

Stanleys and Goodrich Recognized by Vermont

Weather-weary Vermonters took a break from the snow—record amounts of it for the city of Burlington in February—for some good news at the annual meeting of their state Jersey association. Sixty-two Jersey breeders attended the event, held on February 19, 2011, at the Hilltop Restaurant in Barre. They enjoyed a good meal and fellowship with friends, recognized achievements of their peers and heard the latest from industry leaders.

Diane Bothfeld, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, was the keynote speaker. Bothfeld spoke about the importance of the dairy industry to Vermont and provided a review of the agriculture industry in 2010. She said there is a growing movement among Vermont dairy producers to process their own milk on the farm. Bothfeld also talked about new leadership in the agency and encouraged dairy producers to participate in programs available to them.

Paul and Linda Stanley received the Outstanding Breeder Award. The couple operates Paul-Lin Jerseys, a 34-cow Registered Jersey farm in East Fairfield. The Stanleys have contributed to Project Equity since December 1990 and enrolled the herd on REAP when it was initially offered in January 1995. Paul-Lin Jerseys has a 2010 lactation average of 16,262 lbs. milk, 767 lbs. fat and 589 lbs. protein and an appraisal average of 83.7%, with five Excellent and 22 Very Good cows.

With the April 2011 genetic evaluations, the average Jersey Performance Index (JPI) of the herd is +39. Twenty-three of the 33 heifers on the farm are P7 or higher, including three that have been genotyped. The top genotyped heifer, Paul-Lin Impuls Supreme, has a genomic JPI of +125 (April 2011).

The Stanleys received the Boss Turner Distinguished Service Award from the New England Jersey Breeders Association in 2010. Linda is a past president of the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association. She received the organization's Distinguished Service Award in 2008.

The Harold Wright Distinguished Service Award was given to Myles Goodrich, West Danville. Goodrich is the current president of the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association, a position he's held the past three years.

Goodrich has been operating Molly Brook Farms in partnership with his parents, Walter and Sally, since 1984. The 120-cow Jersey herd has a 2010 lactation average of 19,070 lbs. milk, 952 lbs. fat

and 707 lbs. and a JPI average of +51. The herd has been fully-registered since 1917. Molly Brook Farms is enrolled on REAP and was a stop on the post-conference tour of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau conference in 2009.

The Good Neighbor Award was given to Muriel Chamberlin, Barton, for her years of work with the Vermont Jersey Parish Show and Futurity.

A pair of cows in the Registered Jersey herd at Lucky Hill Farm, Danville, earned Goodrich Production Awards for milk and fat production. Lucky Hill Paramount Bootie-ET produced the state's top 305-day milk production record. The Very Good-85% daughter of Rock Ella Paramount-ET, GJPI +99, produced 26,350 lbs. milk, 1,307 lbs. fat and 878 lbs. protein at 4-8. Lucky Hill Brazo Star, Very Good-85%, made the high fat record. The daughter of Sil-Mist RMBM Buttons Brazo-ET, GJPI +108, produced 24,640 lbs. milk, 1,359 lbs. fat and 844 lbs. protein in her third lactation.

The Goodrich Production Award for protein was earned by Molly Brook Fleet Better, owned by Jennifer Churchill, Cabot. The Very Good-86% daughter of Molly Brook Paramount Fleet, JPI +73, made 23,740 lbs. milk, 1,206 lbs. fat and 881 lbs. protein at 4-8.

In the junior awards program, Anna Laggis, East Hardwick, won the Robert J. Churchill and Family Trophy and earned the accompanying \$500 scholarship. Nathaniel Brigham, Saint Albans, also received a \$500 scholarship.

Production awards were given to seven juniors. For the second straight year, Will Maxham, South Hero, earned the top prize. Luke McReynolds, Danville, placed second. His brother, Andy, placed third.

Other Business

Brenda Snow, area representative for the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey (NAJ) Inc., told Jersey breeders that micro-dairies were prominent at the Vermont Farm Show in January. Their growth parallels that of All-Jersey markets in recent years, she noted. Snow is currently working with several breeders in New England to help them join the All-Jersey family and utilize the Queen of Quality logo to promote their products.

Snow also reported she is working with AJCA staff to establish a website for the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association. The site will include a junior page, activity page, sale page, history page and more. She encouraged breeders to send her photos of farms, Jersey cattle and youth for the site.

AJCA Director Wes Snow, Brookfield, noted that the Vermont State Sale auctioned 326 lots for an average of \$944.02 and a gross of \$307,750 this past September. Though the average was \$100 higher than the previous year and the gross ranked as sixth high-grossing sale in 2010, attendance in recent years has been disappointing. Snow encouraged breeders to talk to the sale manager, Jersey Marketing Service, about how they can capitalize from buying and consigning to the sale this fall.

Wes relayed comments from NAJ Director John Kokoski, Hadley, Mass., who reported that the organization is now working to ensure higher minimum nonfat standards like those used in California are adopted by Federal Milking Marketing Orders. He also noted that the All-Jersey family includes 22 producer-distributors from 16 states across the country.

The directors congratulated Emily Wright, Bethel, for being selected to attend Jersey Youth Academy in Columbus, Ohio, in July.

Jersey breeders also heard from Richard Doran Jr., Bush River Jerseys, Newberry, S.C., who is a candidate for AJCA president. The Vermont Jersey Breeders Association moved to endorse Doran as candidate for the position.

Jerry Emerich, Mooers, N.Y., finance chair for the 2012 AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings, told the group the event will be held at the North Conway Hotel in North Conway, N.H., the last week of June. The co-chairs of the meetings are Russell and Libby Bleakney, Cornish, Maine. The finance representative for Vermont is Tom Pyle, Shoreham. Early plans include tours of two farms in Vermont: Molly Brook Farms and Pearlmont Farm, Barnet. Emerich encouraged volunteers to get involved.

More locally, Jersey breeders discussed the option of continuing to fund the futurity held at the Vermont State Show in Essex. Wanda Emerich, Mooers, N.Y., suggested using the show as opportunity to promote agriculture to the public, as few opportunities to do so remain. The group discussed dividing funding between the futurity and promotion for the next two years. Final discussion will be carried out at the director's meeting in the spring.

Officers were elected as follows: David Carmichael, Vergennes, president; Eric Daggett, Derby, vice president; Heather Brigham, St. Albans, secretary; and Tom Pyle, treasurer. Jersey breeders elected to serve three-year terms as directors were: Brandon S. Bucossi, Randolph; Paul Flint, Brookfield; Arthur Ling, Hardwick; Wes Snow; and Derrick Wright, Randolph.

