

National Guernsey Association Reports Convention

REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO — Positive action was taken by the membership and board of directors to further the future of the Guernsey breed at the annual convention of the American Guernsey Association June 11-14 in Dubuque, Iowa.

Positive action was taken by the board of directors on several matters. One was to make changes regarding the current type traits appraisal program. The board passed a motion which stated "Animals owned by individuals housed on same farms may be considered separate herds for appraisal purposes. If any animal is transferred over 15 months of age between herd owners within one year prior to appraisal, then all eligible cattle must be appraised. If both herds are not appraised, then occasional classification rates will be charged if appraised on a regular schedule. However, the minimum herd fee will be \$75."

Effective in 1994, junior exhibitors in the national junior Guernsey shows must have cows and calves registered in their names by July 1. This transfer date change from January 1 to July 1 was made to increase the participation in the mature classes at the national junior shows. The January 1 rule will remain in effect for the 1993 show season. The junior entry fee in the All-American contest will be reduced from \$20 to \$10 per entry. These new fees will go into effect with the 1993 All-American contest.

The membership also took a stand on an important issue at the annual meeting. The vote to eliminate the Guernsey Genetic Growth program from Section K of Article III of the Bylaws of the American Guernsey Association passed by the majority of active membership who voted.

Church Crowned National Guernsey Queen

Amy Church, the 20-year-old daughter of Craig and Gladie Church of Cresco, Iowa, took top honors when she was crowned the 1993 National Guernsey Queen. She has been active with the family's Oak Knob Guernsey herd since she was a small child. As National Guernsey Queen, Church feels that her responsibilities fall into two categories, consumer promotion and producer events. She said, "Consumer promotion is essential to publicize Guernsey cattle and the delicious, nutritious products they provide for us. Equally important is promoting the Guernsey breed to dairy farmers. The national Guernsey queen should promote excellent Guernsey cattle, herds and achievements to producers of other breeds." Church is a junior at Iowa State University where she is majoring in dairy science and agriculture journalism.

Elizabeth Littlefield, the 20-year-old daughter of Clarence and Sharon Littlefield of Watertown, New York, has been crowned a 1993 National Guernsey Princess. As a National Guernsey Princess, Littlefield said she will promote the Guernsey cow and her strengths in many ways. She said, "First, I will work with other Guernsey breeders to strive for breed improvement programs through better genetics and marketing of products. I will tell everyone of the efficiency of the Guernsey cow, especially lenders and agricultural economists who advise to watch your cash flow." Littlefield is currently pur-

suing a degree at Cornell University with a major in dairy science and a minor in communications.

Jennifer Berg, the 18-year-old daughter of Pamela and Curtis Berg of West Salem, Wisconsin, has been crowned a 1993 National Guernsey Princess. As a National Guernsey Princess, Berg said "My main responsibility is to promote and represent the American Guernsey Association, the Guernsey cow and her products." Berg said she will use this opportunity as a learning experience and apply the knowledge she learns to her future. Berg is a student at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. She is employed at the university's dairy farm lab.

Guernsey Outstanding Young Farmer Selected

Three outstanding young farmers were recognized at the 1993 annual youth awards banquet. A national winner, first runner-up and second runner-up winners were selected.

Millie Widmann received \$750 and the Eugene Harding Memorial Watch Award for being named the 1993 National Outstanding Young Guernsey Farmer. Widmann and her husband Jim reside in Oxford, Pennsylvania. With her brother Axel, Linde joined in a partnership to continue their parent's herd of Lindenhof Guernseys. Their 1992 rolling herd average for 55 cows was 17,099M 766F 602P. Widmann's goal is to increase the herd size to 80 cows by raising their own young stock. She would like to increase production and profitability in the Lindenhof herd. Because their milk market is 55 percent fluid sales and they are paid a premium for solids-not-fat, Widmann said they are selecting mating sires based on pounds of milk and pounds of protein. She studied animal science at Cobleskill State University in New York.

Mark Erdman of Lexington, Illinois, was named the first runner-up in the 1993 National Outstanding Young Guernsey Farmer contest and received \$200. He owns Myown Guernsey Dairy in partnership with his father Myron. The rolling herd average so far for 1993 is 15,171M 704F 535P on 86 cows. Besides the 370 Guernseys on the dairy, he farms

800 acres of row crops and finishes 5,000 head of hogs per year. He graduated in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in animal science from the Illinois State University where he was active on the dairy judging team. He received the AGA outstanding youth award in 1978. Erdman would like to keep herd achievements on the incline and increase the milking herd size. He would also like to show people how type, production and indexes can work hand-in-hand. Erdman is striving to increase the rolling herd average over the next several years to 20,000M, 900F and 700P.

Thomas Luebke of Mayer, Minnesota, was named second runner-up in the 1993 National Young Guernsey Farmer contest. With his wife Jody, they own and operate Edgewater Meadows Guernsey Farm. They have two children — Lindsay, 7, and Brady, 3. Their 1992 rolling herd average for 27 cows was 15,693M 730F 530P. Luebke's goal over the next five years is to increase his total farm net profit by increasing the production and herd life of his cows, and decreasing labor by changing to a free stall system and fall freshening. His breeding program consists of using strictly the top PTI bulls, plus Dairybelt Young Sires. His herd has always been 100 percent A.I. bred. Luebke graduated from Hutchinson Area Vocational Technical Institute in dairy management.

New Guernsey Board Slated

Three positions of the American Guernsey Association Board of Directors were voted on at the National Convention. Two board members were re-elected and one new member was selected.

John Morrow of Tyrone, Pennsylvania, will represent District Two on the board. Morrow's farm houses 70 head of young stock and 80 milking Guernseys enrolled on TPE. His 100 percent registered Guernsey herd is tested annually for John's. Sixty percent of his breeding program consists of using young sires through Mid-Atlantic Guernsey Sires and A.I. young sire programs. Of the 380 acres Morrow farms, 60 are devoted to intensive grazing and the others are used to grow corn, alfalfa, soybeans and barley. His

experience as a farmer and breeder who is dependent on the Guernsey cow for his family's future is an asset Morrow said he can bring to this leadership position. He has been a director and president of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association which also qualifies him for this position. District Two represents the states of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Cline Brubaker of Rocky Mount, Virginia, was re-elected as director for District Six. Brubaker, who has served as president of the American Guernsey Association the past two years, will continue as president for the upcoming year. He currently has 95 registered Guernseys on test and 102 replacement heifers. Four of the cows in his herd are in the top 300 of the breed for cow performance index. The herd is ranked number 13 in the top 30 herds of the Guernsey breed for cow performance index. Young sire programs are a high priority for Brubaker. He is a member and chairman of the administrative committee of Mid-Atlantic Guernsey Sires and is a member of several other young sire sampling programs. He is the past president of the Virginia Guernsey Breeders' Association, past president of the Rocky Mount Young Farmers, past president of the Franklin County ASCS Comm., and a past director of Old Dominion Division of Dairymen, Inc. Brubaker said, "There is a future in our Guernsey breed if we as breeders keep believing and working to make a stronger association for our children and grandchildren. Let's promote our most valuable asset — the Guernsey cow." District Six represents Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Truman Weaver of Goshen, Indiana, was re-elected as director-at-large to the board of directors. Weaver is currently the chairman of the type committee. Belonging to local and state Guernsey and dairy associations has given Weaver experience in leadership positions as well. He is also active in his church. Weaver feels that he can bring leadership to the board as director-at-large

because "Our livelihood has always depended on a 100 percent Guernsey herd. I'm deeply committed to the future of the breed." Weaver's herd consists of 60 milking Guernseys and he farms 60 acres of corn, hay, soybeans and wheat. His herd is enrolled on TPE and he is a member of Lake Central Guernsey Sires. Weaver is optimistic about the future of the breed. He said, "With membership commitment and a spirit of cooperation, we will succeed." The director-at-large represents all active members of the American Guernsey Association in all states.

Other board members and officers include: First Vice-President Lee Riggs of Evansville, Indiana; Second Vice-President Eldon Moss of Iowa City, Iowa; Laurie Askew of Hilmar, California; Robert Holcomb of Greene, New York; Kevin Nedrow of Clifton Springs, New York; and Don Peterson of Cashton, Wisconsin.

Outstanding Guernsey Youth

After many grueling interviews with a panel of judges, the National Outstanding Guernsey Youth winners were announced at the annual youth awards banquet.

Brent Clements, the 19-year-old son of Kenneth and Judy Clements of Stoddard, Wisconsin, received the \$500 Lawrence A. Colebank Award and \$150 for travel expenses to the convention for being named the 1993 National Outstanding Guernsey Youth. Clements is a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in dairy science and agriculture law. As the owner of 64 Guernseys, Clements said the dairy industry will always be a big part of his life. He said, "It takes critical thinking and motivation to be a success in the dairy industry. Without the dairy industry, I wouldn't be in the degree program. I am pursuing, wouldn't have met so many friends, and would not have gone this far in life." Clements continues to be active with his Guernseys while away at school by helping with ration balancing, computerized farm record keeping, calf and heifer management, marketing and advertising, sire selection and public relations. When home, he assists with feeding, milking and field work.

increased in the spring but these were only between 14 and 76 cents - not \$1.78 as we have this year.

Production Puzzle

Production wise we certainly don't have anything resembling a "spring flush" this year but many markets are having problems finding buyers for milk and supplies are already moving in unusual directions.

Balancing plants are generally at capacity and there's concern about where the fluid milk will go when schools close for the summer. And yet nationally, total production is not up significantly greater than in the recent past.

Perhaps we need to expand the export market for dairy products through DEIP or voluntarily like the deal made last month between Russia and USDA with the help of eastern milk marketing cooperatives.

Good News - Bad News


While it has been a good month for price increases at the farm — and there are more coming — the first two weeks of June brought a crash in the cheese market.

Blocks fell 5.75 cents and barrels 7.5 cents in two weeks. Consensus reason for the skid is that cheese dealers had replaced inventories in a hurry and, when it appeared there would be no let up in milk production, just backed off. This is where the market psychology comes in. It was one of the scenarios presented when prices started up in March and increased 24 cents in seven weeks — too much, too soon.

However, the momentum generated by those increases will continue in your milk check for another month. Farm prices are still higher than a year ago from nine to 36 cents in May depending on which federal order regulates your handler. If cheese prices stabilize at these levels you'll still be better off than a year ago.

With cheeses prices down the powder market has also weakened so there aren't many places to go unless we can stimulate export sales. The tilt in support prices for butter and powder may help slightly but here again we rely on exports.

The best hope is for cheese prices to start moving up again in July; you finish the year with a better average price than 1992 and that's better than some predictions made last January.



MILK
CHECK
THOMAS JURCHAK
Dairy Specialist
Lackawanna County

June Dairy Month

SCRANTON (Lackawanna Co.) — About 50 years ago the dairy industry, in a rare moment of unanimity, picked the month of June for a national program to promote the consumption of dairy products.

It was a natural choice because June was the season of increasing production and falling milk prices at the farm. Many things have changed dramatically in the dairy industry and the "spring flush" may be one of them.

However, milk pricing has always been a strange combination of economics, psychology, politics and the weather and the pattern doesn't fit the Dairy Month concept this June.

Instead of milk prices falling at the farm they are increasing this year. From March to May the increase in the Uniform Price has been 95 cents in Order 2; 60 cents in Order 4 and 78 cents in Order 36.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Price Series, that provides the Basic Formula Price for all federal milk marketing orders, has been on a rampage gaining \$1.78 since March with more expected this month.

Increases in the M-W in the spring is not unheard of and just last year it went up \$1.08 from March to May. Each year since 1989 the M-W has