

Vermont Jersey Breeders Gather for Meeting

Members of the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association gathered for their annual meeting on February 14, 2015, at Grange Hall in East Bethel. About 50 Jersey breeders attended the event to recognize accomplishments, share industry news, and socialize with peers.

Business Meeting

Heather Brigham retired, following her 23 years of service to the Vermont Jersey Association as secretary. She was presented with gifts, a standing ovation, and many hugs as people celebrated her service.

Members heard from the Northeast AJCA Director, Wes Snow of Brookfield, who spoke about advances being made with genomic testing and the development of a proposal for the AJCA board in March.

Gwen Pearl presented a resolution, to the membership, for Wes Snow to recommend to the AJCA board in March. After some discussion the resolution motioned and moved as follows: Be it resolved that the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association would recommend that all Jersey registrations within the American Jersey Cattle Association be labeled with the percent of Jersey genetics that can be traced within five generations, going forward. Snow concluded the discussion by stating he would be retiring in June as Director and that Tom Sawyer Walpole, N.H. will be the northeast nominee.

Wanda Emerich of Mooers delivered the 2014 state show report. Billings Farm, Woodstock received Grand Champion and Premier Exhibitor while Four-Hills Farm, Bristol was awarded with Reserve Grand Champion. The Premier Breeder award was presented to Amy Maxham, South Hero. Members were informed of an increased premium rate for the following year that would allow individual classes to be awarded.

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, the Northeast Jersey Classic and Breeders Sale will be hosted at the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland at 10:30 in the morning. The sale will catalog about 225 head, with 25 elite, tie-up consignments and the balance sold as volume lots. A portion of the sale gross will be evenly split between the New England and Vermont Jersey associations. The sale committee consists of Jason Johnson, Woodstock, John Kotoski, Hadley, Mass., Tom Sawyer, and Brenda Snow, Brookfield. The sale is managed by Jersey Marketing Service with Seth Andrews of

Ohio as the auctioneer.

Prior to the sale the Northeast Breeders Meeting and Banquet will be held Friday evening at the Cortina Inn in Killington.

Members heard reports from the organization's auditor, secretary and reporter and were encouraged to visit the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association website hosted on JerseySites.com at <http://JerseySites.USJersey.com/VermontJerseys>.

Awards

Jason Johnson was presented with the Good Neighbor Award by Wes Snow. Johnson is the herd manager at Billings Farm and Museum.

In the production awards ceremony, members of the milking herd at Lucky Hill Farm received all the major production awards.

The Goodrich Production Award for the state's high milk record was earned by Lucky Hill Brazo Star, Very Good-86%. The daughter of Sil-Mist RMBM Buttons Brazo-ET, GJPI 34, produced a 305-day record of 25,275 lbs. milk, 1,129 lbs. fat and 811 lbs. protein.

The award for the state's high protein and fat award was received by Lucky Hill Impuls Powder, Very Good-81%. The daughter of ISDK Q Impuls, GJPI 121, produced a 305-day record of 23,173 lbs. milk, 1,346 lbs. fat and 895 lbs. protein.

In the youth production contest, Luke McReynolds, Danville, took home the top prize with his entry, Lucky Hill Legal Popcorn, Very Good-81%. The daughter of Tollenaars Impuls Legal 233-ET, GJPI 124, produced a record with an m.e. average of 24, 919-1,058-829 on her second lactation at 2-8. Actual production is 21,150 lbs. milk, 930 lbs. fat and 719 lbs. protein.

Nick McReynolds, Danville, placed second with Lucky Hill Louie Lucent, Very Good-81%. The daughter of BHF-SSF Parade Louie-ET, GJPI 18, made a record with an m.e. of 18,295-831-603 in her third lactation.

Other juniors to place in the youth production contest were: Jarret Snow, Brookfield; Samantha Flint, Brookfield; and Abby McReynolds, Danville.

Officer Elections

Officers were elected to serve the Vermont Breeders Association in 2015 as follows: Paul Flint, Brookfield, president; Jason Johnson, vice president; Tom Pyle, treasurer; and Claire Stanely, East Fairfield; secretary. Paul Stanley, East Fairfield, was elected auditor. New directors serving three year terms include: Gwen Pearl; Claire Stanley, Kerry Gawalt,

Hartland; Tim Angell, Randolph Center; and Joanna Samuelson-Lidback, Barton.