

Maryland Brown Swiss Breeders Meet To Review Year

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WOODSBORO, Md. — A large crowd of 105 Brown Swiss breeders, friends, and dairy personnel, recently gathered for the Annual Meeting of the Maryland Brown Swiss Association, held in Woodsboro, Maryland to review and congratulate members and youth on the past year's accomplishments. This well attended meeting continues to show the great interest, enthusiasm, and progress of Brown Swiss in Maryland.

Besides posting another successful year throughout state and National activities, Dr. Lee Majeskie, Extension Dairy Specialist with University of Maryland, presented an exciting DHI summary which ranked Brown Swiss at the top of the list for ECM (Energy Corrected Milk) among all breeds in the 1997 totals. Brown Swiss had a +2500 lb. ECM increase for 1997 which gave them a total of 21,220 ECM. This was 540 pounds more than their next competitor which was Holstein, who only saw a +1110 lb. ECM increase for their breed in 1997. Energy Corrected Milk formula takes into account the protein and fat when adjusting the milk for components which identifies cows that produce high volumes of milk solids, proving that Brown Swiss remain very competitive in the milk marketplace when compared to other breeds.

Highlighting this part of the program was the Herd Management Award Winner going to Scott and Judy Hood, Middletown, Md. Dr. Majeskie commented this award goes to someone that "is doing a lot of things right." The Hoods have 23 cows with 23,846 ECM 81.7 percent Low SCC which gave them the high amount of points to win this prestigious award. Milk Production Award for high herd for 10 cows or more went to Eric Green, Fir-Thorne-B, with a 24,779 ECM on 36 cows. Winning the high herd for nine cows or less was Brian Galbreath, Green Castle Swiss, with 20,050 ECM. And repeat winners for Low Somatic Cell Count Award went to Joy and Tom Crothers, Oxford.

Individual Awards were as follows:

Jr. 2-year-old: Dublin Hills Star Susie, Aimee Smith

Sr. 2-year-old: Hoosier Knoll Ballet, Aimee Smith

3-year-old: Grassy Creek Emory Coleen, Geo. Wm. Smith III

4-year-old: Tahill Jade Eve: Shannon Harrison

5-year-old: Arnola Samie: GS Associates

6-year and older: Hawthorne Jades Robin : Dwayne Bell

Another highlight of the meeting was an update on the Brown Swiss and Ayrshire "Co-Convention being planned for 1999. Maryland is excited about hosting this important event, and received a great editorial comment in the February 10, 1998 Hoard's Dairyman — whereas it said "Bravo to the Brown Swiss and Ayrshire Associations for planning joint annual meetings in Maryland. Why haven't some of the other breeds held meetings together for which they could consolidate the awkward begging for sponsorships, put together more high-powered educational sessions, and exchange ideas as dairy producers and members of breed association staffs? (This is just a paragraph of the article entitled "Dairy Groups Can't Afford Luxury of Not Working Together.") It's a great article to read, supporting the 1999 Co-Convention being planned in Maryland!

An exciting Convention logo was introduced by Brown Swiss co-chairman Bill Warner, and Ayrshire co-chairman, Becky Chaney to the group which was well received. The logo has the Brown Swiss and Ayrshire head shots within an oval, highlighted by black-eyed susans on each end, and the word MARYLAND at the top, and a slogan at the bottom saying "A Shared Vision-'99." Several promotional items were displayed with this logo — which really reproduces well in full color on all kinds of shirts, canvas bags, etc.

The convention will be held July 14-17, 1999 at the Turf Valley Conference Center, Ellicott City, which is near Baltimore Maryland. This facility is very accommodating to handle separate breed association meetings and activities, and is well equipped to handle a large combined welcome reception for both breeds. Just 20 minutes from Baltimore's Harborplace and 50 minutes from Washington, D.C., close to major airports, and also just minutes from the Howard County Fairgrounds where both breeds will have their National Sales, Ayrshire Sale on Friday night, and Brown Swiss on Saturday. Convention meetings and committees are beginning to formulate between both breeds to plan, coordinate, and execute an outstanding convention for everyone.

John Meyer, executive secretary for the National Brown Swiss Association sent his congratula-

tions and greetings to the Maryland Annual meeting. He commended Maryland on their leadership in the Brown Swiss breed, and encouraged the youth to keep up the good work. Meyer assured the breeders that the financial picture continues to improve, whereas they have reduced expenses dramatically, and the board of directors have a plan to carry out which will surely put the Association back in the "black ink" by 1998! The Brown Swiss Advantage Program is really catching on, and is a great bargain in gaining services from Brown Swiss. Meyer also reported that there is still a lot of work to do, but the market continues to be strong in the U.S. and also in the international marketplace. Evans Wright, national district director also sent an optimistic message to the group. He foresees the dairy compact legislation actions as a positive force which should indicate more stable and profitable prices for 1998. As a board member, he commends Meyer for developing a well

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Production Winners in Maryland: From left, front, Aimee Smith; Scott Hood with daughter, Nicole; Back, Eric Green; Brian Galbreath, and Brad Garst.

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