

Barcelos Crowned California Jersey Queen

Members of the California Jersey Cattle Association (CJCA) met for their state annual meeting and awards banquet at the Sheraton Sonoma County-Petaluma on February 16, 2013. They tended to organization business, recognized juniors and heard from a number of industry speakers.

Kasidi Barcelos, Hilmar, was crowned as the 2013 California Jersey Queen. She is the daughter of Jackie Barcelos and a freshman at Modesto Junior College majoring in dairy science. She is a member of the college dairy club and its young farmers club.

Kasidi's herd of Registered Jerseys numbers 11 cows and seven heifers and is housed at Firelake Jerseys in Turlock. It includes two Excellent and eight Very Good cows and has an appraisal average of 85%.

She is a 10-year member of the state junior Jersey association and served the organization as secretary. She won the novice division of the California youth achievement contest in 2007 and topped the intermediate division in 2009. She received the Nanette Taylor Sherman Scholarship from the CJCA in 2011 and a scholarship from Hilmar Cheese Company in 2012.

Kasidi has exhibited cattle at the California State Fair, the Western National Jersey Show and several local fairs. She showed Genesis Rasmus G1855 to Reserve Grand Champion laurels at the California State Fair Junior Show in 2009 and Reserve Intermediate Grand Champion of the Central National Junior Jersey Show the following year.

Colin Russell, Hilmar, won the senior division of the youth achievement contest. The son of C.A. and Kirsten Russell is a sophomore at Cornell University majoring in animal science. He is a member of the university's dairy club and heavyweight rowing team and belongs to Alpha Gam-



Gianina Barcelos, center, won the intermediate division of the youth achievement contest. Colin Russell, represented by his brother Lars, topped the senior division of the contest. Both receive awards from 2013 California Jersey Queen Kasidi Barcelos.



California Jersey Cattle Association President Benny Rector presents the organization's scholarship to Amy McBirney.

ma Rho fraternity.

He has been involved with Jersey youth projects for a dozen years. His herd of 63 milking cows and 49 heifers is managed with the herd of Registered Jerseys owned by his family, Yosemite Jerseys, in Hilmar.

The herd average for 2012 stood at 18,035 lbs. milk, 920 lbs. fat and 665 lbs. protein. One member of his milking string, Free-Mar Blackstone Beeves, earned the Schirm/Fremstad Trophy for highest ranking junior at the National Jersey Jug Futurity in 2012 and was named Reserve Intermediate Champion of the California Spring Show in 2011.

Colin attended the inaugural class of Jersey Youth Academy in 2009 and then again in 2011. He placed first in the audio-visual presentation division of the Talk Jersey contest in 2008. He has served his local 4-H club as president, vice president, treasurer and audio visual officer.

Gianina Barcelos of Hilmar was named winner of the intermediate division of the contest.

The CJCA scholarship was presented to Amy McBirney, Morgan Hill. The daughter of David and Pauline McBirney is a junior in the pre-veterinary program at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo majoring in dairy science. She attended the recent Jersey Youth Academy in 2013.

McCalister Russell, Hilmar, topped the state youth production contest with her entry, High Lawn Artis Ginger Ale. The Very Good-82% daughter of ISDK JAS Artist, GJPI +155, produced a record with a multiple component pricing dollar value of \$4,393.24. Actual production for the 3-8 record is 24,780 lbs. milk, 1,076 lbs. fat and 862 lbs. protein (3x milking). McCalister purchased "Ginger Ale" from High Lawn Farm, Lee, Mass., in the Pot O'Gold Sale in 2008. She has four lactations—three of them in excess of 20,800 lbs. milk.

Lars William Russell, Hilmar, placed second with Yosemite Jevon Echo J7014, Excellent-90%. She produced a 2-8 record with a dollar value of \$4,373.44. Colin



Outgoing California Jersey Queen, Kelli Carstensen, left, passes the reins to the new queen, Kasidi Barcelos.

Russell placed third with Yosemite Noah Jace J5328. Her 3-1 record has a dollar value of \$4,280.05.

Business Meeting

Dr. Jennifer Walker, Director of Dairy Stewardship, Dean Foods, talked about consumer perspectives about animal welfare and how they impact production agriculture.

Walker noted, as consumers have become more secure about food and finances over the past several decades, they have broadened their moral circle to include the environment and welfare of animals.

"Today the agriculture industry operates under a 'social license' between farmers and society at large," she commented. "Like all licenses, it can be taken away or made more difficult with regulations and limitations. Our ability to maintain our license to operate will be dependent on consumers knowing that we share a common ethic about how animals in agriculture are treated.

"How we define 'good welfare' exactly is not as important as understanding what contributes to it. It is a constant balancing act between an animal's physical, behavioral and emotional health."

"Industry is now faced with the challenge of not only ensuring that the welfare of animals in production systems is good, we must also be able to demonstrate our success."

Neal Smith, chief executive officer of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ), spoke about the record breaking performance for the national Jersey organizations in 2012. He also relayed details about changes in dairy cattle genetic evaluations, which have been overseen by the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding since April 2013.

Members discussed venue options for the AJCA-NAJ annual meetings, which will be hosted by California Jersey breeders in 2016. Potential cities include Petaluma, San Diego, San Francisco and Tahoe.

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California Meeting

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2012 California Jersey Queen Kelli Carstensen presents youth production awards to Colin Russell, represented by Steven Pozzi, second left, Lars Russell and McCalister Russell. McCalister topped the contest with High Lawn Artis Ginger Ale.

The chairpersons for the meetings are Mike Wickstrom and C.A. Russell, both of Hilmar.

Members voted to contribute \$2,000 to youth activities of the AJCA in memory of the late Donald Sherman and James Papas. The CJCA also approved the contribution of \$800 to the publication of *The Dairy Queen*, the recently released history book of the Jersey breed worldwide.

The CJCA will sponsor the All California Jersey Show held in conjunction with the California State Fair in the amount of \$1,000 and junior premiums at the California Spring Jersey Show in the amount of \$1,500.

Officers were elected to serve the organization in 2013 as follows: Benny Rector, Hilmar, president; Stan Henderson, Paso Robles, vice president; Janice Rector, Hilmar, secretary; and Nancy Miguel, Denair, treasurer. Jersey breeders serving as directors include: Dan Casale, Denair; Greg "Butch" Dias, Visalia; Stan Henderson; Monte Hoggard, Stratford; Patrick Martin, Fresno; Jim Quist, Fresno; Benny Rector; Blake Renner, Fortuna; C.A. Russell; Adam VanExel, Lodi; Mike Wickstrom; and Scott Wickstrom, Hilmar.