

Ohio Breeders Hold Annual Meeting in Plain City

Members of the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association (OJBA) met for their annual meeting on February 4, 2017, at Der Dutchman restaurant in Plain City. About 90 Jersey enthusiasts were on hand to conduct business, hear from industry representatives and recognize peers.

Guest speaker Scott Higgins, president and CEO of American Dairy Association Mideast, brought the group up-to-date on dairy promotion programs. He reported that partnerships between the dairy and food industries are gaining momentum. Dairy producers benefit from such affiliations, like milk being served as the default beverage in Happy Meals from McDonald's.

There is also optimism for exports, said Higgins, as former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, is now president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council.

Higgins reported that the Ohio Dairy Producers Association is supporting the proposed Dairy Pride Act, in which the Federal Department of Agriculture would require processors of non-dairy products made from nuts, seeds and plant to remove dairy terms like milk, yogurt and cheese from their labels. Additional information will be presented at the organization's spring meeting.

Jersey Marketing Service (JMS) Manager Greg Lavan spoke about activities of the national Jersey organizations. He encouraged breeders to consign and attend upcoming JMS sales. He also encouraged them to practice calthood vaccination as a means of adding value to consignments. Several western states still require cattle to be vaccinated before entering the state.

Lavan told members the board of National All-Jersey Inc. will be traveling to Washington D.C. to meet with legislators to discuss dairy industry policy in the coming months.

Dr. Maurice Eastridge, a professor and dairy extension specialist for The Ohio State University (OSU), said the university has made several recent staff changes in faculty and administration and is re-



Jim Bolen, right, and his brother, Terry, were named recipients of the Ohio Pioneer Service Award. Jason Nuhfer presents the award. All photos courtesy Susan Mykrantz.

viewing facilities at Waterman Dairy on campus, OSU-Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center to determine needed renovations and integrate programs. Though the dairy will remain at Waterman, there is talk of adding other species to the facility.

John Greiwe, Sidney, and Angi Kaverman, South Charleston, each talked about the Dairy Incentive Premium offered at the Ohio State Fair. Through the program, juniors who exhibit in showmanship and the junior show and participate in dairy skillathon and the dairy judging clinic have opportunity to earn an additional \$100 in premiums. This year, the junior show at the Ohio State Fair will be held on August 3, with Tom Arrowsmith, Peach Bottom, Pa., serving as official. The open show for heifers will be held on August 4; the futurity and cow show will be held on August 5. Brian Sayles, Paris, Ont., is the judge. All shows begin at 9:00 a.m.

Bill Grammer, Sebring, and Tom Noyes, Wooster, provided early details on the 2018 AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings, which will be hosted by Ohio Jersey breeders in Canton on June 27-30.

Awards

Terry and Jim Bolen were honored with the Ohio Pioneer Service Award. The brothers operate Highland Jersey Farms with their family in Fremont. The Bolens milk 87 cows and farm 500 acres of corn,



Ohio Jersey royalty crowned at the annual meeting included Sarah Schonauer, junior queen, Christina Coler, queen, and Jaylin Dilsaver, princess.

soybeans, wheat and hay.

Terry and Jim are the fifth generation to operate the family farm, which has been in the family for more than 135 years. They were active on the farm and with youth projects in 4-H and FFA and became partners in the business with their father, Donald, in 2003. Terry and Jim received the AJCC Young Jersey Breeder Award with their wives, Susan and Jodi, respectively, in 1991. The family was named Sandusky County Farm Family of the Year in 2013.

Both Terry and Jim are active with the OJBA. Jim is the current treasurer and a former president and has served 22 years as a director. Both Terry and Jim have been members of the show committee.

Terry has also been involved with Fremont Young Farmers, sat on the board of Sandusky County Farm Bureau and chaired the Washington Township Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. He currently is active with the dairy committee for the Sandusky County Fair. Jim has been an advisor for Sandusky County 4-H and director for Lin-Mor Elevator. He is now involved with the Sandusky County Dairy Service Unit.

Highland Jersey Farm is enrolled on REAP and has a 2016 lactation average of 21,857 lbs. milk, 915 lbs. fat and 752 lbs. protein. They are routine exhibitors at local, state and All American Jersey Show and contract advertisers with the *Jersey Journal*.

Among the standouts in the breeding program are 1990 National Grand Champion, Highland Jody's TB Jessie, Excellent-92%, and a current standout in the herd, Highland TBone Mabs, Excellent-93%, with 30,000 lbs. milk, 1,286 lbs. fat and 1,025 lbs. protein at 5-1.

All-Ohio and Reserve All-Ohio awards were given to several Jersey breeders. Mill Valley Jerseys, Sidney, took home three All-Ohio awards. TJ Classic Jerseys, Ansonia, earned an All-Ohio award in addition to two in partnership with Reinholt Jerseys of Rochester, Ind., and one with

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Sara and Mark Hoewischer present the Outstanding Girl Award to Audrey Ferguson.



Neal Diley presents the Diley Family Memorial Award to Heath Starkey.

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Kyle McGuire of West Liberty.

Junior Awards

Juniors were recognized for achievements as well. Jarod Herron, Salem, received the Ohio Youth Achievement and the Ohio Outstanding Boy Award. The high school senior plans to attend OSU next fall, majoring in dairy science, and then return to the family farm, Nature View Farms LLC. His long-term goals for the farm include improving the genetics and establishing a value-added ice cream business for Nature View Farms.

On the farm, Jarod is responsible for collecting tissue samples for genotyping, an important task for the fully-genotyped, 120-cow herd that includes about 150 polled females today and is soon projected to be fully-polled. He also feeds and beds heifers and young calves, helps with milking and lends a hand with hay and straw harvest.

Jarod will attend Jersey Youth Academy this summer. He has been active in 4-H, showing not only breeding cattle but Jersey feeders as well in, an effort to promote Jersey beef. Other projects include wood-working, knots and photography. In 2016, he was a member of the 4-H royal court, sat on the junior fair board and helped to improve the Columbiana County fairgrounds.

He belongs to National Honor Society and the school mentorship program and plays trumpet in the concert, jazz and marching bands. He is a 10-year member of Boy Scouts, where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He is the club's quartermaster and active with the Venturing program.

Audrey Ferguson, Sardinia, was named Ohio Outstanding Girl. The high school senior is taking classes at Southern State Community College and plans to pursue a career in the dairy industry. She is active in 4-H and FFA. She was crowned as the Ohio Junior Jersey Queen in 2015 and received the Diley Family Memorial Award in 2016. She is active with Bohls Jerseys in Sardinia.

Christina M. Coler, Canfield, was crowned as the 2017 Ohio Jersey Queen. The daughter of Lori Coler and the late Rob Coler is in her last semester at OSU-ATI. She plans to transfer to the main campus at OSU, where she will earn a bachelor's degree in dairy science and then a master's degree in dairy genetics.

In high school, she was active in 4-H, serving as president and vice president of her local club. She also was a member of the varsity soccer and track teams, played in the band and belonged to National Honors Society and FFA.



Jarod Herron receives the Ohio Youth Achievement and the Ohio Outstanding Boy Awards from Kadey Starkey, president of the Junior Ohio Jersey Breeders Association.

Though her family operated a Jersey farm, her passion for the cows grew after she cared for the herd owned by her uncle, Mike Janik, after a back injury prevented him from doing chores. For several weeks, she milked, fed and bedded cows and cleaned the barn at Hickory Pastures Farm in Salem after school. She entered the dairy science program at ATI in 2014 and earned an associate's degree in 2016.

Sarah Schonauer, Killbuck, was selected as the Ohio Junior Jersey Queen. The daughter of Jerry Schonauer and Dr. Mary Uhl is active in 4-H, traveling to the District of Columbia to participate in Citizen Washington Focus and to Ireland, England and Wales through the organization. She placed sixth in the 2014 Pot O'Gold Production Contest and has exhibited Reserve Grand Champion and Junior Champion at the Holmes County Fair.

Jaylin Dilsaver was named Ohio Jersey Princess. The 12-year-old daughter of Sam and Michelle Dilsaver, operates Carlyle Farms, a 2,900-cow Jersey dairy, with her family in Wayne. She enjoys helping in the maternity ward and caring for calves. She cheers for the basketball and football teams and competes in contests around the state. She plans to attend Cornell University and major in dairy science.

Heath Starkey, Mechanicsburg, received the Diley Family Memorial Award. He and his family operate Starwischer Jerseys, where he is charged with feeding cows. He is active in 4-H and FFA and participates in showing, dairy handling and judging. He was named OJBA Outstanding Boy in 2016.

Junior Jersey Promoter awards were given to Sam Hoewischer, Mechanicsburg, and Jade Laux, Fort Loramie.

Junior All-Ohio and Reserve Junior All-Ohio awards were also distributed to 19 juniors. Trevor Greiwe, Sidney, took home two Junior All-Ohio and three Reserve Junior All-Ohio awards. Keaton, Kinley and Madelyn Topp, Botkins, each earned a pair of Junior All-Ohio awards and a Reserve Junior All-Ohio certificate.