

New York Club Holds Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the New York Jersey Cattle Club (NYJCC) was held on January 17, 2014, in conjunction with the New York All-Breeds Convention in Corning, N.Y. Members tended to organization business and heard from several industry guests.

Sara Barlass, the state's area representative for the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc., spoke about the record-breaking year for the Jersey breed in 2013. New benchmarks for all primary services—registrations, linear appraisals, cows on performance programs and contributions to Equity—were established, along with new records for all measures of Jersey production and units of Jersey semen sold. The number of animals registered online and identified by double-matching approved ear tags continues to grow as well, up 5% from 2012 to a record 63,918 head.

The population of Jerseys in the national dairy herd continues to grow as well and was estimated to be 108,897 head at year end. The Registered Jersey population was estimated to be 589,627 head.

Barlass encouraged breeders to attend the 2014 AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings in Alexandria, Va., this summer. She invited them to consign to the National Heifer Sale, which will again be an all-virtual event, with bidding conducted through JerseyAuctionLive.com at the Holiday Inn and Suites and no live animals on site.

Barlass reported that the NYJCC received a check in the amount of \$1,642.80 from the *Jersey Journal* state-page advertising program, which reimburses state Jersey organizations 10% for advertisements placed by breeders from the home state. At 30 pages, New York placed the third highest number of advertisements in the country. Part of the proceeds will be used to continue the NYJCC website on JerseySites.

AJCA Director Chuck Luchsinger talked about changes in the association's information technology department, which includes extensive upgrades of technology. This will enable the national Jersey organizations to better serve customers. He also talked about increases in per-cow fees for REAP and other performance programs. Herd fees remain unchanged. Luchsinger also reported that transfer fees for REAP herds will be adjusted based on volume.

Dr. George Merrill, with the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets, spoke briefly about health tests for the state and also elaborated on traceability

requirements.

Members discussed consignment sales at length. With the growing importance of online cattle merchandising, traditional, volume sales may be less viable as a means of moving cattle from New England. The New England Spring Sale will continue this spring, but the Vermont Fall Sale will not be held. The spring sale was renamed the Northeast Jersey Classic and Breeders Sale and will be held on May 3 at the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland. The sale will be a volume sale, with some elite tie-up consignments.

Members approved holding a virtual sale this spring as well. The event, New York's Next Generation Jersey Sale, will be held May 9 at the Steuben County Fairgrounds in Bath, N.Y. The sale will be conducted by JerseyBid.com, with bidding opening on April 28 and closing sale day at 5 p.m. The sale will be a volume sale, with some elite tie-up consignments and a few online consignments. A sale committee was established to consider future options for the event, which may include a banquet dinner along with the sale. Sara Barlass; Nathan Chittenden, Schodack Landing; Eric Hansen, Machias; Charlie Luchsinger, Syracuse; Meghan Moody, Hamden; Jerry Stewart, Bath; and George Wilson, Stamford.

Members voted to name the youth memorial scholarship that is awarded by the NYJCC in memory of the late Robin Denniston-Keller. Memorials in her memory will be directed to the Robin Denniston-Keller Memorial Fund.

In order to save money, Jersey breeders agreed that mailings will now be accomplished electronically through email rather than through mail.

Jersey breeders were invited to attend the NYJCC summer picnic, which will be hosted by John and Lynda Lehr at the farm in Canastota.

Officers were elected as follows: Brian Chittenden, Schodack Landing, president; Becky Ferry, Johnstown, vice president; Sandy Ferry, Johnstown, and Beth Hobin, Scipio Center, co-secretaries; and Alan Danforth, Cobleskill, treasurer.