

Brown Swiss Association Report

BELOIT, Wis. — Rita Kennedy, of Butler, Pa., a member of the national Brown Swiss Association Board of Directors, recently returned from their annual board meeting held in Beloit, Wisconsin, Jan. 20-21, 2001.

Kennedy and her fellow directors are pleased to report that a total of 10,648 head of Brown Swiss cattle were registered in 2000, compared to 10,031 in 1999, which represents a healthy increase of 617 registrations. Transfers in 2000 were strong as

well as they totaled 5,166 compared to 4,496 in 1999, which represents an increase of 670 transfers.

The Brown Swiss Association welcomed 965 first-time buyers of Brown Swiss cattle in 2000, up from 951 in 1999, which represents an increase of 14 over last year.

According to Brown Swiss Executive Secretary John M. Meyer, "The main reason the Brown Swiss breed is gaining popularity so quickly is the fact that current milk pricing practices favor Brown Swiss. In fluid markets, Brown Swiss produce enough high-protein milk to make it a coveted milk for fluid milk processors, and in cheese markets, the high pounds of protein and good component percentages make it the ideal milk for cheese making.

Additionally, as dairy farmers look for more milk, protein, and increased productive life, Brown Swiss is the logical choice. Another drawing card is the fact that Brown Swiss is only the second dairy breed to average over 20,000 pounds of milk per year."

Brown Swiss Enterprises, the marketing arm of the national Brown Swiss Association, had a busy year as a result of the changeover many dairy producers are making to Brown Swiss.

Ridge's Budget Proposal Called Good For Ag

(Continued from Page A1)

Increased funds are also proposed for agri-marketing programs provided by the Department of Agriculture.

Reflecting the "Products for the Planet" theme introduced by the Department of Agriculture, the proposed budget provides a \$108 thousand increase for the promotion of agriculture. The Department works to promote agriculture through several programs, such as "Pennsylvania Produce ... Simply Delicious," for the vegetable and fruit growers, the annual international agriculture celebration known as AGRO, trade missions, and commodity promotion.

"County fairs, the All-American Dairy Show and the Keystone International Livestock Exposition will receive increases so Pennsylvania can be a leader in providing strong agricultural expositions," Hayes said.

The Department of Agriculture will receive in excess of \$517,000 to be dedicated to laboratory and operational equipment that is necessary to carry out the scientific and program tasks.

"Pennsylvania agriculture is

productive and provides the best public food programs in America though initiatives such as the state food-purchase program, which receives a proposed increase. This is good for those in need and it is good for our farmers who sell the food," Hayes said.

An increase of \$450,000 dedicated to helping human care agencies such as food banks will go to the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Food Distribution and its state food-purchase program, which is the leading program of its kind in the nation.

Stray voltage is a concern of the dairy industry. The proposed budget contains funds to seek a response to this problem.

"Whether you consider important themes like tax cuts and education or specific things in agriculture, this budget provides an excellent fiscal base for the Legislature to begin lawmaker deliberations, Hayes said. "For sure, the Governor's proposed budget is a reach for greatness. And our state legislature is supportive of agriculture. So, I am very pleased and optimistic as we approach the upcoming fiscal year."

Date _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

County _____ E-Mail Address _____

Parents' names _____ Youth Birth Dates _____

Phone ()- _____ Fax ()- _____

Farm Prefix _____

Fees	Registered Animal owned 1-39	\$25 00
	Registered Animal owned 40 & over	\$35 00
	Associate Membership	\$10 00
	Youth (Ages 9-19 -One time fee)	\$20 00

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please mail annual dues and application to
Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association
C/o Terry Shuev
2003 Mt Zion Rd
Lebanon, PA 17046
Phone (717)933-8995 Fax (717)933-4119
e-mail littlehill@wvtl.net

Sales of Brown Swiss cattle and embryos through Brown Swiss Enterprises totaled over \$500,000 in 2000.

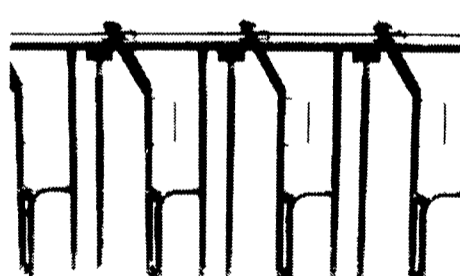
Brown Swiss breeders from across the nation will convene in Burlington, Vermont, July 4-7, 2001, for their national convention and annual meeting.

For more information on Brown Swiss, feel free to contact the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association of the USA, 800 Pleasant Street, Beloit, WI 53511-5456, by phone (608) 365-4474, by fax (608) 365-5577, or by our website at www.brownswissusa.com.

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