



Melanie Richman, National Holstein Convention Junior Program chair, in center with red blouse, meets with committee members at the state Holstein association last week in Ringoes, N.J.



Directors and officers of the New Jersey Holstein-Friesian Association gather before the banquet last Saturday at the Amwell Valley Fire House in Ringoes, N.J.

## Holstein Association Plans To Host 'New Jersey And You' At National Convention

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provide a "unique opportunity to showcase what we have and what we're so proud of," said Valen.

At the NJH-FA meeting last Saturday, buttons advertising the "N.J. and You" slogan, featuring a bovine beach-goer, showcases New Jersey agriculture, noted Valen, not just the Holstein association.

The national association will also include a meeting of the junior association with host chairperson Melanie Richman, Salem County.

Richman's 14 committee members were putting the final touches on plans for a wide variety of activities with juniors from around the U.S. in Atlantic City in June.

Richman said that about 300 youth from across the country will gather and participate in a wide array of activities, including Dairy Jeopardy, speech contest, Dairy Bowl, beach party (including games such as a relay, kite building, sand castle building, etc.), in addition to dance, a Great Adventure Safari Tour, a tour of the host picnic farm, Cedar Lane, Cowtown Rodeo, a national junior meeting, and luncheon. For the first time, junior members can also participate in senior meeting and show events in Atlantic City.

Plans are under way to provide some registrants to the national convention with a produce basket filled with cheese, long shelf-life milk, honey, wine, fruit, and other items. Jersey Fresh program backing may be included in plans during the national convention.

According to tours chair

Richard Norz Jr., different tours are scheduled. Recreational ones include:

- Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island.
- Battleship New Jersey and the Aquatic Museum in Camden.
- A half-day tour of dolphin watching in the Atlantic and a three-hour cruise.
- Party boat fishing tour all day.
- A historic tour of the Trenton battlefields and Princeton College.

Farm and commodity tours include:

- Atlantic Blueberry, Atlantic County.
- Rutgers' Blueberry-Cranberry Research Center.
- Equine horse training and Showplace Farm and Cedar Lane Farm.
- Cape May fisheries.
- Vegetable producers, including Shepherd Farms and others, along with the host association barbecue at Cedar Lane, Oldwick, N.J.

Spouse's program events include a bus trip to Cape May with lunch at the Lafayette Hotel and a walk to popular shopping areas.

According to Valen, a "dairy bar" will be established with various dairy and New Jersey-vegetable related products, including ice cream, milk, grapes, cheese, and others. Valen said volunteers are needed to staff the dairy bar and contributions from dealers and processors are urgently needed. Valen asked members to write down the dealers and processors they know, "whoever you do business with, and get me that information." Valen can be reached at (609) 896-1237.

Richard Byma, president of the NJH-FA, Sussex, N.J., spoke about plans for the national sale, which will include 75 entries and 40 for the silent auction.

"We are trying to showcase all of New Jersey," said Valen, who noted there is "so much more to New Jersey than Atlantic City."

Planning for the convention began seven years ago. The Taj Mahal can just fit the large convention, he noted. About 55 booths were sold, and booth space was officially sold out last Saturday. *Lancaster Farming* plans to exhibit at and report extensively about the convention.

Sponsorships include various levels, such as Diamond, \$40,000 and up; Gold, \$10,000 and up; Silver, \$5,000 and more; Bronze, \$2,500 and more; and donors, at least \$1,000.

Special technical sessions at the convention were scheduled to include the effects of nutrients on reproduction and embryo transfer, vaccines to help treat Johne's, and others.

Recognized with awards for juniors will be the champion Dairy Bowl team (last year they received \$205,000 in scholarship money). At the senior level, the Outstanding Distinguished Young Breeder Award, for farm managers/owners under 40 years old, will be presented. Also, a premier breeder family will be rewarded for herd genetic accomplishments.

At last year's convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, about 300 visitors to the NJH-FA booth in the trade show enjoyed the theme, "Some of New Jersey's Finest," noted Valen. Last year's sale included about 1,500 people. The sale this year is scheduled Wednesday evening at the convention. A banquet will conclude the convention Thursday.

New Jersey has been noted as the "cradle" of the dairy industry. Brown Swiss were first bred in the garden state, as well as the Guernsey and Jersey.

Jersey cattle were brought into the ports, and the state was the Jersey cattle leader for many years. Valen said artificial breed-

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