

Vermont Breeders Tend Business in East Bethel

The annual meeting of the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association (VJBA) was held on February 17, 2018, at Grange Hall in East Bethel. Members discussed business, honored accomplishments with Jerseys and enjoyed fellowship and a delicious meal prepared by the Grange Hall.

Guest speaker, Laura Hardie, communications manager at New England Dairy and Food Council, reported on the group's efforts to support dairy farmers through research, wellness programs and nutrition programs for consumer, health advisors and educators.

AJCA-NAJ Area Representative Brenda Snow highlighted achievements for the national Jersey organizations for 2017, including a record number of registrations and sales of JerseyTags and new breed benchmarks for all measures of standardized production.

Snow encouraged breeders to consign to the Northeast Jersey Classic and Breeders Sale, to be held at Dusty Creek Farm in Wallingford, Vt., on April 28. The lineup will include about 20 elite, tie-up consignments and 300 sold as volume lots.

In keeping with tradition, the annual meeting and banquet of the New England Jersey Breeders Association will again be held the evening before at the sale at the Southside Steakhouse in Rutland, across the street from the Comfort Inn, sale headquarters.

The VJBA summer picnic will be held at Poulin Farms in Newport on July 21.

Wanda Emerich, Mooers, N.Y., reported that the Vermont State Jersey Show that was previously held at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds (CVF) will now be held in conjunction with the Addison County Field Days—the state's largest agricultural fair—in Vergennes on August 11.

VJBA Auditor Paul Stanley, East Fairfield, noted that club finances are on solid ground, thanks in part to a successful Northeast Jersey Classic and Breeders Sale in 2017 and a year-end tee-shirt fundraiser that generated nearly \$1,400 for the youth fund. The position allowed the VJBA to sponsor a trip to All American festivities for Andy McReynolds, Danville, who was honored at the Junior Banquet for winning the 2017 Pot O'Gold Production Contest with Avi-Lanche Dazz Buttermilk 12564.

The officer team for 2018 follows: Jason Johnson, Northwood, N.H., president; Tim Angell, Randolph Center, vice president; Claire Stanley, East Fairfield, secretary; Tom Pyle, Shoreham, treasurer; and Paul Stanley, auditor. Jersey breeders re-elected

to serve three-year terms as directors were Tim Angell; Kerry Gawalt, Hartland; Joanna Lidback, Barton; and Linda Stanley, East Fairfield. Amanda Williams, Randolph Center, was elected as the new youth chair and a director, to replace the position previously held by Gwen Pearl, Barnet.

Awards

The Vermont Good Neighbor Award was presented to Gerry and Diane Colvin, Dusty Road Farm, for their continuing hospitality in hosting the New England Jersey Classic and Breeders Sale. The Colvins have been dairying for more than 50 years in two scenarios: first with Holsteins until 2005 and then with a small group of Jerseys since 2007. The herd of about 30 milking cows is enrolled on REAP. With the latest appraisal, the milking string at Dusty Road Farm includes three Excellent and 17 Very Good cows and has an appraisal average of 85.2%.

Katarina Emerich, Mooers, N.Y., received the Robert J. Churchill Scholarship of \$500. The daughter of Jerry and Wanda Emerich is a high school senior who plans to major in agriculture business and pursue a career as an agriculture attorney.

Her Registered Jersey herd is founded on a purchase from the National Heifer Sale in 2010 and another (Kellogg-Bay Silly Response-ET) she showed to Reserve Junior All American Intermediate Calf honors in 2015. She consigned Dorado-K Plus Olympia {6}, a daughter out of her National Heifer Sale purchase, to the Northeast Jersey Classic Sale in 2015, where she was purchased by Dutch Hollow Farm, Schodack Landing, N.Y. She is appraised Excellent-90% and has 25,400 lbs. milk, 1,360 lbs. fat and 959 lbs. protein at 3-5.

Katarina attended Jersey Youth Academy in 2017 and was crowned Clinton County Dairy Princess for 2017-2018.

She has been active with the North Country Model United Nations (UN) and Harvard Model United Nations clubs since 2015, serving as director of the political committee for the regional model UN conference the past two years.

The three Goodrich awards for production were earned by cows at Lucky Hill Farms, a 130-cow herd owned and operated by the McReynolds family in Danville. For the second consecutive year, Lucky Hill Joker Phlopsie won the awards for fat and protein production. The Excellent-90% daughter of Lucky Hill Joker {6}, GJPI +95, made a 6-0 record of 22,330 lbs. milk, 1,216 lbs. fat (5.4%) and

881 lbs. protein (3.9%).

Her herdmate, Cedar Mtn Farm Topeka Garnet {4}, won the Goodrich award for milk production. The Excellent-90% daughter of Heartland Merchant Topeka-ET, GJPI +36, made a 3-3 record of 24,450 lbs. milk, 1,164 lbs. fat and 853 lbs. protein. "Garnet {4}" is owned by son Luke, who purchased her in the 2014 Pot O'Gold Sale from fellow Vermont breeder Kerry Gawalt. She placed eighth in the 2017 Pot O'Gold Production Contest and division 1 of the 2016 National Youth Production Contest with her first lactation.

Luke also topped the Vermont youth production contest with "Garnet {4}." Other juniors placing second through fifth in the contest were Virginia Patz, Shoreham, and three of Luke's siblings, Andy, Nick and Abby.