

## Billings Farm Hosts New England and Vermont Picnic

The Billings Farm and Museum hosted a joint summer picnic for the New England Jersey Breeders Association and the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association at the farm in Woodstock, Vt., on July 20, 2013. More than 135 Jersey enthusiasts attended the event, which included a complimentary buffet-style lunch, ice cream and tour of the farm, museum and immaculately restored 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion most recently owned by the Rockefeller family.

Another highlight of the picnic was a calf raffle to raise funds for Vermont juniors. One hundred tickets priced at \$20 each were sold, with Jersey junior Jarrett P. Snow of Brookfield, Vt., winning the prize—Billings Impression Roselyn—an intermediate calf donated by Billings Farm and Museum. The daughter of Rock Ella Impression-ET, GJPI -52, traces four generations back to Billings Top Rosanne, Excellent-96%, Reserve Winner of the National Jersey Jug Futurity in 1987 and National Grand Champion in 1988 and 1989.

Jarrett has since shown “Roselyn” at the Tunbridge World’s Fair in Vermont in September, where she placed second in her class.

The Billings Farm and Museum is a working farm that is the centerpiece of the Woodstock Foundation, which was established by Laurance and Mary Rockefeller to promote conservation, sustainable land use and heritage values. The farm was established in 1871 by Mary’s grandfather, Frederick Billings, a native Vermonter who earned his fortune as a lawyer in San Francisco during the Gold Rush.

Today the Registered Jersey herd numbers 35 milking cows and 35 replacement heifers and is enrolled on REAP. The herd has a 2012 lactation average of 17,140 lbs. milk, 854 lbs. fat and 637 lbs. protein. With the latest appraisal in September

2013, the herd includes 24 Excellent and 19 Very Good cows and has an appraisal average of 89.3%.

Cows are milked in a 38 tie-stall barn with nine box stalls and forced ventilation. They are pastured in the evenings during the summer. Calves are raised in a separate barn that is heated and well-ventilated.

The farm and museum is visited by 55,000 people each year. Management of the dairy is structured to allow maximum viewing of the cows and minimum contamination of their feed and personal space.



Billings Farm and Museum, represented by herd manager Jason Johnson, left, and summer intern, Alayna Perkins, donated Billings Impression Roselyn as the prize for a raffle to benefit Vermont juniors. Raffle winner, Jarrett Snow, is at the halter.