

## Grammers Earn Ohio Distinguished Service Award

Members of the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association (OJBA) gathered for their annual meeting on January 24, 2015. More than 100 Jersey enthusiasts met at the Der-Dutchman in Plain City, to honor peers, tend to business, and learn more about industry topics.

Bill and Debbie Grammer, Sebring, were recognized with the state's most prestigious award, Pioneer Service Award. The couple operates a 1,000-cow Registered Jersey dairy with their children Billy, Ben, and Jenni, in Northeast, Ohio.

Although the farm he grew up on, began with Guernseys, Jerseys were incorporated into the herd shortly after Bill graduated from the Ohio State University (OSU) in 1978. After college, Bill worked for a grain merchandiser in Cincinnati. Bill and Debbie officially joined the family business with the purchase of the farm from Bill's parents and a receipt of their first milk check shortly after they were married in 1992. Today the Grammer's raise corn and forages on the farm's 182 acres with an additional 300 acres of rented land in Ohio, and another 320 acres of custom-farmed corn and cotton in Texas.

The Grammer's have been recognized nationally for high Genomic JPI animals with 21 cows on the March 2015, Top 1.5% list. As a result of their high numbers more than 1,000 animals have been marketed throughout the United States and Panama with numerous bulls also sent to A.I. organizations.

In addition to Bill's commitment on the farm, his overwhelming enthusiasm for Jerseys has motivated him to advocate and serve alongside various organizations. Grammer served two terms as director, with the American Jersey Cattle Association. During his time as director Bill was the finance and development committee chair and vice president of the National All-Jersey Board. He also served on the board of the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association. Currently, he is a member on the Columbiana-Mahoning DHIA committee, where he has served several terms as president. Bill also is vice-president of DHI Cooperative board and represents District 5 on COBA's board of directors. Bill's enthusiasm for Jerseys has garnished him with opportunities to serve on the Ohio Dairy Producers Board, the Smith Dairy Producer Advisory Committee, West & Knox Insurance Board and the Ag Credit Advisory Committee.



Lowell Steven's presented Bill and Debbie Grammer and family with the Ohio Pioneer Service Award.



Allison Mangun was presented with the Ohio Youth Achievement Award at the Ohio Jersey breeders banquet.



Ben Grammer received the Ohio Outstanding Boy Award from the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association.



Molly Michael won the Outstanding Girl Award from the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association..

### Junior Awards

Ben Grammer, the son of Bill and Debbie, received the Outstanding Boy Award from the Ohio Junior Jersey Association (OJJBA). He is a freshman at West Virginia University studying Agricultural Business. On the farm, Ben owns 15 cows, seven heifers, and three bulls. With two of his cows having contract matings from Alta Genetics.

As a 10 year 4-H member, Ben served as president and vice-president of his club. He also participated in dairy judging, quiz bowl, and was honored with a gold rating for the Ohio 4-H Dairy Achievement contest.

Ben was the president of his local FFA Chapter and he received the Star Farmer award and, as well as getting the chapter's outstanding junior member award. He was also president and served as a participant in the local Ruritan activities including

trash pickup and Pedal Tractor Pulls assistant. Throughout high school, Ben was on the golf and basketball teams, participated in school musicals, a member of stage crew, and was a member of the men's chorus, pep and environmental clubs.

In addition to his scholarly activities, Grammer is a member of Sebring Presbyterian Church and has served many roles including liturgist, usher, substitute Sunday School teacher, and was an active member of the youth group.

Molly Michael of Baltimore, received the Outstanding Girl Award. The daughter of Michael and Melissa Michael is a freshman at Ohio State University majoring in Animal sciences.

Michael's is the current Ohio Jersey Queen and director at large for the Ohio Junior Jersey Breeders' Association. For 4-H and FFA Molly raises replacement heifers alongside her brother. Currently she has two cows and four heifers which she has exhibited at county and state fairs. As a 4-H member Michael was the Ohio Dairy Achievement winner. With Ohio 4-H, Molly was an ambassador and member of the teen advisory council. She also represented Ohio at the National 4-H Conference. In her county, Molly is a member of the junior leader program, junior fair board, and camp counselor volunteer group.

Kadey Starkey, Mechanicsburg, received the Diley Family Memorial Award. This award is presented to an Ohio Jersey



Kadey Starkey was presented with the Diley Family Memorial Award by Neal Diley.

Junior member that exemplifies character and dedication towards the progression of the Jersey Industry. Kadey is active in 4-H, FFA, school and community activities. With the OJBA Starkey serves as a director at large and exhibits her Jerseys at the county, state, and national levels.

Allison Mangun the daughter of Roy and Lisa Mangun from Burbank, Ohio received the Ohio Junior Achievement Award. Mangun is a junior at Ohio State University majoring in agricultural communications.

She grew up on a 200-cow Jersey and Holstein farm where she purchased her first Jersey at age nine for a 4-H project. Since then her herd has grown to nearly 50 Jerseys, Holsteins and Brown Swiss through sale purchases and reproduction. In the National Jersey Youth Production Contest at Louisville Allison has had two Pot O' Gold animals place in the top 20 to receive cash awards. She has exhibited animals at local, state and national shows. Allison was an active member of the 4-H and FFA serving as an officer and participating in dairy judging. Allison is a recipient of her American FFA Degree has won the state Dairy Handling and Beginning Prepared Public speaking contests.

Mangun is active in Freshwater Community Church, serving in the past as a youth leader and participating in mission trips to Haiti, Chile, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

### Other Awards

Jody Williams of McConnellsville, won the youth production contest with her entry, Family Hill Comerica Flame-ET. The Excellent-95% of Pleasant Nook Berretta Felice, produced a 305-day record of 21,228 lbs. milk, 945 lbs. fat, and 791 lbs. protein at 5-7. She was named the 2014 All American Aged Cow.

Leah Thurston of Delaware was the runner-up and winner of the six-year old division with her entry GR Brownies Fair Sunset. The Very Good-88% daughter of Sunset Canyon Maximus-ET, GJPI +60, produced a 305-day record of 18,259 lbs. milk, 951 lbs. fat, and 700 lbs. protein at 6-8.

All-Ohio and Reserve All-Ohio awards were presented to adults and juniors for their achievements in the 2014 show season. Thirteen juniors received All-Ohio and eight received Reserve-All Ohio awards. Awarded were: Meredith Hageman, Sydney; Blake Greiwe, Sydney; Grace Hageman, Sydney; Jody Williams, McConnellsville; Lane Greiwe, Quincy; Kinley Topp, Botkins; Garrett Hageman, Sydney; Keaton Topp, Botkins; Mathew Richards, Urbana; Kyle Mcguire, West



Jersey breeders on hand to receive All-Ohio or Reserve All-Ohio awards were: (from left to right) Jason Nuhfer, Lynn Yocum, Angie Kaverman, Jim Morgan, Kira Andre, Neal Diley, Ethan Starkey, Mark Hoewischer, and Donna Greiwe.



Jersey Juniors receiving All-Ohio or Reserve All-Ohio Awards at the annual meeting were: (back row left) Garrett Hageman, Max Hoewischer, Heath Starkey, Ethan Starkey, and Amanda Seger; (front row left), Matthew Richards, Meredith Hageman, Grace Hageman, and Lane Greiwe.

Liberty; Rachel Anderson, New Philadelphia; Ethan Starkey, Mechanicsburg; and Lizabeth Thurston, Delaware.

Fourteen adult Jersey breeders also received certificates for All-Ohio and Reserve All-Ohio winners. Mill Valley Farms, Sidney received prizes for four All-Ohio and four Reserve All-Ohio winners. TJ Classic Jerseys of Ansonia, took honors with two All-Ohio's and one reserve All-Ohio. Williams Jerseys, McConnellsville; took home certificates for one All-Ohio and three Reserve All-Ohio animals. Hershberger Brother Jerseys, Casstown; Kira Andre, Wauseon; Starwischer Jerseys, Mechanicsburg; Boyce & Unkefer, Alliance; Call-Dell Farm, South Charleston; Jason Nuhfer, Willard; and J. Clark Morgan, Urbana each earned awards for an All-Ohio or a Reserve All-Ohio winner.

### Business Meeting

Allison Ryan, the industry relations manager for American Dairy Association (ADA) Mideast, brought the group up-to-date of the dairy industry's check-off program. She began by recognizing Erin Williams as a new staff member of ADA. Seven key partnerships are key players in the fast food industry continue to be a focus to promote consumption of dairy product. The goal is to increase fluid milk

sales by providing dairy options with less sugar, more protein and calcium, and a longer shelf life.

Ryan encouraged producers to promote and donate to the Great American Milk Drive, a program designed to eliminate the shortage of milk provided at local food banks. Through donations at local grocery stores and online at [www.milklife.com/give](http://www.milklife.com/give) America has donated nearly 292,383 gallons of milk to people in need of dairy products.

Allison explained that ADA is continuing to build relations with health officials to provide more educational material that will explain the benefits of milk while countering misinformation.

This year at the Ohio Spring Dairy Expo, ADA will once again sponsor a meal and youth showmanship program. At the Ohio State fair they will continue to support the cheese sale at the Sale of Champions.

JR Kaverman, South Charleston, talked about the Ohio Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA). He informed breeders that the PDCA judging school will now be held during the first week of the Ohio State Fair instead of Spring Dairy Expo. He encouraged everyone to join and become active members of PDCA.

Angi Kaverman, South Charleston, relayed details about the Ohio State Fair. The junior Jersey show will be held on August 6, with Pat Conroy, Angola, Ind., serving as official. The open show for heifers will be on August 7 and the open show for cows and the futurity will be on August 8. Steve Borland, Ormstown, Que., will judge the open show. Both shows start at 9 a.m. The second annual dairy feeder show will be held from August 3-5.

Neal Smith, Executive Secretary for the American Jersey Association, informed breeders of the outstanding growth within the Jersey business. He was excited for Ohio to be hosting the annual meeting, and celebration of the 150th anniversary of the oldest breed association in United States—American Jersey Cattle Association—in 2018. The World Jersey Cattle Bureau will also host its world conference in conjunction with the meetings. Neal spoke of the improvements to the Genetic Base Equivalent and the JPI formula, which will put more emphasis on fertility traits.

Neal also informed breeders that the AJCA and National All-Jersey Inc., is supporting the Referendum on Federal Order Issues which will provide Jersey farmers greater opportunities for growth and sustainability.

Members heard about the record-break-

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## Ohio Meeting

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ing year for the Jersey breed and national breed news from Sam Bok, National AJCA Director for Ohio. Bok congratulated Kira Andre for being selected as a member of the Queen's court in the 2014 National Jersey Queen Contest and Jim and Tara Herron, Salem for receiving the an AJCA Young Jersey Breeder award for 2014.

Dr. Maurice Eastridge talked about the Jersey herd at Waterman Dairy on the OSU campus. With Ohio State claiming the first National Playoff Championship title, Maurice noted many students enrolled in animal sciences are also student athletes. He mentioned that the dean of the college of agriculture is reviewing the livestock facilities and making recommendations for upgrades to the university's new president. He commented that the dairy club's Buckeye Classic Sale this year is being managed by Jersey breeders, Erin Williams, McConnellsville; Jake Blackburn, Galloway; Kira Andre, and Allison Mangun.

Susan Mykrantz, Wooster, reported on the *Ohio Jersey News*, the official publication of the OJBA, and its profitable year.

Darlene Williams, McConnellsville, was thanked for her long-time support of the OJJBA as a junior advisor. She gave congratulatory marks for the juniors winning the state herd banner at the All American and for a successful calf raffle fundraiser the Ohio State Fair.

Officers elected to serve on the board of directors are: Mark Hoewischer, Mechanicsburg, president; Jason Nuhfer, vice president; Jim Bolen, Fremont, secretary/treasurer; and Julia Stevens, Urbana, recording secretary/treasurer.

Juniors elected to serve are: Ethan Starkey, president; Greg Cornish, North Fairfield, vice president; Megan Cornish, North Fairfield, secretary; Jody Williams, treasurer; and Allison Mangun, reporter.