

Kokoskis Host Vermont and New England Picnic

Members of the Vermont and New England Jersey cattle associations gathered for a summer picnic at Mapleline Farm in Hadley, Mass., on July 8, 2017. The event was purely social, opportunity for Jersey breeders to take a break from chores and spend time with their peers. Skies cleared as farm owner John Kokoski welcomed 75 guests to the farm, encouraging them to take a self-guided tour of the dairy facilities and bottling plant. Rain set in as they gathered under a tent for a delicious lunch of Jersey beef, sweet corn, ice cream and rich Mapleline Jersey milk.

The Kokoski family has been operating Mapleline Farm since 1904. When John took over reins of the farm in 1986, the vegetable and tobacco business was phased out to focus on dairying. Milk has been marketed from the Registered Jersey herd since 1995. An on-site plant was constructed in 2004 and a new milking parlor and freestall barn two years later. Mapleline now processes more than 60,000 lbs. of milk—about 7,000 gallons—each week. Milk and cream are sold wholesale to stores and restaurants in

the area and retail to consumers through a home delivery business.

The Kokoski family has been especially mindful of conservation given its location in the Pioneer Valley in Western Massachusetts. Milk is bottled in re-usable glass bottles that are washed on-site in the processing plant. Waste water is combined with manure in the slurry store and spread on the fields as natural fertilizer. The farm produces about 150 kilowatts of solar power from rooftop panels and uses energy-efficient lighting and cooling and variable speed pumps in the parlor.

The farm has been regularly featured in popular press like the *New York Times* and *Huffington Post* and was a virtual tour for World Dairy Expo in 2016.

The herd of 110 cows is enrolled on REAP and has a 2016 lactation average of 18,220 lbs. milk, 959 lbs. fat and 694 lbs. protein. Mapleline Farm is also a contract advertiser with the *Jersey Journal*.

The farm is currently operated by John and his wife, Elaine, and their eldest daughter, Jennifer, and another daughter, Jessica, and her husband, Chad. John is serving his fourth term as a Director for National All-Jersey Inc.



Efforts to conserve energy include a 135-kilowatt solar generating system that has generated power since October 2016.



The dairy cattle facilities at Mapleline Farm include a 100-cow freestall barn and double-four rapid exit parlor built in 2006.



Mapleline Farm has been bottling milk from the Registered Jersey herd since 1995 and from a plant on the farm since 2004. Milk and cream are sold wholesale and retail.



Part of the crowd that enjoyed a picnic lunch that included all the summer favorites—Jersey beef, sweet corn, ice cream and rich, ice-cold bottled Jersey milk.