

Maryland Brown Swiss Breeders Review Great Year

CREAGERSTOWN, MD — 90 Brown Swiss breeders, friends, and industry personnel recently attended the annual meeting of the Maryland Brown Swiss Association, held at the St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall in Creagerstown, Md.

During the meeting, Maryland reviewed another successful year, highlighting state and national activities and ending 1999 with a solid financial report. Helping the bottom line was the success of the first-ever joint breeds convention hosted in Maryland last July.

Dr. Lee Majeskie, co-treasurer of the combined National Ayrshire and Brown Swiss Convention, reported that the convention netted more than \$2,000 in profit for each dairy breed. Also adding to the Maryland Brown Swiss Association's income was a highly successful national Brown Swiss sale.

"The convention was thought to be one of the really good ones, and it proved to be done successfully as a joint effort," said Majeskie.

President Cindy Warner passed along reports from John Meyer, National Brown Swiss executive secretary, and Evan Wright, Maryland's national director. Nationally, Meyer reported that total registration during 1999 were more than 10,500. Transfers of Brown Swiss totaled about 4,500. And the national association welcomed 951 first-time buyers.

According to Meyer, United States' interest in the Brown Swiss continues to grow. Significant increases were seen in embryo registrations, increasing from 2,879 in 1998 to 3,399 in 1999. "Embryo transfer work continues to be the best way to expand the breed," said Meyer.

Brown Swiss milk production in the United States is at an all-time high, with 1999 production averaging 17,230 pounds per registered Brown Swiss. Protein was at 613 pounds. On an energy corrected milk basis, Brown Swiss production averaged 19,674 pounds.

Majeskie then presented Maryland Brown Swiss breeders

with production awards, commending the breeders for their outstanding production. Maryland Brown Swiss breeders were the leaders among all breeds with an energy-corrected milk average of 21,296 pounds.

Green-Castle Swiss of Street, Md., had the high herd average with 26,195 pounds energy-corrected milk (ECM), while Edwin Fry of Chestertown, Md., won the award for the high average for nine cows or less with 25,457 ECM.

"Brown Swiss breeders can be proud of how the breed is doing in the state," said Majeskie. He credited the Maryland association for both their high-producing cattle and their accomplishments in the type arena.

According to Majeskie, Maryland put together an excellent class for the *Hoard's Dairymen* contest, featuring three Brown Swiss from GS Associates of New Windsor and one owned by Cletus and Janice Frey of Smithsburg.

Norm and Howard Fleming, junior directors, gave the youth report and recognized individual achievements, as well as the Maryland Bell Ringer award winners. Aimee Smith was honored with the Sweepstakes Award. Record book awards went to Hannah Smith, junior winner; Suzanne Perdue, intermediate; and Courtney Smith, senior. The Maryland Junior Appreciation award was presented to Dr. Lee Majeskie.

The Maryland Dairy Judging team was also recognized during the meeting. Members included



During the meeting, President Cindy Warner congratulates Suzanne Perdue, winner of the Intermediate Record Book judging competition.

Amanda Valentine, Jeff Sutton, Josh Sanders, and Brett Haines.

According to Cindy Warner, the association is very proud of its youth and young Brown Swiss enthusiasts in Maryland. She encouraged members to participate in the national Brown Swiss Ambassador program to be held at the National Brown Swiss Convention in Harrisburg this July. The deadline for applications is April 15.

"This would be the year to be an Ambassador because the United States breeders are hosting the World Brown Swiss Conference in conjunction with the World Dairy Expo in Madison this fall," said Warner. "This would be the time to attend this prestigious event."

After committee reports were presented, Jocelyn Askins of Primerica gave a presentation on Mutual Funds, where she has invested the convention profits for future growth and return for the association.

Warner also presented Daphne Sigler with a gift from the association for serving as treasurer. Warner thanked Sigler for her commitment to handling the finances so well.

Elected officers for the association include Cindy Warner, president; Dennis Smith, vice president; Julie Mayer, secretary; and newly-elected treasurer, Judy Majeskie. Directors are Jennifer Keilholtz, Faith Burall, Brad Garst, and Kathy Whitman.



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