

Jersey Association Offers Growth Charts

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The American Jersey Cattle Club's Research Foundation has funded a project which may help dairy producers learn more about managing the Jersey cow.

"Standards of Weight and Height for Jersey and Guernsey Heifers," is an article by A.J. Heinrichs and G.L. Hargrove, both with Pennsylvania State University, which was published last year in the "Journal of Dairy Science."

In addition to new growth standards, researchers showed that better managed herds with higher milk production and reduced age at first calving have heifers that are larger at all stages of development.

According to Heinrichs and Hargrove, "While promotion of large heifers isn't the issue, our research shows that the greater growth in heifers at a given age may allow them to calve younger to produce greater amounts of milk."

Standard growth charts are designed to help Jersey breeders monitor heifer growth performance and allow closer scrutiny of the various age groups on their farms. Dairy producers should aim at having their heifers fall within or above the average level listed on the growth charts.

Previously, the only standards available for measuring Jersey

growth were 30 to 50 years old and based on a limited number of experimental herds.

The new study was designed to develop a modern appraisal of the growth of Jersey heifers and to compare growth of heifers from herds with above average milk production to heifers in the entire breed.

Forty-nine herds in Pennsylvania and New York, with a total of 1,564 Jersey heifers, participated. The growth of these heifers, measured in both weight and skeletal height, was compared to the overall management of the farm during the past 12 months.

Information was gathered on the

size of the milking herd, herd average milk, and average age at calving.

According to the researchers, their broad database allows the results to be applied across a wide range of the U.S. Jersey heifer population.

The results of the new Jersey growth standards were similar to those recorded in past studies with

the exception of animals from one to six months; Jerseys up to six months of age show larger weights and heights than previously.

Weights and heights of heifers from six to 24 months were similar to the 1950 standards. Larger animals in the very young segment suggest that current mature weights of older cows may be correspondingly larger.

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Jersey Breed Averages Balloon

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — During 1991, Jerseys enrolled in Dairy Herd Improvement Registry (DHIR) averaged 14,544 pounds milk, 680 pounds fat, and 542 pounds protein, shattering record averages set the year before.

These mature equivalent (m.e.) averages are based on a total of 48,867 lactations for milk and fat with 48,846 lactations for protein.

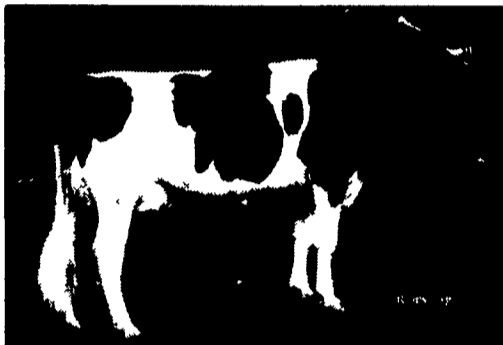
This production shows an increase of 3.4 percent protein, 3.2 percent milk, and 2.7 percent fat over 1990 figures. These figures clearly show the greatest production increase was in protein.

At the current rate of increase — 11.8 pounds protein and 273 pounds milk per year — the Jersey breed will reach its goal of 650 pounds protein in the year 2000 and boast a 17,000-pound milk average.

In addition to a record-high average for the Jersey breed, the 1991 DHIR Lactation Averages brought good news for individual herds. Two herds surpassed the 20,000-pound level for average milk production this year. This marks the first time in history a Jersey herd has reached this level of production.

As production levels for Jerseys continue to climb, the increase in numbers of Jerseys is also evident. At the end of 1990, 156,288 Jerseys were enrolled in Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) testing programs. This is an increase of 2.6 percent over the previous year and a 17 percent increase in the last five years.

Semen sales also confirm that Jersey popularity is on the rise in the United States and around the world. Domestic semen sales increased almost 12 percent from 1986 through 1990.



OSCAR Daughter
Wildmead Oscar Nina Santa, VG-85
2-0 290d 17,363m 3.7% 640f 3.3% 571p
Michael Swartley & Clair & Pat Thrush, Ulster, PA

PROTEIN SIREs

9H1293	CURIOUS	+81
9H1289	OSCAR	+69
9H1279	DANCER	+69
1H414	TESK	+64
1H626	WHITE GOLD	+64
9H1271	BALANCE	+64
1H532	SANTA	+63
1H406	SECRET	+63
✓1H625	TOP SECRET	+61
✓1H621	ADMIRER	+60
9H939	FRONTIER	+60

✓ New graduates



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CURIOUS Daughter
Mor-Dale Curious Gladys Gerne, GP-80
2-6 187d 12,166m 3.6% 438f 3.3% 399p, Inc.
Ralph & Crystal Moyer, Myerstown, PA

◆ TPI SIREs

9H1293	CURIOUS	+1126
1H414	TESK	+1074
9H1173	GLOW	+1068
9H1289	OSCAR	+1019
✓1H625	TOP SECRET	+1011
9H1294	AMBITION	+1005
9H1271	BALANCE	+989
9H1253	RYAN	+988
9H939	FRONTIER	+982
1H406	SECRET	+947

◆ TPI is preliminary



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