

Rudgers Jerseys Hosts New York Picnic

Jersey breeders from the Empire State gathered for their summer picnic on July 24, 2016, at Rudgers Registered Jersey Farm in Attica. They held a short business meeting, heard from industry guests, recognized juniors for production achievements and enjoyed social time with their peers.

AJCA Director Alan Chittenden and AJCA-NAJ Area Representative Sara Barlass spoke about activities of the national Jersey organizations. Chittenden explained the new identification tools, Breed Base Representation and Generation Count, and reminded Jersey breeders to be mindful when selecting service sires as there are now multiple lists for bulls. He also congratulated New York Jersey breeders Meghan Moody of Hamden and Brian and Tracey Poole of Oriskany Falls for being named recipients of the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder award. Moody and the Pooles were honored with the other recipients at a banquet held during the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings in San Diego, Calif., this past summer.

Members were brought up-to-date on state-level activities from club officers and a number of committee chairs.

They were told the New York Next Generation Sale in April proved to be a successful fundraising venue for the club as it generated a ballpark \$5,200 in income against \$500 in expenses. Ninety-three head sold for an average of \$1,528.76 and a gross of \$142,175. The format and location, at the Steuben County Fairgrounds in Bath, along with donations from breeders and agriculture companies contributed greatly to the sale's profit margin.

Youth fundraising efforts—the calf or cash raffle and the tee-shirt program—have also been successful. Tickets for the raffle and clothing items will be sold through Facebook and club events, such as the state sale and state fair. The club will sponsor a booth at the state fair that includes information about Jerseys and the raffle calf, FVF Starboy Rosalea, donated by Mark and Lisa Hansen of Machias. “Rosalea” will draw consumers to the booth, encouraging them to interact with her and ask questions about dairy products and dairy farming.

Several juniors were also recognized in the youth production contest. Elizabeth Hyman, Adams, won the division for cows under 30 months-of-age. Her entry, Hy-Light Jupiter Casino, produced a record with a dollar value of \$7,745.78 and a cheese yield of 3,264 lbs. The Very Good-88% daughter of Sun Valley Impuls Jupiter, GJPI +90, produced an actual record of 23,520 lbs. milk, 1,068 lbs. fat and 809 lbs. protein at



FVF Starboy Rosalie, the calf donated by Friendly Valley Farm for the junior fundraising raffle, was a big hit with state fair goers, drawing consumers to the New York Jersey Cattle Club's booth. Jersey junior Kylie Lehr, far right, sells tickets and answers questions about Jerseys and dairy farming.

2-1, with an m.e. of 26,077–1,224–809.

Emily Chittenden, Schodack Landing, placed second with Dutch Hollow Dimension Dollee, Very Good-87%, who produced a 1-10 record with a dollar value of \$7,488.01 and a cheese yield of 3,176 lbs. Other juniors to place in the division for younger cows were Maxwell Chittenden, Schodack Landing; Jasmine Noteboom, Warwick; and Mickala Woodrow, Milford.

Ashley Peala, Perry, topped the division for older cows with Circle S Iatola Cricket. The daughter of SC Gold Dust Paramount Iatola-ET, GJPI +26, produced a 4-3 record with a dollar value of \$8,371.02 and a cheese yield of 3,544 lbs. The m.e. of the record is 28,530–1,308–1,046.

Ryan Lawton, Newark Valley, earned second with Dutch Patch Impuls Stacie, Very Good-83%, who produced a 6-6 record with a dollar value of \$7,413.15 and a cheese yield of 3,138 lbs. Other juniors to place in the division for older cows were Nathan Lawton, Newark Valley; Meagan Chittenden, Schodack Landing; and Sharla Woodrow, Milford.

Farm Tour

Picnic goers were also treated to a tour of the host farm. The all-Jersey herd of 120 cows and equal number of replacements is a mix of cattle owned by Lyman and Chelsey Rudgers, Josh and Katie Carpenter, John and Mariann Fessenden and Dwight and Kristen Hess. The 300-acre farm is owned by Chelsey's parents, Jim and Eileen Downs, with Lyman and Chelsey taking ownership in the near future.

The herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2015 lactation average of 19,685 lbs. milk, 891 lbs. fat and 696 lbs. protein. It ranks among the top 25% in the nation with a herd average JPI of +40 (August 2016) and has an appraisal average of 81.7%, with nine Excellent and 68 Very Good cows.

The herd partnership materialized when Josh and Katie and John and Mariann were

looking for a place to milk their cows and Lyman and Chelsey were looking for cows to fill their vacant barns. The free stall barn was renovated to accommodate Jersey cows and a double-10 parallel parlor was constructed. The barn includes sand-bedded free stalls and a drive-through feeding alley in the center. The herd came together in the new facilities in May 2015 and was first milked in the new parlor in March 2016.

Editor's Note: Juniors raised approximately \$4,200 from the calf or cash raffle, with the winning ticket drawn at the state fair. The winner, Harold Empett, a beef farmer from New Milford, Pa., chose the calf rather than cash. “Rosalea” is his first Jersey. He plans to grow his Jersey herd with additional purchases for his children.