

AJCA Provides Youth Awards

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — In conjunction with its ongoing youth programs, the American Jersey Cattle Association sponsors awards for junior shows and for state, regional, and national judging contests.

Ribbons for three places in each individual female class and a rosette for the grand champion female are available for county, district, state, and regional junior Jersey shows. There is also an award presented in state and regional Jersey showmanship classes.

Awards available for the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest include a rotating

trophy for the high team members and their coach. The high individual in Jersey judging is presented a model Jersey cow. Awards for the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest are the same except there is no rotating trophy.

Awards for collegiate, 4-H, and FFA regional contests at Eastern States, National Cattle Congress, Pennsylvania All American, North American, Pacific International, and Mid-South Fair include a color plaque of the Ideal Jersey cow for the coach of the high team in Jerseys and a pen for team members. The high individual in Jerseys receives a model Jersey

cow.

The coach of the high team in Jerseys at two-year and technical intercollegiate contests receive a color plaque of the Ideal Jersey cow; team members receive a pen.

The high individual in Jerseys is presented a color plaque of the Ideal Jersey cow. This plaque is also presented to the high individual in Jerseys at state judging contests.

AJCA awards are available only by annual request. Contact Sara Gaetz at the American Jersey Cattle Association, 6486 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-2362, 614/861-3636, at least four weeks before the event.

Shirk To Be Chamber's Ag Services Manager

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culture land in Pennsylvania and produces almost 25 percent of the ag products in the state. "Lancaster County is clearly a leader in agriculture in the state," he said. Shirk will do all he can to promote agriculture products while working to ensure that regulations don't end up "hurting the Lancaster County farmer," he said.

The 1988 graduate of Garden Spot High School emphasized the fact that Lancaster County is growing in terms of "niche" or specialty markets. He said that 20 years ago, there were few farms that raised ostrich or lamas or grew specialty crops and vegetables for national markets. Now, the county is growing in terms of the specialty markets, and those need to be promoted state- and nationwide.

Shirk was one of the organizers and chairman of the first Lancaster County Conservation Expo held in Elizabethtown last year. The Expo, with the theme "We're All In This Together," drew about 120 people, he said, including farmers, homeowners, "a wide variety of people" with various backgrounds. The Expo was featured on newspapers, in television, and on radio. The next Expo will be held in the county park at the demonstration farm on Saturday, July 15 this year.

Shirk said the Expo stands out as a "jewel" in terms of the time and effort put in to it by the spirit and camaraderie of the conservation district and other organizations interested in conservation in the county. He also coordinated the county's slit tiller program (now at 200 acres per year). For the past seven years, he has served as a Lancaster County Youth Conservation School instructor, which teaches youth about the importance of conservation.

Shirk was previously employed by the Fulton County Conservation District. With a bachelor's in environmental resource management from Penn State, Shirk takes over a position that has been in place since 1990 at the Chamber, according to Nora Weder, vice president of government affairs at the Chamber. Shirk's "high profile" position, she said, emphasizes the importance of the county's small farms as businesses, acts as a liaison to the legislative and regulatory community, and promotes Lancaster County agriculture.

One of the Chamber's premier events is the annual Farm Financial Management School, according to Weder, which emphasizes farm owners and their relationship to human resources and the management of the family that helps run the operation.

Weder said the Chamber likes Shirk's "enthusiasm and amount of energy" he brings to the full-time position, which is funded 60 percent by the Chamber and 40 percent through the county. Weder explained that the Lancaster position is the only full-time position at a local Chamber of its kind in the country.



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