

James Trotter To Be Honored For Distinguished Service

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The American Guernsey Association is to honor James "Jim" Trotter of Enon Valley, Pennsylvania, for his distinguished service to the Guernsey breed at the 1997 National Guernsey Convention in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, on June 23. Trotter and wife Mary Lou have three children, Robert, Debra and David, all from Enon Valley. Jim is in partnership with his sons at Trotacre Farm.

Trotter has served as the business manager of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association since 1989. His other dairy activities include serving as a ringman at several national sales and herd dispersals, selecting cattle from Pennsylvania for national sales, managing the Pennsylvania Blue Halter Sale for seven years, and serving on the American Guernsey Association Type Committee.

Trotter is the breeder of All-American cattle, the current number one and number three CPI cows, several homebred excellent, seven young sires currently being sampled, and the 1994 Total Performance Winner at the National Guernsey Show in Harrisburg. The Trotacre herd has a rolling herd average of over 17,000 pounds of milk.

Community activities include elder and trustee of the Westfield Presbyterian Church for several years, past president and chairman of the board for International Trotting and Pacing Association for 27 years, a Masonic Lodge member, a Master Mason, a past 4-H leader, and Extension Board and Fair Board member.

Professional and/or farm organizations include DHIA, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association, American Guernsey Association and Pennsylvania Dairyman Association.

Trotter has successfully sold Guernsey cattle around the world, including to Ecuador. He also organizes and manages a group of junior members representing Pennsylvania at the National Guernsey Show in Louisville, Kentucky, each year.

Patty McMurray, chairperson of the Pennsylvania and American Guernsey Association Youth committees, said that Jim inspires youngsters by working with them, and is always looking for new ways to involve more young people in Guernsey activities.

"The state slogan is 'You've got a friend in Pennsylvania.' The American Guernsey Association and particularly its youth, has a friend in Jim Trotter," she said.

The American Guernsey Association is the national organization for the registration and promotion of Guernsey cattle and is headquartered in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

In other recognitions, two outstanding young Guernsey farmers will be honored at the 1997 National Guernsey Convention.

D. Randy Knapp is the recipient of the Eugene Harding Memorial Watch Award for being named the 1997 National Outstanding Young Guernsey Farmer.

Knapp said, "I grew up learning to love and care for the Guernseys at my grandfather's farm. There has always been a special place in my heart for Guernseys."

Knapp was raised on his parent's farm in Westby, Wisconsin. In 1984, he entered the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with an emphasis in dairy science. He then went to work at Coulee Crest Farm in Cashton, Wisconsin, for a couple years and later took a position at Fauver Hill Farm in Onalaska, Wisconsin.

Randy and his wife Wanda currently reside in Epworth, Iowa, with their son Austin. Even though Wanda is a full-time registered nurse, she helps out on the farm. They currently own 115 purebred Guernseys and milk 50 cows. Randy's philosophy is that management is crucial to any dairy operation. Herd health is a must, and immunizations are kept up-to-date.

The goal of Knapp's Guernsey Farm is to improve over the next five years as much as they have in the last five years. Since farming on his own, Randy's herd has consistently ranked in the top ten for production. Recently, the Knapp's rolling herd average exceeded 21,000 pounds of milk. He has had two Gold Star Herd Awards and has won Premier Breeder the last two years, and Premier Exhibitor in 1995 at World Dairy Expo. Both Randy and Wanda look forward to improving their herd and hope to do their part in proving that the Guernsey cow is both profitable and efficient for the future.

David Trotter of Enon Valley (James' son) is to be recognized as the first runner-up in the National Outstanding Young Guernsey

Farmer contest. He and his wife Jill and their four children, Abby, Bethany, Cara, and Jamie reside on Trotacre Farm.

Trotter states that dairying has always been a part of his life, as his family has had Guernsey since the 1940's. After David graduated from Penn State University with a degree in dairy production, he formed a partnership with his father and older brother. The Guernsey breed was continued because of their love for the cow, disposition and profitability.

David's responsibilities on Trotacre Farm are manager and herdsman of the dairy cattle. He is responsible for one-third of the business by means of working with the dairy cattle. He makes all of the breeding and mating recommendations and is responsible for the nutrition.

Trotter's outside employment is with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, where he is a state milk inspector. This job is very flexible and assists the business financially and gives him a chance to view different dairy operations and milking facilities.

At Trotacre Farm, future goals include keeping younger generations involved with the Guernsey breed, dairying and the agriculture industry.

"In order to keep family involved on the farm, we need to increase herd size or continue expansion," Trotter said.

One of the areas of expansion is through their embryo transfer program which involves buying recipients and putting in Guernsey embryos. He also stated that labor efficiency items and Guernsey genetics need to be increased which will keep the Guernsey breed competitive in the dairy industry.



The American Guernsey Association

In other awards, Dr. Ernie Berousek of Yukon, Oklahoma, has been selected to receive the 1997 American Guernsey Association's Master Breeder Award.

Berousek and his wife, Bea have operated a successful Guernsey breeding program at Lily Lane Guernsey Farm for many years.

Their family consists of daughters Karen Crone of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Melinda Rushing of Yukon, Oklahoma.

Ernie's ability as a master breeder shows by his cattle generally being sale toppers and the support of young sire programs with many of the bulls carrying the Lily Lane prefix.

Ernie's number one goal was to improve the Guernsey cow and the Guernsey breed. Many of his cows have national class-leading records and are scored Excellent. A cow bred by Berousek was the winner of the first National Guernsey Futurity.

After graduation from college, Berousek worked for various herds such as the Gaylord Herd at Oklahoma City. He was a member of the staff at Oklahoma State and completed his masters while working full-time as a professor.

He went to Missouri obtaining his PHD and served as the head of the dairy department at the University of Rhode Island for several years. He returned to Oklahoma as

an agent for a life insurance company. During these years, he and brother Otto had a herd of registered Guernseys.

Berousek is deserving of the Master Breeder Award because of his dedication to the Guernsey cow and the time and effort put forth into breeding better Guernseys. He has been successful in breeding production winners, class leaders and had several bulls on the list of production winners.

Bob Griggs, Seminole, Oklahoma, said, "Let's make Ernie a legend by the American Guernsey Association with a 'brick' that says: Ernie Berousek, Master Breed 1997."

The American Guernsey Association will honor Lee Riggs of Evansville, Indiana, for his distinguished service to the Guernsey breed.

Lee and wife Carol, who live at Green Ridge Farm, have three sons: Todd of Evansville, Mark of Anderson, Indiana, and Brian of Lafayette, Indiana.

Riggs is an active member of the Blue Grass United Methodist Church. He has been a 4-H leader for 25 years, and president for two years of the Vanderburgh County Extension Board.

His professional and/or farm organization memberships include National Education Association,

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