

Dreamroad Jerseys Hosts New York Picnic

Members of the New York Jersey Cattle Club met for their summer picnic and meeting at Dreamroad Jerseys in Johnstown on July 27, 2013. They tended to business in a short meeting, recognized juniors, enjoyed a pot luck dinner and toured the farm owned by the Ferry family.

Rebecca Eichorst, Truxton, was crowned as the New York Jersey Queen. The daughter of Robert and Angela Eichorst is a high school senior who plans to attend college next fall and study biology. She first became involved with Jerseys four years ago when her family moved from Wisconsin to New York. The Eichorsts had milked Holsteins in Wisconsin, but switched to Jerseys because the new facilities were better suited to the smaller cow. In the move, they also downsized cow numbers from 400 cows to 150 cows and wish they had made the switch to Jerseys earlier.

Rebecca plays a key role in management of the farm, milking twice a day, and takes a special interest in marketing and promotion. She regularly attends meetings for their local milk cooperative, Land O'Lakes, and has been involved with the Cortland County Dairy Princess program the past three years.

Rebecca plays varsity basketball and volunteers for the Link Crew and the Achieving a College Education program at school.

Emily Jane Chittenden, Schodack Landing, was named winner of the senior division of the youth achievement contest. The daughter of Alan and Donna Chittenden is a freshman at Cornell University majoring in animal science. She is a member of the university's dairy science club and volunteers with the Guiding Eyes program, which trains guide dogs for the blind.

Emily is a fourth-generation Registered Jersey breeder. Her herd of 54 head



Rebecca Eichorst, the newly crowned New York Jersey Queen, poses with Dreamroad Colossal Joke, Excellent-92%, a member of the milking string at Dreamroad Jerseys.

is managed with the family farm, Dutch Hollow Farm. She attended Jersey Youth Academy in 2013 and has placed in the National Jersey Youth Production Contest seven of the past eight years, five times with descendants of her first and favorite cow, LF Lester Emilee, Excellent-92%. "Emilee" has earned a number of production laurels as well. She ranked eighth for milk and ninth for components in the 2010 Leading Living Lifetime Production Contest with 240,597 lbs. milk, 10,880 lbs. fat and 8,410 lbs. protein in 3,948 days.

Emily regularly exhibits cattle at 4-5 different local shows during the year and will participate in The All American Junior Jersey Show for the third time this year.

In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society and played clarinet in band. She also played basketball for two years and was involved with the Peer Leadership Program and the Buddy Program, which mentors elementary school children.

Kylie Margaret Lehr, Canastota, topped the junior division of the youth achievement contest. The 14-year-old daughter of John and Lynda Lehr is a second-generation Jersey breeder who inherited her love of the breed from her mother, who grew up on a Jersey farm. Kylie breeds Registered Jerseys using the Ky-Hi prefix. Her herd numbers 15 head. She raises heifers on the home farm and boards milking cows at Dar-View Farm in Delancey.

Kylie enjoys showing and has exhibited at The All American Junior Jersey Show twice. Her favorite cow, Havs Lovabull Watchfull-P, Excellent-92%, won the protein award in the show's four-year-old class in 2011. She has begun to do in-vitro fertilization on "Watchfull" and has nine registered progeny to date—all genotyped. She will consign one of them to The All American Jersey Sale for the first time this year.

In school, the high school freshman is a member of the junior varsity soccer, volleyball and track teams.

Clark Egelston, Fultonville, received the New York Jersey Cattle Club scholarship. The son of Dennis and Judy Egelston is a senior at Virginia Tech majoring in dairy science. He is involved with the university's dairy club and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and plans to return to the family farm, Glen Meadows Farm, after graduation.

Clark attended the first Jersey Youth Academy in 2009. In high school, he played golf and ice hockey and percussion with the jazz ensemble and marching band. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club and involved with student government and Students Against Destructive Decisions.

Juniors received awards for their entries in the youth production contest as well. Awards were given in two categories based on age at calving—cows calving before 30 months and all other lactations. Cassandra L. Chittenden, Schodack Landing, earned the top prize in the younger division and was also named overall winner with her entry, GR Dutch Hollow Gannon Glide. The Excellent-91% daughter of PR Oomsdale Jace Gratude Gannon-ET, GJPI +143, produced a first lactation with an m.e. of 28,878–1,232–940 and a dollar value of \$4,657.67. Actual production for the 1-8 record was 23,820 lbs. milk, 915 lbs. fat and 727 lbs. protein (3x milking).

Nathan Lawton, Newark Valley, topped the division for older cows with GR Clemson Dale 783 907. The Very Good-85% daughter of PR Oomsdale Jace Gravit Garden-ET, GJPI +153, produced a 2-10 record with an m.e. of 24,127–1,261–845 and a dollar value of \$4,384.76. Actual production was 22,170 lbs. milk, 1,164 lbs. fat and 770 lbs. protein. Lawton purchased her from Clemson University in the Pot O'Gold Sale in 2009.

Other juniors placing second through fifth, respectively, in the division for younger cows were: Maxwell Chittenden, Schodack Landing; Emily Chittenden; Katherine Elizabeth DeWitt, Accord; and Dorothea Riley Baker, Wyoming. In the older division, juniors placing second through fifth, respectively, were: Ryan Lawton, Newark Valley; Katy A. Kemmeren, Bainbridge; Lydia Chittenden, Schodack Landing; and Meagan E. Chittenden, Schodack Landing.

Business Meeting

Members were brought up-to-date on activities of the national Jersey organizations from American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) Director Chuck Luchsinger. He reported on the annual meetings of the organizations in Amarillo, Texas, in

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June, noting that the High Plains region is an amazing place to see Jerseys. He also commented about the record-breaking National Heifer Sale, which posted a new series high average of \$6,362.77 on 47 lots and was a virtual sale for the first time.

Luchsinger encouraged Jersey breeders to attend next year's annual meetings, which will be held in Alexandria, Va., and hosted by the AJCA and National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ). The National Heifer Sale will again be a virtual sale, with no animals being transported to the site of the meetings.

Luchsinger also told the group that P-levels will be reported on all performance pedigrees for bulls and that the AJCC Research Foundation is funding research on the Jersey Haplotype 1.

AJCA-NAJ Area Representative Sara Barlass talked about the spring and fall New York sales managed by Jersey Marketing Service. There was discussion about changing the venue or type of sales held or eliminating one of the sales.

Host Farm

Jersey breeders were also given opportunity to tour Dreamroad Jerseys, which is operated by Phillips "Flip" and Sue Ferry and their daughters, Pam, Sandy and Becky.

The herd of 50 milking cows is enrolled on REAP and uses the slogan, "We Show Milk Cows" in *Jersey Journal* advertising and other promotions. The 2012 lactation average on 43 cows stands at 16,738 lbs. milk, 803 lbs. fat and 610 lbs. protein. With the latest appraisal in September 2013, the herd includes 34 Excellent and 25 Very Good cows (none lower) and has an appraisal average of 88%. One of the Excellents, Dreamroad ZBW Iatola Cracker-ET, is the reigning Grand Champion of the New York State Fair.

Cows are housed and milked in a 60 cow tie-stall barn. Baby calves are raised in a lean-to shed constructed next to the milking facility from birth through weaning. They are then moved to a bedded pack barn, where they will be raised until they enter the milking string. The Ferry family strives to incorporate at least one new technology in herd management or make one facility improvement each year. This year, they added rotational grazing to management. They plan to continue the practice next summer and fine tune pasture management in the coming years.

The farm is situated on 125 acres. Another 200 acres of cropland are rented. The family raises all of the crops used in the ration.

Both Sandy and Becky have been involved in Jersey activities over the years. Becky was named winner of the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest in 2002. Sandy and Becky are currently serving as co-secretaries for the New York Jersey Cattle Club and received the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder Award in 2013. Both attended Morrisville State College (formerly SUNY-Morrisville) and Cornell University and work off the farm full-time at Farm Service Agency, Sandy as a county executive director and Becky as a farm loan officer.



Juniors attending the picnic included, left to right, Michaela Eichorst; Rebecca Eichorst; Meghan Coldwell; Rachel Eichorst; Kylie Lehr; Emily Chittenden; Lydia Chittenden; Meagan Chittenden; Mitchell Eichorst; Ashley Hulbert; and Maxwell Chittenden.