

California Breeders Honor Peers

Members of the California Jersey Cattle Association (CJCA) met for their annual meeting on February 11, 2017, at Hilmar Cheese Company in Hilmar. Jersey breeders tended to organization business, heard from industry guests and honored their peers at a luncheon.

Jim Quist, Fresno, was honored with the Senior Jersey Breeder award. He and his family operated Quist Dairy until 2011, when the bulk of the herd was sold to the Kasbergen family, Rancho Teresita Dairy, of Tulare, Calif. Quist continues to breed a select group of Registered Jerseys he retained using the prefix Jars of Clay.

Quist is a third-generation dairy producer, operating his business from a farm purchased by his grandfather in 1933. Jerseys were added to the well-known Conquistador Holstein herd in 1998 to capitalize on California's growing cheese market and facilities that were better suited for a smaller cow. Quist focused on developing brown cow genetics, eventually phasing out the black and whites.

Among the most well-known cow families developed by Quist is the "Bridget" cow family (Jars of Clay Valentino Bridget), which he continues to breed on along with the Kasbergens using the Kash-In prefix. Three bulls from the family have been syndicated in The All American Jersey Sale in recent years. A son, Jars of Clay Barnabas, GJPI +91, was syndicated in 2013 and is now the breed's #3 Active A.I. bull for Type at +2.3. Kash-In Eusebio 49738 {5}, out of a maternal sister to "Bridget," was the high-selling female at the most recent sale.

Quist has also regularly consigned to other elite Jersey sales, including the National Heifer Sale. Quist also hosted the popular Gold Rush Sale from the 1980s, offering a Jersey edition for the first time in 2004.

Quist is president of the CJCA and served as an AJCA Director for two terms beginning in 2008. He was a member of



The California Senior Jersey Breeder Award was given to Jim Quist. Making the presentation is 2017 California Jersey Queen Charley Baptista.

the Dairy Council of California and sat on the local Farm Bureau board as well.

Dr. Stan Henderson, Paso Robles, received the Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Henderson is a dairy science professor at California Polytechnic State University. He has coached numerous winning collegiate dairy judging and dairy challenge teams and is the student recruitment coordinator as well. He has judged dairy shows in 10 states and four countries.

Ryan Junio of Pixley was recognized with the Young Jersey Breeder Award. Junio and his family operate Four J Farms, a 4,200-cow Registered Jersey dairy and 1,600-acre farming operation that includes alfalfa, corn, wheat, cotton and almonds. The Junios also own a custom farming and chopping business. Ryan manages the dairy herd at the farm owned by his father, Frank, and uncles, Jim and Richard, and operated with the help of his brother and cousins and a staff of nearly 50 employees.

Four J Jerseys is enrolled on REAP and has a 2016 lactation average of 23,728 lbs. milk, 1,129 lbs. fat and 848 lbs. protein on 417 cows, measures that rank first in the nation for milk and fourth for components among herds with 300-749 lactations. The dairy ranks among the top 25% in the country for genetic merit with a herd average JPI of +53 on 1,230 cows (August 2017). Eighty-eight percent of the milking string has been genotyped.

Ryan is a fourth-generation farmer,



Ryan Junio receives the California Young Jersey Breeder Award from 2017 California Jersey Queen Charley Baptista.

continuing a legacy established by his great-grandfather, who began farming in the San Joaquin Valley in the 1920s. Cows first came to the farm in 1996 as a means of better utilizing their crops. The Junios figured they would be more profitable feeding cows and marketing milk than independently marketing crops. Jerseys were chosen to capitalize on component pricing opportunities from Hilmar Cheese and because other dairy producers in the area, like Jers-Z-Boyz of Pixley, were finding success with the breed as well.

Junio got into the dairy business milking 350 cows. Through additional purchases, internal growth and the use of sexed semen, the herd has grown to its present size of 4,200 milking and dry cows and an equal number of replacement heifers. Cows were milked in a flat barn parlor that exists on the property until November 2014, when a 72-cow carousel milking barn was constructed. Freestall barns were constructed in 2005 and 2009; a new maternity ward was built in 2014. First-lactation fresh cows are moved to a rented facility and then return to the home farm later in lactation and in subsequent lactations. About 80% of the cows are housed in freestalls and the balance in open lots. One-third of the heifers are raised on a third facility.

Junio breeds the top 75% of the herd using sexed semen and the bottom 25%

(continued from page xx)



Juniors named winners of the youth achievement contest were Gabbie Gregorio, senior division, Kylie Konyn, intermediate division, and Kiara Konyn, novice division.

California Meeting

(continued from page xx)

to beef bulls to improve genetic merit. His goal is to maintain herd size and improve cow health and comfort and overall efficiency and production.

Charley Baptista of Turlock was crowned as the 2017 California Jersey Queen. The daughter of Les Baptista and Shelly Baptista-Williams is a freshman at Modesto Junior College, with plans of transferring to Texas A&M after graduation to pursue a degree in agricultural communications. Her career aspirations are to advocate for agriculture.

Heifers in her herd of nine Registered Jerseys are raised at her family farm, which also grows commercial almonds. Cows are managed with the herd at Yosemite Jerseys in Hilmar. She became interested in dairy cattle through her grandfather, Charles Baptista, who encouraged her and her sister, Spencer Voss, to show Jerseys.

Charley was junior dairy leader for her local 4-H club and vice president for her FFA chapter. She was a member of FFA teams that competed in contests for dairy product and milk quality judging and floral judging and belonged to the job interview and opening and closing teams. In high school, she was active with the Relay for Life club.

Among her favorite activities was showing. This fall, she exhibited cattle at the Stanislaus County Fair for the ninth time. She has won the fair's Outstanding Jersey Exhibitor numerous times and exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion, Yosemite Greatnews Alxndr J7002, in 2013 and 2014.

Gabbie Gregorio, Acampo, won the senior division of the youth achievement contest and received a CJCA scholarship as well. The daughter of Frank and Kelly Gregorio is a freshman at Modesto Junior College majoring in dairy science. Her family operated Diamond G Jerseys until its dispersal in 2006. Today, she owns a mixed herd of Registered Jerseys, Hol-

steins and Red and Whites and breeds cattle using the Double G prefix. Heifers are raised at the home farm; cows at Van Exel Jerseys in Lodi.

Gregorio was active in 4-H and FFA and regularly exhibits cattle at local, state and national shows. She exhibited the 2016 Reserve Junior All American Milking Yearling, Willdina Raze Your Glass, and will show at World Dairy Expo for the first time this year. She is a reporter for the California Junior Jersey Cattle Association.

Kylie Konyn and her sister, Kiara, took top honors in the intermediate and novice divisions of the youth achievement contest, respectively. Their Registered Jersey herds are managed with the 850-cow Holstein dairy operated by their parents, Frank and Stacy, in Escondido. The sisters are also establishing a creamery to process milk exclusively from the Jerseys in glass bottles, made possible in part from a value-added producer grant from USDA.

Jerseys first came to the farm in 2013 as a 4-H project for Kylie at the encouragement of National Jersey Queen Regina Pozzi of Petaluma, who was the flower girl in Frank and Stacy's wedding. Jersey purchases and show activities are entirely self-financed by the sisters.

One of Kylie's foundation purchases, Exels Premier Butter 3037, was the first in the farm's donor dam program, with six registered ET progeny to date. Kiara's first foundation animal, Rancho Vista Iotola Nadine, came by way of a trip to purchase a pair of portable milkers. The Konyns took notice of the family's stylish milk cow as well, made an offer and brought her home. She is thriving in her new environment, appraised Excellent-90% in November and giving 91 lbs. milk on her August test three months fresh, with a projected record of 21,956 lbs. milk, 937 lbs. fat and 728 lbs. protein at 7-5. Kylie and Kiara have also made purchases as partners from the All American Jersey Sale and the Pot O'Gold Sale.

Kylie is active in dairy quiz bowl and dairy jeopardy. She placed first with her science project at the county fair the past two years with a dairy related topic and went on to place second at the state level this summer. She has been secretary of her 4-H club the past two years and holds offices with the state junior Jersey and Holstein clubs as well. The high school freshman also plays volleyball.

Kiara, a fifth-grader, has served her 4-H club as sergeant at arms and historian.

Scholarships were also awarded to Cort James Rowley, Visalia, and Donovan A. Miguel, Hilmar.

The outgoing California Jersey queen,



Juniors on hand to receive certificates for the youth production contest included Cort Rowley, seventh; Gia Barcelos, eighth; Joshua Sanders, third; Gabbie Gregorio, ninth; Nicole Sanders, fourth; Hannah Sanders, 10th; McCalister Russell, first; and Charley Baptista, second.

McCalister Russell, Hilmar, won the youth production contest with Yosemite Plus Lieutenant S28198 {6}. The Very Good-85% daughter of Sweetie Plus Iatolas Bold {5}, GJPI +80, produced a 2-10 record with a dollar value of \$7,883.49. Actual production is 27,270 lbs. milk, 1,254 lbs. fat and 1,022 lbs. protein (3x milking).

Charley Baptista placed second with Yosemite Encore Bringer N22281, Excellent-92%, while Joshua Sanders, Hilmar, took third with Edy-Star Sultan Ella Rose, Excellent-90%.

Business Meeting

Members were presented with a recap of national Jersey achievements for 2016 by AJCA-NAJ Executive Secretary Neal Smith, AJCA Director C.A. Russell, Hilmar, and NAJ Director Mike Wickstrom, Hilmar. NAJ General Manager Erick Metzger also spoke to the group about milk marketing efforts, particularly as related to the proposed Federal Milk Marketing Order in California.

Carol Ahlem, Hilmar, treasurer for the National Dairy Board, brought the group up to speed on ways the board conducts consumer research and works with food industry partners to construct a unified message that builds demand and expands markets for dairy products.

Jim Ahlem, Hilmar, talked about the AJCC Research Foundation, citing a number of proposal requests and thanking Jersey breeders for their help in raising \$22,885 from proceeds of the benefit auction held during the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings hosted by California in 2016.

Officers were re-elected as follows: Jim Quist, president; Brett Barlass, Hilmar, vice president; Cathy Sanders, Hilmar, secretary; and Katherine Ann Rector-Garcia, Turlock, treasurer. Grant Ahlem, Hilmar, Jim Quist and Mike Wickstrom were re-elected to two-year terms as directors.



2017 California Jersey Queen Charley Baptista presents the California Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Stan Henderson.



Outgoing California Jersey Queen McCalister Russell, left, congratulates the new queen, Charley Baptista.



California Jersey Cattle Association scholarships were awarded to Donovan Miguel, Gabbie Gregorio and Cort Rowley.