

Flint Honored with Vermont Service Award

The annual meeting of the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association (VJBA) was held on February 13, 2016, at the Grange Hall in East Bethel. About 60 Jersey enthusiasts attended the luncheon to tend to organization business, hear industry news, recognize accomplishments of junior and senior breeders and enjoy fellowship with their peers.

Paul Flint, Brookfield, received the Distinguished Service Award. The outgoing president of the VJBA operates Sky View Jersey Farm, a 30-cow Registered Jersey herd, with his father-in-law, Ray Churchill. Flint also taps sugar maples for maple syrup production and operates a timber and firewood business. For the past 15 years, he has been a member of the team that volunteers to set up the facility for the Vermont State Jersey Sale. He also was a director of the VJBA before serving as president.

Diane Bothfeld, a deputy secretary of agriculture for the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, was the guest speaker. She covered a range of topics in her presentation, summing the importance of the state's 850 dairy farms and 130,000 dairy cows to its economy. Dairy generates more sales than any other Vermont product, representing 70% of the total agriculture economy. The Green Mountain State enjoys widespread support from consumers, with 92% saying dairy farms contribute to the beauty of the state and 91% indicating dairy is important to its quality of life.

Members also heard from AJCA-NAJ Area Representative Brenda Snow, who spoke about Jersey growth. She reported that Jerseys are bringing more consistent prices than Holsteins and that western dairies and Holstein producers continue to purchase Jersey genetics from New England.

She also encouraged breeders to fully-utilize the AJCA-NAJ programs that are available to them online. The Green Book and BullsEye, a tool for sorting sires, are free to everyone by visiting USJerseys.com, as are performance progeny reports on infoJersey.com. HerdView and JerseyMate are free benefits of enrollment in REAP.

VJBA Secretary Claire Stanley, East Fairfield, told members the organization has 100 lifetime members and 71 annual members and distributed newsletters to 172 Jersey breeders last year.

VJCA Treasurer Tom Pyle, Shoreham, said the organization realized an increase in revenue of \$4,000 for 2015 versus 2014,

thanks in part to a successful spring sale, silent auctions from the annual meeting and summer picnic and sponsorships for the summer picnic. He also said the newsletter is now generating income because paid advertising inserts are being included.

David Carmichael, Vergennes, invited Jersey breeders to attend the annual meeting of the New England Jersey Breeders on April 22 and the Northeast Jersey Classic and Breeders Sale on April 23. The meeting will be held at the Cortina Inn in Killington, Vt. The sale will have a new venue this year, at Dusty Creek Farm in Wallingford, Vt., owned by Jerry and Diane Colvin. The change was made because the former location had continued to raise rental rates and the Colvin facilities enable the care of both tie-up and volume animals. The sale will feature 30 elite, tie-up animals and 200 head sold as volume consignments. This year, there is a change in commission as well, with 15% charged for tie-up animals and a reduced 9.5-11.5% for volume animals based on number consigned.

Wanda Emerich, Mooers, N.Y., discussed the state show held in conjunction with the Champlain Valley Fair in Essex in 2015. She congratulated Billings Farm and Museum, Woodstock, for exhibiting the Grand Champion, Billings Furor Calista, and Megan Letourneau-Beaupre, East Charleston, for showing the Reserve Grand Champion, Craig Moor Gold Succulent. This year, the Jersey and Holstein shows will be held together on the same day, with rotation of classes.

Officers elected to serve the VJBA in 2016 were: Jason Johnson, Woodstock, president; Tim Angell, Randolph Center, vice president; Claire Stanley, secretary; Tom Pyle, treasurer; Paul Stanley, East Fairfield, auditor. New directors are Marcy Guillette, Newport, Rhonda Goodrich, West Danville, and Scott Richardson, Woodstock.

Production Awards

Awards were presented to seven juniors and a pair of senior Jersey breeders for production achievements of their cattle.

Lucky Hill Farm, Danville, received the Goodrich Milk and Protein Award with GR Lucky Hill Gannon Kite{3}. The Very Good-81% daughter of PR Oomsdale Jace Gratude Gannon{2}-ET, GJPI +81, produced the state's high 305-day milk and protein record with 24,160 lbs. milk, 1,170 lbs. fat and 873 lbs. protein actual at 4-4.

Billings Farm and Museum earned the Goodrich Fat Award with Billings Laser

Margaux. The Excellent-90% daughter of Willoa Laser, GJPI -50, made a 4-9 record of 22,430 lbs. milk, 1,319 lbs. fat and 802 lbs. protein actual to top all cows for 305-day fat production during 2015.

Virginia Patz, Shoreham, topped the youth production contest with her entry, Medallion Tequila Akyla, Very Good-83%. Sired by Tower Vue Prime Tequila-ET, she made a 3-1 record with an m.e. of 21,322-1,074-790.

Andy McReynolds, Danville, placed second with Lucky Hill Premier Phireworks. The Very Good-84% daughter of Hawarden Impuls Premier, GJPI +62, produced a 1-11 record with an m.e. of 19,264-1,094-753.