

AJCA-NAJ Set Annual Meetings

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The 1997 annual meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc. are to be held June 27 through July 1 at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis at State Capital, in Indianapolis. The theme of the four-day convention is "Race to Indy," and the host group is the Indiana Jersey Cattle Club.

Guests are invited to enjoy tours of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Children's Museum and nearby Windridge Jersey Farm, along with an optional golf outing.

The Jersey Breeders Awards Banquet is to be held Saturday, June 28 with presentations of the 1997 master breeder and 1997 distinguished service awards.

On Sunday, June 29, the national heifer sale, is to be held with top Jersey genetics being offered.

On Monday, June 30, the NAJ annual meeting starts off the morning half of the day with the AJCA meeting starting later in the morning.

The AJCA awards banquet is slated for Monday evening. At that time, the AJCA young Jersey breeder award winners are to be recognized, along with the recognitions of the winner of the President's Trophy and the leading lifetime production award winners.

A separate agenda has been planned for Junior members (youth). A pizza party is scheduled for Saturday night, while the heifer sale on Sunday, stock sale and fitting demonstration are scheduled.

Distinguished Service
Among the awards recipients, Harold Owens, of Frederic, Wis., is to receive the 1997 Distinguished Service Award. The award is annually presented to a member of the AJCA who has rendered unselfish service for many years and, in doing so, made a notable contribution to the advancement of the Jersey breed in the United States.

When his father died in 1936, Owens was 17 and in high school and was left to operate the farm alone. He milked a herd of 30 cows of various breeds. After a few years, he decided to make the herd all Jerseys.

Today, at 78, he is still active in breeding Jerseys and Owens Farms Inc. has for many years been the largest herd of registered Jerseys in the Upper Midwest. The rolling herd average on the 328 cows was 14,435 pounds milk, 757 pounds fat, and 588 pounds of protein.

He and his wife Agnes raised eight children, all of whom had Jersey project animals and six of whom are in dairy farming today. Of those six children dairying, five have Jersey herds and one introduced some Jerseys into her husband's Holstein herd.

Four of their children were named AJCC outstanding young Jersey breeders, four have served as directors of the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association, and one serves as director on the board of the AJCA. Owens herd was a charter mem-

ber of the Polk County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and Harold was director. The herd (now a REAP herd) has been on official test since the beginning of the county DHIA.

In other position, he was a director of the Twin Ports Cooperative Creamery for many years and was the largest shipper. He was a member of the board of the Duluth-Superior Milk Producers for four years and also served as a director for the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association, as well as helping to organize the Polk County Farm Bureau Federation, serving as a director for 12 years.

He was also involved with contacting Wisconsin milk plants in 1981 to convince them to use multiple component pricing. In the years since, he has worked with several Wisconsin cheese plants and creameries to convince them to adopt a cheese yield pricing plan.

He continues in the effort by currently advocating including multiple component pricing in all federal milk marketing orders.

In addition he has supported Jersey research, personally and through his farm with contributions to the Jersey Research Foundation. Recently the farm donated a heifer and a bull to an AJCA project to reintroduce Jerseys to China.

Master Breeder
Albert Bradford, of Turner, Maine is to receive the 1997 Master Breeder award. The award is made annually to a living AJCA

member who, in the opinion of the board, has bred outstanding animals for many years and thereby has made a notable contribution to the advancement of the Jersey breed in the United States.

Bradford began his Jersey career during a summer break from school when he went to work for Clint Goodnow in Turner, Maine. For the next 12 years, Bradford worked for Goodnow, eventually becoming a partner.

After Goodnow's death in 1962, Bradford and his wife Lynette purchased the cows and in 1963 purchased the farm.

He set a herd goal of 14,000 pounds of milk, and selected his three highest production cows, kept all their daughters and eventually sold the rest of the herd.

For its size, he had one of the highest production herds from 1975 to 1990, winning the Eastern Jersey Herd Production award for 14 years.

During the mid-1980s, his herd was in the top 10 for milk and fat, regardless of herd size. He only purchased two animals.

His top cow was Observer Althea Anna, rated an Excellent-90 percent, one of the first Jerseys to complete an A.I. DHIR lactation record of 1,000 pounds protein with a 361-day record started at age 7 years, 4 months, of 27,230 pounds of milk, 1,232 pounds fat and 1,000 pounds protein. She has a lifetime production of 5,110 days, 248,025 pounds milk, 11,477 pounds fat, and 5,967 pounds protein.

A daughter Goodnow Midnight Blue-ET is now scored Excellent-93 percent and made more than 24,000 pounds of milk. Three of Blue's daughters have scored Excellent and made over 21,000 pounds milk. She also has a son on the active A.I. list.

Bradford has been active with the Maine Jersey Cattle Club, the New England Jersey Breeders. He was awarded the senior breeder award by the New England Breeders in 1985, and received the Governor's Trophy in 1977 as the Maine dairyman of the year.

He also has served on the Turner town council for 27 years and is active with his church.



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