

Ohio Honors Hershey with Pioneer Service Award

Members of the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association (OJBA) gathered for their annual meeting on January 26, 2013, at Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City. One-hundred twenty-five Jersey breeders attended the event to catch up on industry news, tend to business and honor peers.

The Ohio Pioneer Service Award was presented to Becky Firestone Hershey of Wooster. Becky has been active in Jersey organizations at the county, district and state levels and lent a hand at numerous events over the years. She routinely volunteers at the food stand operated by the Wayne-Holmes County Jersey Cattle Club at the Ohio Fall Production Sale and hosts the county club's ice cream social with her family at the farm each year. She was crowned as Ohio Jersey Queen and then served as a judge for the contest in 2011. She is a former advisor for the Ohio Junior Jersey Breeders Association and served on the youth committee in 1983, when Ohio hosted the annual meetings of the national Jersey organizations.

Becky and her family operate Firestone Homestead Jerseys (FHJ Jerseys) on a farm that was deeded to her family in the 1830s by President James Madison. Though her family started their dairy business with Holsteins, Jerseys were incorporated into the herd in the early 1950s. Becky purchased her first Jersey, Wonderful Beech Farm Maiden, in 1953 after her brother, Dan, won a Jersey in an essay contest and she convinced her parents to let her have one too. Over the years, the Holsteins were phased out and the herd became fully-Jersey.

After she graduated from high school, Becky married Don Hershey and the couple raised three children, Dave, Ted and Cathy. When her brother passed away, Becky and her family returned to the family farm. Though her father



Becky Hershey, center, was honored with the Pioneer Service Award. On hand for the celebration were grandchildren, Joe and Dani Ballinger, front, and Kerby Hershey, center; son, Ted, and daughter-in-law, Anita Hershey, left; daughter, Cathy, and son-in-law, Jeff Ballinger, right; and husband Don, rear.



Tom Schindel presents the Ohio Jersey Youth Achievement Award to Allison Mangun.



Katherine Ashcraft, left, congratulates Megan Cornish for receiving the Ohio Outstanding Girl Award.

sold most of the herd, he retained a few descendants from her first heifer, who had been nicknamed "Mouse." She proved to be a worthy investment as she had 11 progeny in a time when embryo transfer and in-vitro fertilization weren't available. Several of her descendants have earned laurels in the show ring, including B. Sleeper M. Maiden Janelle, who was named All American Junior Yearling in 1976, and B-Sleepers Advancer Cindy, who was All American Senior Two-Year-Old in 1979.

Today, Becky retains ties to the show ring as a cheerleader from ringside for her grandchildren, who exhibit FHJ animals at local and state shows and The All American Jersey Show.

All-Ohio Awards were given to nine Jersey breeders in 14 age categories. Greiwe and Knoop Jerseys, Sidney, received five awards; Marhaven Jerseys, Alliance, took home two awards. Other Jersey breeders receiving certificates were: Maggie Carr, Sardinia; Topp View Jerseys, Botkins; S & O Jerseys, Springfield; Morgans Jerseys, Urbana; TJ Classic Jerseys, Ansonia; and Starwischer Jerseys, Mechanicsburg.

In the junior awards program, Allison Mangun, Burbank, was honored with the Youth Achievement Award. The daughter of Roy and Lisa Mangun is a high school senior who plans to attend Ohio State University-Agricultural Technical Institute (OSU-ATI) next fall and major in agriculture business and dairy science.



Neal Diley, right, gives the Diley Family Memorial Award to Ethan Starkey.



Greg Cornish was named winner of the Ohio Outstanding Boy Award. Katherine Ashcraft presents the award.

Her herd of Registered Jerseys numbers 48 cows and heifers.

Allison is very active in FFA and currently serves as vice president of her local chapter. She topped the state beginning prepared speaking contest in 2010 and was a member of the sales team that placed second in the state in 2011. This past year, she placed second nationally in the dairy handling contest. She has also earned the George R. Smith award from her local FFA chapter three times and received the Chapter Award in 2011.

Her show ring accomplishments include exhibiting the Grand Champion of the Ohio State Fair Junior Jersey Show in 2011, Ben Jurisdiction Shelby Sammi.

Allison has served the Ohio Junior Jersey Breeders Association (OJJBA) as a director and currently is a news reporter. She is a member of the National Honors Society and the class president and competes on the high school soccer and cross country teams.

Ethan Starkey, Mechanicsburg, received the Diley Family Memorial Award. Starkey is the son of Gene and Shelly Starkey and a junior at Mechanicsburg High School. He is an integral part of the operation of Starwischer Jerseys and owns many of the animals in the herd in partnership with his grandparents, siblings and cousins. Ethan is responsible for feeding the herd twice each day.

He is vice president of the OJJBA and a member of the high school cross country

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Ohio Meeting

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team.

Ethan is active in his local 4-H club, where he participates in dairy quiz bowl and judging. He has fared well in state dairy judging competitions in recent years, placing among the top 10 several times. Ethan also belongs to his local FFA chapter and sits on the Champaign County Junior Fair Board.

He especially enjoys showing at the Ohio State Fair and The All American Jersey Show. In 2012, a cow he owns in partnership with his family (Vindications Molly) was named Reserve Grand Champion of the Ohio State Fair. Another cow owned with his family (Starwischer Comerica Nataly) was named Intermediate Champion and best bred and owned of the show.

A pair of siblings was presented with the Outstanding Girl and Outstanding Boy Awards. Megan Cornish, the daughter of Dave and Daphne Cornish, is a high school senior who plans to attend OSU-ATI next fall and major in agriculture communications. Greg Cornish is a sophomore at South Central High School. The Cornish family operates a mixed 50-cow herd of Holsteins and Jerseys.

Jerseys were brought to the farm in 2008 at the prompting of Greg, who wanted the high-component brown cow for his 4-H project. His herd includes six cows and five heifers. He is especially interested in the mating program and spends hours studying bull proofs.

Greg is active in his local 4-H and FFA clubs and participates in dairy handling and soil judging for the later. He is class treasurer and plays basketball for his school.

Megan's herd of Registered Jerseys numbers three cows and three heifers. She is the reigning Ohio Jersey Queen and current treasurer for the OJJBA.

She has served her local FFA chapter as secretary the past two years. She received the Star Chapter award as a sophomore and the Outstanding Junior Award the following year. She was a member of the team that topped the dairy handling competition at the Eastern States Exposition and eighth high individual overall in 2011 and repeated the feat in 2012.

Megan has been named Premier Dairy Exhibitor at her county fair and won Holstein showmanship at the Ohio State Fair in 2012.

She established a chapter of Family Career and Community Leaders of America as her senior project at school and belongs to Students Against Destructive

Decisions.

Erin Williams, McConnellsville, was named overall winner of the youth production contest with her entry, Indiana Veda. The Excellent-94% daughter of Impressive Indiana-ET, GJPI -118, produced a 6-1 record of 25,130 lbs. milk, 1,516 lbs. fat and 850 lbs. protein. "Veda" was National Junior Grand Champion in 2010 and Grand Champion of the Ohio State Fair Junior Jersey Show and the open and junior shows at the Ohio Spring Dairy Expo in 2012.

Meagan Bolen, Fremont, earned two certificates for her entries in the production contest. Highland McGwire Mabel, Desirable-78%, won the division for two-year-olds with a 2-0 record of 21,230 lbs. milk, 674 lbs. fat and 701 lbs. protein. Highland Julie Winter, Very Good-87%, was the high-producing four-year-old with a 4-1 record of 24,790 lbs. milk, 1,086 lbs. fat and 852 lbs. protein.

Allison Mangun also received two certificates for her entries in the production contest. The Excellent-92% "Sammi," mentioned previously, topped all three-year-olds with a 3-2 record of 21,330 lbs. milk, 1,062 lbs. fat and 780 lbs. protein. Allison Sultan Lares Lucy, Excellent-91%, was the high-producing five-year-old. She made a 5-6 record of 24,390 lbs. milk, 1,211 lbs. fat and 895 lbs. protein.

In the final age category, Lizabeth Thurston, Delaware, took home the certificate for the high-producing aged cow with her entry, Lainetts Molly, Very Good-82%, who made a 7-7 record of 14,504 lbs. milk, 760 lbs. fat and 586 lbs. protein.

Junior All-Ohio Awards were distributed to a dozen juniors in 14 age categories. Trevor Greiwe, Sidney, took home three certificates. Other juniors earning awards were: Lane Greiwe, Sidney; Matthew Richards, Urbana; Kyle McGuire, West Liberty; Garrett Hageman, Sidney; Jody Williams, McConnellsville; Jake Blackburn, Galloway; Keaton Topp, Botkins; Justin Lemmermen, Galloway; Jacob Morgan, Urbana; Seth Vogel, Winchester; and Kadey Starkey.

Business Meeting

Scott Higgins, CEO of the American Dairy Association (ADA) Mideast, talked about the organization's milk promotion efforts. He said the organization is collaborating with new brand partners to expand dairy-related items on their menus. Major growth in the demand for dairy has come from cheese. ADA Mideast is also working to educate school officials on the importance of dairy as a source of protein

in the school lunch program. Higgins noted that chocolate milk is the official beverage of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. ADA Mideast is working to ensure chocolate milk is available to student athletes after practices and other sporting events.

Higgins reported that the Ohio Dairy Farmers campaign has been well received among consumers. Using a website, videos and social media, the campaign strives to show consumers that dairy producers are interested in caring for their animals and producing a safe, high-quality product.

Neal Smith, Executive Secretary of the American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc., reported that 2012 was a banner year for the Jersey breed, with registrations surpassing 100,000 and increased participation in other key programs. The third class of Jersey Youth Academy has been selected and will attend the program in Columbus, Ohio, in July.

Angi Kaverman, South Charleston, talked about the Jersey show at the Ohio State Fair. Though entries were down slightly in 2012, quality remained high. The 2013 fair will be held July 24-August 4. The junior Jersey show will be held on August 1. Brady Core, Salvisa, Ky., will serve as the official. The open show for heifers will be held on August 2; the futurity and cow show will be held on August 3. Jeff Brown, Jackson Center, Ohio, will be the judge. Kaverman told the group that points for premier exhibitor will be based on ownership as reported on registration papers.

Michael Hurst, Waynesville, chair of the Ohio Spring Classic Sale, thanked consignors for stepping up to the plate and consigning their best in 2012. The average was the second high in series history at \$3,225.86 and the sale was the high-averaging state sale of the year. The 2013 sale will be held on Memorial Day (May 27) at the Shelby County Fairgrounds in Sidney. Breeders interested in consigning should contact a member of the sale committee or their director.

Officers were elected to serve the organization as follows: Neal Diley, Canal Winchester, president; Mark Hoewischer, Mechanicsburg, vice president; Julia Stevens, Urbana, board secretary/treasurer; and Jim Bolen, Fremont, secretary/treasurer.

Juniors were also elected to serve their organization in 2013 as follows: Erin Williams, president; Ethan Starkey, vice president; Kadey Starkey, Mechanicsburg, secretary; Jody Williams and Megan Cornish, co-treasurers; and Allison Mangun, news reporter.