



NEWS

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The American Jersey Cattle Association and the National All-Jersey Inc., its affiliated marketing organization, are to hold their annual meetings June 26-27 in Burlington, Vermont.

A number of awards are to be presented by the AJCA during the annual meetings — a master breeder award, a distinguished service award, and nine young Jersey breeder awards.

Master Breeder

The Robert Stiles family of Clearbrook, Va., is to receive the Master Breeder Award, bestowed to a living AJCA member, family partnership or corporation who or that, in the opinion of the AJCA board of directors, 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.

The Stiles family moved from Montgomery County, Md., to Virginia in 1967 and started Waverly Farm.

Roberts Stiles died in 1974 and his wife Hazel died in 1989.

Prior to Hazel's death, in 1982, Dr. Ray Murley and Dr. Joe Line-walker developed a partnership with Waverly and began WF/L&M.

Today, three brothers, Ken, Mike and Paul Waverly and their families operate Waverly Farm. They are well-known among United States Jersey breeders.

On the Nov. 1997 active artificial insemination sire list, five bulls in the top 65 were bred at Waverly Farm, including the 12th ranked bull, WF/L&M Duncan Barber-ET, the highest ranking Highland Magic Duncan son.

Another Duncan son bred by Waverly Farm is listed 23rd, WF/L&M Duncan Booker-ET.

Twenty-fifth on the list is WF/L&M Lester Banjo-ET, one of the highest ranking Duncan Lester sons.

Other bulls bred at Waverly considered influential to the breed, but no longer active, include Top Brass Babes Lad-ET and W.F. Generator Justin, named several times as the premier sire of the All-American Show.

The Waverly herd consists of 242 cows, including 105 Excels, 140 Very Goods and 18 Desirables (a Jersey ranking). The herd average appraisal score is 86.7 percent.

Since starting, Waverly Farm has bred or developed 351 Excellent cows, three at 96 percent, seven at 95, and more than 13 at 94 percent.

Their December 1997 rolling herd average was 15,711 pounds of milk, 784 pounds of fat, and 591 pounds of protein on 262 cows.

Currently 75 cows have actual records exceeding 20,000 pounds of milk or 1,000 pounds of fat.

Distinguished Service

Richard Clauss, of Hilmar, California is to receive the 1998 Distinguished Service Award from the AJCA during the annual meetings.

This award is annually bestowed

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.

Richard Clauss became a Jersey breeder in 1954 with a herd of 20 Jerseys. In participating in the leadership of the AJCA and in helping to build a large cheese production business that recognizes and reward component production, he has made several significant contributions to the Jersey breed industry.

He served on the boards of the AJCA and NAJ Inc. for a combined total of 17 years. He was president of NAJ from 1984 to 1994, and served as president of AJCA from 1994 to 1997.

During his tenure as president of NAJ, the nationwide acceptance of multiple component pricing increased. In fact, the first multiple component pricing was implemented in a federal milk marketing order during his watch.

In addition, under his leadership, equity fees increased from \$140,000 per year to well over \$200,000.

Also, as AJCA president, he was involved in the implementation of two major organizational programs — REAP and a business re-engineering plan.

A strong proponent of breed programs, his Clauss Dairy Farm herd was one of the first to be enrolled in the organization's genetic recovery program. In addition, he has been an active participant of young sire sampling.

In 1979, he and 14 other Jersey breeders founded Jerseyland Sires, a young sire proving group. Since starting, the group has proven more than 24 young sires each year.

One of the 11 founding members of Hilmar Cheese, he currently serves as chairman of the board of directors. The business has grown from processing 125,000 pounds of milk per day in 1986 to becoming the largest single site cheese plant in the world.

It currently processes about 4.5 million pounds of milk per day. In addition the plant has consistently paid its producers premiums above state required minimums.

Clauss has also been honored by other organizations. He was named World Dairy Expo's 1995 Dairyman of the Year, and California Polytechnic State University's 1995 Dairyman of the Year.

This year he is to be honored by Dairy Shrine as its 1998 guest of honor during its meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

Young Jersey Breeder Awards

Nine young Jersey breeder awardees are to be recognized during the annual meetings.

The breeder awards are bestowed annually to as many AJCA members who, in the opinion of the board of directors, deserve recognition.

Deborah Osborn, of Keymar, Maryland, is to be recognized as a recipient of a 1998 young Jersey breeder award.

Osborn works in partnership with her parents, James and Sharon Osborn, and together they own and operate Queen-Acres Farm.

Originally the farm had a Holstein herd, but Deborah influenced the switch to Jerseys. Currently they milk 150 and raise about 200 replacements.

She said her long term goals are to achieve a herd with high production and functional type.

Through the third quarter of 1997, she has worked with and developed 27 cows with 33 Hall of Fame records, and three cows named to the Jersey national class leader list. One of those on the list is Queen-Acres Boomer Celeste, the United States milk production record holder. Among herd rankings by size, the Osborn herd is nationally ranked in the top 10 for milk, fat and protein for 1996 and 1997.

Deborah has served as chairperson of the Maryland Jersey Cattle Club Production Committee, and encouraged the club to host a sale to boost the operating budget and promote interest in Jerseys as youth project animals.

Frank Easter of Laurens, South Carolina, also is to receive a young Jersey breeder award.

Easter has worked in partnership with his family since they moved their Eastglen Jersey herd from Vermont in 1978. He is responsible for milking, equipment maintenance, herd health, heat detection, breeding, matings, keeping the herd records on the computer, merchandising cattle, and taking care of the show string.

The Eastglen Farm annually supports the Dixie Invitational Sale, the South Carolina 4-H Dairy Heifer Project sale, and the All American sale.

International export has been very important in their marketing efforts. During last year's Brazil-American Jersey Breeders' Promotional Sale, their consignment was the top-selling open yearling of the sale.

Easter is always looking to improve their herd through the purchase of superior animals. He represents the farm at many local and national sales and is pleased with the type and production of cattle they have been able to purchase.

In addition to coordinating Eastglen's marketing plan, Easter spends a great deal of his time in the showing. Each year he travels to several local and regional shows, as well as the All American. This year marked the 20th year Eastglen exhibited Jerseys at the South Carolina State Fair.

Brian Spahr, of Findlay, Ohio, is to receive a young breeder award. He is the fifth generation of his family to milk Jerseys in Findlay. He and his wife Laurie has a young daughter Tristen.

In 1994, Spahr expanded the milking herd from 40 to more than 270. In doing so, he added a 200-freestall barn, a double-eight milking parlor, bunker silos, and a manure storage system. The herd's rolling average milk production has grown more than 2,500 pounds per cow since then.

In addition to the dairy expansion, Spahr has incorporated several soil and water conservation practices on the farm. In 1996, Spahr Jersey Farm was selected as the finalist from northwest Ohio in a conservation farm family award program. In 1995, the farm was named Hancock County Soil and Water Cooperator of the Year.

Spahr has been active with the Ohio Jersey Breeder's Association, currently serving as District II president, chairman of the All American Sale Committee, and as a member of several of its milk and promotion committees, he has served as the 1990 state sale co-chairman, and on the All American Open Show Committee.

Scott and Kristin Carson of New Lebanon, New York, is to receive a young Jersey breeder award. The couple have been involved with dairy cattle their entire lives. They have a young daughter, Kayla.

After graduating from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, the couple moved to Vermont to manage the family farm with Scott's parents. In 1992, they purchased 51 registered Jerseys and moved to New York.

In 1993, they formed a partnership with Kristin's parents, Larry and Barbara Benson, owners of Shaker View Jerseys in New Lebanon. The move provided a more efficient management system, superior feed and land resources, and the opportunity to rapidly improve herd performance.

In January 1997, they purchased the last 95 head of the Shaker View Jersey herd.

Their 1997 DHIR rolling herd average was 18,816 pounds milk, 869 pounds of fat, and 698 pounds of protein on 132 cows. That ranks eighth for protein and fat in the United States among AJCA herds with 80 to 149 milking head. They also have bred 12 Hall of Fame cows.

The Carsons strive for continuous improvement and development with a goal of seeking a total performance Jersey herd. Their goal is for Celestial Jerseys to be known worldwide for excellence.

Russell Isley, of Burlington, North Carolina, is to receive a young Jersey breeder award. Russell and his family own Bellemont Acres. Their 46-cow herd had a December 1997 rolling herd average of 14,804 pounds of milk, 686 pounds of fat, and 535 pounds of protein.

In his youth, as a junior breeder, he was active in showing and judging Jerseys. He won the 1980 Jersey youth production contest and placed fourth in the Jersey youth achievement contest. He was the top scoring individual at the 1981 Pennsylvania All-American judging contest.

Known as "Rusty" to friends and family, he has been a 4-H advisor for 16 years and frequently loans out some of his Jerseys to 4-Hers to show at the state fair.

A 15-year member of the North Carolina Jersey Association board of directors, and a four-year member of the Alamance County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, in 1993 he served on the JJCA/NAJ annual meeting Planning Committee.

In addition he has served as president and vice president of the North Carolina Purebred Dairy Cattle Association and chairman of its youth fund-raising committee.

He and his wife Sharon have three children, Jordon, Kayla, and Blake.

Harvey and Jackie Menn, of Norwalk, Wisconsin, are to receive a young Jersey breeder award. They have a 47-head milk-

ing string with a rolling herd average of 14,006 pounds of milk, 660 pounds of fat and 660 pounds of protein. The herd has an average appraisal score of 81 percent.

The Menns took over his parents' farm in 1988. The first thing the couple did was to put the grade cows through the association's genetic recovery program.

Using the recovery program was one of many changes implemented by the couple. Over the past 10 years, they have added the use of a total mixed ration, a ventilation system, heifer barn, cow mattresses and tie stalls.

Harvey currently holds directorships with the Monroe County DHIA and the Monroe County Farm Bureau Association. Jackie has served as secretary/treasurer of the Parish 4 Jersey Breeders since 1989. They were the winners of the Monroe County Farm Bureau young farmer award, and were in the top ten for the state award.

They have three young children, Taylor, Jenna and Ryan.

Kevin and Annette Thomas of Tillamook, Oregon are to receive the young Jersey breeder award.

The Thomases have been involved with the dairy industry since Kevin graduated from the dairy herd management program at Utah State University. After renting a farm in California, they purchased a farm and moved to Oregon in 1994.

Silver Mist Farm has 90 acres with 86 in pasture. In the spring and summer the Thomases graze their cattle and are able to make grass silage. In the winter the cows are fed a TMR with corn silage, grain and cottonseed.

Through state sales, the Western National Sale, and the Pride of the West Sales, the Thomases have been able to build a herd with excellent genetics. Their Sil-Mist Berretta Buttons recently scored 92 percent and is currently eighth on the PTI list. Buttons is a daughter of Marv Du Malcolm Buttons, a cow they purchased at the 1992 Western Sale.

The couple have six children, Devin, Kashan, David, Michol, and Lukas.

Jill Thomas Hewitt of Tigard, Oregon, is to receive a young Jersey breeder award. She has been involved with Jersey cattle since 1977, when she purchased her first Jersey, Thomas Milestone Carom Lassie, at the Washington County Youth Sale. That animal became the foundation for her herd.

She spends much of her summer preparing the show string and attending several county, state and regional fairs, including the Western National Show. She showed the reserve grand champion there in 1997, Thomas Opportunity Abby.

In addition, she serves as liaison between the Oregon State Fair board and Jersey exhibitors. In 1996, she successfully convinced the fair board to feature the Jersey breed at this year's state fair.

Involved with the Washington County Youth Sale, she serves as president of the Oregon Jersey Cattle Club and the Western Jersey Breeders Association. For four years she also has served as coach for the state 4-H dairy judging team.

The family has plans to relocate this year. After the move, Hewitt said she plans to hire a nutritionist and adopt a TMR in pursuit of a rolling herd average of 16,500 pounds milk.

C.A. and Kirstin Russell of Hilmar, California, are to receive a young Jersey breeder award.

In 1989, the couple purchased a