

## **Carmichael Earns Vermont Service Award**

Jersey breeders from the Green Mountain State met for the annual meeting of their state Jersey organization on February 9, 2013, at the Hilltop Restaurant in Barre.

David Charmichael, Vergennes, was honored with the Harold Wright Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Melanie, operate a 50-cow Registered Jersey dairy that is seasonally calved and intensively grazed near Lake Champlain. Carmichael also evaluates cows for the Genetic Management System (herd mating) program operated by ABS Global.

He is the outgoing president of the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association and current vice president of the New England Jersey Breeders Association, which hosted the annual meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ) in 2012.

Production awards were also presented to junior and senior Jersey breeders.

The Goodrich Production Awards were awarded to Lucky Hill Playboy Aphrodite, owned by Lucky Hill Farm, Danville, Vt. The daughter of Lucky Hill Futurity Playboy-ET, PA JPI +44, produced a record of 3-0 305 23,170 4.8% 1,110 3.7% 867 102DCR, which was the state's best for milk, fat and protein in 2012.

The youth production contest was won by another member of the milking string at Lucky Hill Farm. Abby McReynolds, Danville, took home the top prize with her entry, GR Lucky Hill Gannon Charlie. The daughter of PR Oomsdale Jace Gratude Gannon-ET, GJPI +143, produced a first lactation with an m.e. of 21,667-1,161-832 to top the contest.

Other juniors placing second through fifth, respectively, were: Luke McReynolds, Danville; Nicholas McReynolds, Danville; Andrew McReynolds, Danville; and Samantha Flint, Brookfield.

Mason Brown, Randolph Center, won the Robert J. Churchill and Family Trophy for achievements in Jersey youth activities and future interests in the business and earned the accompanying \$500 scholarship.

### **Business Meeting**

Sarah Gilbert, NAJ Customer Service Coordinator, brought the group up-to-date on work being done by the milk marketing arm of the national Jersey organization and happenings in Washington D.C.

Gilbert noted that discussion on the Farm Bill will likely resume in the Senate in April or May and the House

of Representatives in the summer. The most contentious dairy policy proposal continues to be the market stabilization program, which is tied to margin insurance. NAJ is working to get a Congressional Budget Office score for legislation for higher minimum nonfat standards.

She noted that interest in the Queen of Quality® program continues to grow. Currently there are 33 All-Jersey producers; Vermont leads all states with four All-Jersey producers (Blythedale Farm, Corinth; Grafton Village Cheese Company, Grafton; Jersey Girls Dairy, Chester; and Spring Brook Farm Foundation, Reading).

AJCA Director Wes Snow reported that the Jersey breed set new records for all measures of production in 2012 and increased the rate of gain the past year as well. The official lactation average for the breed is now 18,995 lbs. milk, 903 lbs. fat and 691 lbs. protein, with a cheese yield equivalent of 2,345 lbs. The average is based on 100,211 records—also a record for the breed.

Snow said Jersey Marketing Service (JMS) sold \$8.6 million worth of Registered Jersey genetics in 2012. Though the figure is not a record, it is strong considering the cattle marketing climate during the year. Two JMS-managed sales set records for series-high average during 2012—the National Heifer Sale and the Pot O'Gold Sale—and The All American Jersey Sale posted a second-high average for the series.

AJCA-NAJ Area Representative Brenda Snow told the group that the New England Spring Sale will be held on April 27, 2013, at the Addison County Fairgrounds in New Haven, Vt. It will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the New England Jersey Breeders Association in Middlebury, Vt., the evening of April 26. Only uncalved females—heifers, open yearlings and bred heifers—will be sold. Snow said there is a steadily-increasing market for heifers. Dairy producers from western states that culled animals heavily during last year's drought are now looking for replacements.

Snow also talked about the increasing popularity of online public auction services like JerseyBid.com and JerseyAuctionLive.com. She mentioned this year's National Heifer Sale on June 29 will be a virtual sale at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo, Texas. The heifers will not be paraded in the ring, but will be housed at a facility nearby for viewing in advance of the sale. Online auctions are also becoming more common because reduced transportation costs make them attractive for buyer and seller alike. As

well, some sale managers are choosing to conduct health tests after animals are sold so they only need be tested the minimum required by the state.

Wanda Emerich, Mooers, N.Y., talked about the Vermont State Show at the Champlain Valley Fair. This year's show will be held on August 31, 2013, with Adam Little, Argyle, N.Y., serving as the official. Emerich noted that the fair is one of the few remaining venues where consumers can interact with large farm animals and learn about agriculture. Exhibitors are encouraged to present their cattle at Cabot Mound, where consumers can touch the animals and spend time visiting with dairy producers. The milking parlor is another place where interaction with consumers is encouraged.

The summer picnic will again be a joint event for the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association and the New England Jersey Breeders Association. It will be held on July 20, 2013, at Billings Farm and Museum in Woodstock, Vt., beginning at 9 a.m. Attendees will be treated to a tour of the museum and barns. Vermont juniors are selling raffle tickets for a heifer calf donated by Billings Farm, with the winning name drawn at the picnic. Only 100 tickets priced at \$20 each will be sold.

Jersey breeders elected to serve the organization in 2013 were: Paul Flint, Brookfield, president; Derrick Wright, Randolph, vice president; Heather Brigham, Saint Albans, secretary; and Tom Pyle, Shoreham, treasurer. Breeders that will serve three-year terms as directors are: David Carmichael; Amy Ferris, Brookfield; Jason Johnson, Woodstock; Reid Richardson, Woodstock; and Emily Wright, Newbury.