella Farm and Villanova, home of Ardrossan Ayrshires.

Conebella Farm founded in 1922 is operated today by Charles Gable and his son, Donald. All of the 130 Ayrshires on the farm are descendants of the original heifers bought in 1930 from the Dunwoody Home Farm.

In 1984 Conebella Farm received it's 27th consecutive Constructive Breeder Award. Presently they have 10 excellent animals with the highest being Conebella Ora Renee '94'.

Also on Wednesday is a trip to Ardrossan Farm. This Ayrshire herd is managed by Mrs. Edgar Scott daughter of the founder Colonel Robert L. Montgomery. This herd was built from nine animals imported from Scotland in 1910.

The February DHIA report showed the herd average on 101 cows to be 19,346 pounds of milk and 801 pounds of fat. Ardrossan is home to three cows that have produced over 200,000 pounds of milk and six cows that have records over 20,000 pounds of milk.



The group will feast on a meal at Good and Plenty Restaurant in the evening after the farm tours on April 23.

This evening will be highlighted by the Dairy Bowl Finals for the youths.

Thursday's activities start bright and early with the youth breakfast at 6:30 a.m. followed by the youth award program. The Annual Meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. and continues into the afternoon.

The youths will be busy touring Hershey's Chocolate World during the morning hours. In the afternoon they will stage a Mock Auction using the animals slated to sell in the National Sale on Friday.

Doug Dodds will serve as emcee for the annual awards banquet on

the evening of Thursday, April 24. The featured speaker will be Dieter Krieg from Farmshine newspaper.

Friday features the Grand National Sale at high noon in the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. This sale has 45 animals catalogued from across the country.

This sale features quality Ayrshires that were selected for production, test, type and longevity. Nine young cows whose dam's have records over 21,000 pounds of milk and a 4.3 percent test will be sold. Also 23 bred heifers, six open heifers, and seven heifer calves with similar credentials will be sold.

The pedigrees of these animals

show many lifetime records of over 100,000 pounds of milk and classifications of excellent or very good.

This sale also feature two donations from Ardrossan Farms to benefit the youth program. Ardrossan Just FMEC, a senior yearling, will be sold in the sale and the proceeds donated to the Youth Fund.

Ardrossan J Boy Endeavouring, a senior heifer, will be raffled off to support the Pennsylvania Ayrshire Youth. Anyone wishing to support this raffle can purchase tickets, \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00, at the convention or by sending the necessary funds to Barb Rader, Youth Chairman, Box 216, Connoquenessing, PA, 16027.

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