

Buckeye Breeders Gather to Recognize Achievement

Members of the Ohio Jersey Breeder's Association met at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, Ohio, for the organization's 124th annual meeting on January 27, 2007.

The 146 members in attendance addressed business matters in the morning session and celebrated accomplishments in the afternoon.

In the business meeting, members heard from several industry guests, including Robert Fleming from the Ohio Dairy Producers, Scott Higgins from the American Dairy Association Mid-East, John Lemmermen from The Ohio State University (OSU) and John Spreng from the Ohio State Fair. John Greiwe, Sidney, provided a report on the Ohio Purebred Dairy Cattle Association.

Also making presentations were Neal Smith, Executive Secretary of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc., and AJCA Director from the Fourth District, Paul Schirm.

Members heard from committee chairs and voted to retain the current slate of officers: Richard Soldner, Springfield, president; Donna Greiwe, Sidney, vice president; Deb Foster, Fort Loramie, secretary/treasurer; and Julia Stevens, Urbana, recording secretary/treasurer.

Elected to serve the junior association were Josh Hershberger, Troy, president; Kyle Schirm, West Salem, vice president; Alexis Roe, Anna, secretary; Erin Williams, McConnelsville, treasurer; and Hannah Geyer, Botkins, and Kira Andre, Wauseon, news reporters.

In the junior division, Jacob Hershberger, Chillicothe, received the John Diley Memorial Achievement Award. Hershberger graduated from The OSU Agricultural Technical Institute with an associate's degree in dairy production and management in September and is currently employed at Rossland Jerseys, Chillicothe. Hershberger's herd is 15 Registered



Earning All-Ohio Junior Awards were (left to right) Meagan Bolen, Erin Williams, Morgan Spence, Heath Geyer, Logan Eades, Jacob Morgan, Erika Graves and Alicia Vogel.



All-Ohio Senior Awards for 2006 were presented to (left to right) Deb Foster, Chuck Myers, Kenny Knoop, Donna Greiwe, Jerry Lemmerman, Amanda Curtis, Neal Diley, Jim Morgan, Carrie Meranda, Ted Smart, Dusty Bohl, Angi Kaverman, Dale Dirkson, Keith Dirkson and Doug Walker.

Jerseys. He has owned five Excellent cows to date, including JWH Councillers Sweet Pea, Excellent-92%. "Sweetpea" was the 2004 All American Senior Two-Year-Old Cow, the 2005 Reserve Senior Three-Year-Old Cow and the 2006 Reserve Junior All American Four-Year-Old Cow.

This spring, Hershberger plans to return to Indian Creek Farm and become the fifth generation to operate the family dairy farm in Troy.

Andrew Bok, Defiance, earned the Ohio Jersey Breeder's Outstanding Boy award and Meghan Thurston, Delaware, received



Andrew Bok



Meghan Thurston

the Outstanding Girl award. The Junior Promoter Award was given to Heath Geyer, Botkins.

Bok was also the overall winner of the youth production contest, with his entry, Yosemite Jerrick Lemvig D14230. She is appraised Very Good-82% and had a winning protein m.e. of 1,150 lbs. protein. She made an actual 305-day record of

21,540 lbs. milk, 933 lbs. fat and 852 lbs. fat at 1-10.

Alexis Roe led all juniors in the 2006 All-Ohio Junior Awards competition with five honors for the previous year's show season. Other juniors recognized were Nick Anderson, Winchester; Mark and Meagan Bolen, Fremont; Joel Bourne, Ansonia; Morgan Eades, Mechanicsburg; Hannah Geyer; Heath Geyer, Botkins; Erika Graves, Urbana; Josh Hershberger; Justin Lemmermen, Galloway; Jacob Morgan, Urbana; Emily and Logan Myers, Troy; Kyle Schirm, West Salem; Kyle Scott, Malta; Morgan Spence, Anna; Alicia Vogel, Winchester; Erin Williams; Jody Williams, McConnelsville; and Andy Winkle, Sabina.

In the adult awards program, the Pioneer Service Award was given to the sister team of Deb Foster and Cindy Geyer, Stanfield Jerseys, Botkins. The sisters grew up on Buck Run Farm, New Burlington, where they gained an appreciation for the Jersey cow through 4-H and youth programs. Recently, Deb retired from 20 years of veterinary practice at the sisters' clinic, where Cindy is the veterinary technician.

Stanfield Jerseys is 20 milk cows and 15 replacement heifers. Two cows are cared for at Topp-View and the balance at Trio Farm, owned by Cindy's husband, Rick Geyer. The herd was built on Crusader

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The Jersey herd owned by William and Debra Grammer and their sons, Billy, and Ben, was tops in the Buckeye State for milk and fat production in 2006.



Jacob Hershberger, left, was selected as the Ohio Youth Achievement winner. He accepted the John Diley Memorial Achievement Award from Neal Diley.

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Bright Firefly, who was a 4-H project for their father Harold in 1937 and became the county's first Excellent cow.

Deb and Cindy have promoted show ethics and helped many young people with their dairy projects. Cindy's children, Hannah and Heath, are the fourth generation to continue the Jersey tradition that started seven decades ago.

Jersey breeders were also recognized for production accomplishments. William Grammer, Grammer Jersey Farm, Sebring, was the state's high Jersey herd for milk and fat in 2006 with a rolling herd average of 20,563 lbs. milk, 1,000 lbs. fat and 716 lbs. protein on 566 lactations. Dar-Re Farm, owned by Regan F. Miller and family, Big Prairie, was the year's high-protein herd with a rolling herd average of 20,491 lbs. milk, 924 lbs. fat and 749 lbs. protein on 124 lactations.

Class leaders in five age classes and milk, fat and protein categories earned production awards for five Jersey breeders,



Officers elected to serve the Ohio Jersey Breeder's Association for 2007 were Richard Soldner, president; Donna Greiwe, vice president; Deb Foster, secretary/treasurer; and Julia Stevens, recording secretary/treasurer.

including Grammer; Sam Bok, Defiance; Hyland Acres, Big Prairie, Richman Farms, Lodi; Schirm Jersey Farms, West Salem; and Carl Williams, McConnellsville.

Seventeen Jersey breeders were honored with 2006 All-Ohio Awards for success on the tanbark trail this past summer and fall. The partnership of Greiwe and Knoop Jerseys, Sidney, took home six awards to lead all. They were followed by Ted and Diane Smart, Anna, with five and Stanfield



The sister team of Cindy Geyer, left, and Deb Foster, right, was honored with the Pioneer Service Award. Also pictured are Cindy's husband, Rick, and son, Heath, their mother, Mary Lib, and Deb's husband, Steve.

Jerseys, Loramie, and Myers Jersey Farm, Troy, with three each. Also receiving awards were Bohl's Jerseys, Sardinia; Call-Del Farm, South Charleston; Amanda Curtis, Anna; Neal Diley, Canal Winchester; Joe Meranda and family, Georgetown; Clark Morgan, Urbana; Oakhaven Jerseys, Galloway; Richman Farms; Sharon Farms, Kenton; TJ Classic Jerseys, Versailles; TLC Syndicate, Anna; and Doug Walker, Newark.