

Maryland Brown Swiss — Breeders To Meet

FREDERICK, Md.—The Annual Meeting of the Maryland Brown Swiss Breeders Association will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2000 at the St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall in Creagerstown, just north of Frederick, Maryland, at 7:00 p.m.

This meeting recognizes and awards the breeders and youth for their past year accomplishments and achievements with Brown Swiss on a local, state, and national level. The business meeting and program will follow the meal. This year's guest will be Jocelyne Askins, Regional Vice-President, Financial Analyst for Primerica, who will discuss and review investments for the association.

Production awards and Bell-ringers will also highlight the program. There will also be an

update on Brown Swiss 2000, which is being held in conjunction with World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. This will be the 6th World Conference of Brown Swiss breeders from around the world, and being hosted by the United States on October 4-8, 2000. This is going to be a great conference for the Brown Swiss breed, so make plans early to attend. There will also be an election of officers for the Maryland Brown Swiss Association. There are a lot of important activities going on in the Maryland Association—so plan to attend and participate to keep Maryland a No. 1 Brown Swiss Association.

Denise Valentine and her committee have organized the Banquet and meal for this year's annual meeting, with notices already mailed to the membership

with menu and costs for adults and children. The deadline response is necessary by Saturday, March 18 for seating—so please don't delay, and respond as soon as possible to Denise Valentine, 16901 Bollinger School Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727—or call at 301-447-6816. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, March 25, 2000, 7:00 p.m. at the St. John's Lutheran Parish Hall, Creagerstown, Md.

Directions from Frederick—take Rt. 15 North to a right onto Old Frederick Road. Proceed to Creagerstown. At stop sign—continue straight for a short distance to intersection at top of hill in town. Turn left here which is Black's Mill Road. Parish Hall is directly across from St. John's Church. From the North—take Rt. 15 South to the Emmitsburg area. Turn left onto Old Frederick Road, and proceed straight until you reach the third stop sign. Turn left and go ½ mile to a right onto Black's Mill Road. Continue as above.

Producers at Land O'Lakes Identify Key Policy Issues

ARDEN HILLS, Minn.—Global trade policies that create a level playing field. Science-based food safety and environmental standards. The establishment of an effective farm income safety net. U.S. farm leaders selected these as agriculture's most pressing policy issues in a survey conducted at Land O'Lakes recent annual meeting in Minneapolis. Delegates attending the meeting represented more than 300,000 producers from 30 states.

"We asked producers at our Annual Meeting to rate the importance of a number of key policy issues on a scale of zero to five; zero representing not important at all, five representing extremely important," Land O'Lakes Director of Governmental Relations Steven Krikava explained. "Global trade policies, science-based food

safety and environmental standards and an effective farm income safety net were the top four issues, all scoring 4 or higher.

"The survey results show that producers understand the growing importance of global trade," Krikava said. "They're also concerned that new technology and biotechnology be evaluated based on science, rather than fear or emotion.

"Given the impact of current market volatility on farm income, it also is not surprising to see a high level of support for an effective farm income safety net," he continued. "And, considering the diverse nature of Land O'Lakes membership, it's clear the concern with farm income stabilization includes grain, livestock and dairy producers."

The full survey rankings were (listed as issue with rating) Global trade policies that create a level playing field, 4.5; adoption of science-based food safety standards on a global basis, 4.2; implementation of science-based environmental standards, 4.1; establishment of an effective farm income stabilization program (safety net), 4.0; streamlining of environmental regulations, 3.9; federal funding for export incentive programs, 3.7; Federal programs designed to assist young producers, 3.7; expansion of rural economic development programs, 3.6; crop insurance reform, 3.5; federal programs to assist in the development of agribusiness, 3.3.

Krikava added that the Land O'Lakes Policies and Resolutions Committee dealt with all the issues identified in the survey. Delegates at the annual meeting approved a detailed set of resolutions and policy statements.

"These policies and resolutions provide the direction for Land O'Lakes governmental activity. They are very focused on the issues that affect farmers, cooperatives and Land O'Lakes," he said, using the survey's number-one issue, global trade policies, as an example.

"In our trade resolution, the delegates established clear priorities for our cooperative," Krikava said. "By their action, Land O'Lakes is strongly in favor of permanent Normal Trade relations with China."

This is needed to fully implement the terms of the U.S./ China trade agreement signed last year, he said.

"The delegates urged U.S. trade negotiators to pursue four major priorities for agriculture," Krikava said. "They called for the elimination of export subsidies, trade-distorting internal support programs, and nontariff trade barriers. And they supported the adoption of global, science-based standards as they relate to food and agricultural products . . . including biotechnology products and GMOs."

For a complete copy of Land O'Lakes 2000 Policies and Resolutions, contact Steven Krikava, Land O'Lakes Director of Governmental Relations, at (651) 481-2269 or skrik@landolakes.com.



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