

Chittenden Crowned New York Jersey Queen

The annual meeting of the New York Jersey Cattle Club was held on January 15, 2016, in conjunction with the New York All-Breeds Convention in Utica. Members tended to organization business, heard from industry guests and crowned a new Jersey queen.

Meagan Chittenden, Schodack Landing, was named the 2015 New York Jersey Queen. The daughter of Brian and Beth Chittenden is a sophomore at SUNY Cobleskill University and operates Dutch Hollow Farm with her family. Her herd of Registered Jerseys includes 19 cows and 15 heifers.

Chittenden attended the third Jersey Youth Academy in 2013 and received the Fred Stout Youth Experience Award in 2014, where she worked for Young's Jersey Dairy in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

She has placed in the National Jersey Youth Production Contest numerous times, most recently with Dutch Hollow Eclipses Spring, who placed third in Division I of the contest in 2014. She has also been active in the show ring, exhibiting Dutch Hollow Sam Holloway, the winner of the Sunbow Jerseys Trophy for yield deviation at the All American Junior Jersey Show in 2014.

Chittenden is active with the New York Agri-Women organization and the SUNY Cobleskill Dairy Club. She is also very involved with the consumer outreach event, "Day at the Dairy," held at Dutch Hollow Farm each summer.

AJCA Director Alan Chittenden spoke about activities of the national Jersey organizations. New records for number of animals registered (122,701), cows appraised (119,545), cows enrolled on performance programs (169,913) and breed production (19,927 lbs. milk, 960 lbs. fat and 727 lbs. protein on an m.e. basis) were reported for 2015. Equity contributions totaled \$873,195 from 1,063 investors at the close of 2015, also a record.

Chittenden also gave an informative presentation on changes the board of directors approved for animal identification programs, including publication of a new Breed Base Representation (BBR) of genotyped animals. BBR is defined as the animal's genetic relationship to the purebred Jersey reference group when the information is officially released by the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding. A calculated BBR based on genotyped ancestors will be published for animals that are not genotyped.

Chittenden also noted prefixes used



Outgoing New York Jersey Queen Emily Chittenden, right, congratulates the newly-crowned queen, Meagan Chittenden.

in the Genetic Recovery and Jersey Expansion programs will be replaced with a generation count suffix in the animal name that describes the depth of AJCA-recorded ancestry. The suffix will indicate the number of generations of AJCA-recorded ancestry in an animal's pedigree from 1 to 6 (increasing by 1 from the lowest generation of sire or dam). No suffix will be used when animals have seven or more generations of AJCA-recorded ancestry.

The New York Jersey Cattle Club received a check in the amount of \$1,666.85 for its participation in the Jersey Journal's state-page advertising program, in which a portion of the advertising costs incurred by breeders will be returned to the state Jersey organization based on the number of advertisers and pages placed during the year. New York has earned a rebate for many years, this year qualifying with 30 pages of advertising during 2015.

Co-secretaries of the NYJCC, Sandy Ferry, Johnstown, and Bethany Hobin, Scipio Center, encouraged members to participate in the upcoming New York Next Generation Sale, either by consigning or volunteering. The state sale will be held April 30 at the Steuben County Fairgrounds in Bath. The sale will be formatted as the past two years, with bidding being opened through JerseyBid.com and closing live through JerseyAuctionLive.com. The sale manager, Jersey Marketing Service, is planning to auction more than 100 head, with several elite tie-up animals and the balance sold as volume lots.

Members were also invited to attend the summer picnic at Rutgers Registered Jersey Farm in Attica on July 24 at 12 noon. The farm is a partnership between Rudger Brothers Jerseys (Lyman Rudgers and Chelsey Downs and Alton, Tracy and Eric Rudgers), All Bright Farms (Josh and Katie Carpenter) and Keswick Dairy (John and Mariann Fessenden). The 125-cow herd is enrolled on REAP.

Jersey enthusiasts were also reminded that New York juniors are selling t-shirts and sweatshirts to raise funds for the junior

club. Items are available at the state sale and state fair and can be ordered through the Facebook page as well. Juniors are also selling tickets for the calf raffle beginning with the state sale and also through Facebook. The drawing for the calf will be held at the conclusion of the Jersey show at the state fair on September 4. The winner has a choice of a calf donated by a Registered Jersey breeder or \$500 cash.

Officers re-elected to serve the New York Jersey Cattle Club in 2016 were: Brian Chittenden, president; Rebecca Ferry, Johnstown, vice president; Sandy Ferry and Bethany Hobin, co-secretaries; and Alan Danforth, Cobleskill, treasurer.