

Wickstrom and Russell Families Honored at California Meeting

Members of the California Jersey Cattle Association (CJCA) met for their annual meeting on February 10, 2018, at Hilmar Cheese Company in Hilmar. Jersey breeders tended to organization business, heard from industry guests and honored their peers at a luncheon.

C.A. Russell, Hilmar, was honored with the Senior Jersey Breeder award. He, his wife, Kirsten, and children Colin, Lars and McCalister, own and operate Yosemite Jersey Dairy a 2,300-cow Registered Jersey dairy, in Hilmar.

Russell was raised in Athens, Ga., and introduced to the Jersey breed by his late father, William Russell, who served as a long-time area representative for the national Jersey organizations. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in animal science, C. A. began working for Claus Dairy Farms in Hilmar.

C. A. and Kirsten established Yosemite Jersey Dairy with her parents in 1995. Cows today are milked in a 40-cow rotary parlor and housed in a freestall facility. The herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2017 AJCA lactation average of 20,982 lbs. milk, 1,070 lbs. fat and 786 lbs. protein.

Duane Wickstrom, Hilmar, received the Distinguished Service Award. He has been a patriarch not only to his family at Wickstrom Jersey Farms Inc., but to the California Jersey breeders as well. He served the AJCA as a director; was a founding member of Jerseyland Sires, and has served on many dairy boards in California.

He began working in partnership with his father and brother. In 1968, he began his own dairy with 160 cows and dreamed of maybe one day milking 1,000 cows. Today, the Wickstrom herd numbers more than 2,400 milking cows.

Duane now works alongside of his two sons, Scott and Mike, and his grandson, Brent, at Wickstrom Jersey Farms Inc.

Brent Wickstrom of Hilmar was rec-



California Jersey Cattle Association scholarships were awarded to Donovan Miguel and David Edwards.

ognized with the Young Jersey Breeder Award.

When Brent graduated from Cal Poly in 2013, he returned home to Wickstrom Jersey Farms Inc., and began to make new and progressive changes to the dairy.

He started with building a new special needs barn and most recently (2015) has added a satellite collection lab with Trans Ova Genetics to increase the genetic potential of their herd. The dairy IVFs cows every two weeks and transfers embryos on the opposite week. More than 1,000 embryos a year are transferred on the dairy.

The herd is currently ranked among the top 10 in the nation for production among their herd size and also rank among the top 25% of the breed for GJPI.

Kirsten Russell and Margaret Wickstrom both of Hilmar, were named California's Sweethearts. Their husbands, C.A. and Mike, respectively, presented the two with the award for their work in helping to plan the 2016 AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings held in San Diego, Calif.

Junior Awards

Aspen Silva of Modesto was crowned as the 2018 California Jersey Queen. She is a senior at Modesto High School where she is active in the FFA chapter. She has served as chapter reporter and also as a Stanislaus/Tuolumne Sectional Sentinel.

In 2017, Aspen and her cow, Miss Nastias Y Not Me, took home the Supreme



Brent Wickstrom received the California Young Jersey Breeder Award from 2017 California Jersey Queen Charley Baptista.

Champion banner from the junior dairy shows at World Dairy Expo.

Two California Jersey scholarships were awarded to Donovan A. Miguel and David Edwards both from Hilmar.

Kiara Konyn, Escondido, won the novice division of the California youth achievement contest. The sixth grader is active with her sister, Kylie, showing their Registered Jerseys. She has also served her 4-H club as sergeant at arms and historian.

McCalister Russell, Hilmar, won the Division 1 and was named the overall winner of the youth production contest with Andas Topeka S30121-ET. The Very Good-84% daughter of Heartland Merchant Topeka-ET, GJPI +35, produced a 2-8 record with a dollar value of \$5,097.92. Actual production for the lactation was 23,920 lbs. milk, 1,345 lbs. fat and 851 lbs. protein (3x milking).

Joshua Sanders, Hilmar, placed second with Fire-Lake HG Aubrey-ET, Excellent-90%, with a dollar value of \$4,307.60.

In Division 1, Kiara Konyn took the top spot with Exels Topeka Leta 3301, Very Good-81%. The first lactation cow had a dollar value of \$3,495.92. She completed a 1-9 record of 16,930 lbs. milk, 771 lbs. fat and 555 lbs. protein.

Business Meeting

Vice president Brett Barlass, Hilmar, called the business meeting to order and



Receiving the Distinguished Service Award was Duane Wickstrom, center. His grandson, Brent, and Queen Charley Baptista were on hand for the presentation.



The Senior Jersey Breeder Award was given to C.A. Russell. Making the presentation to C.A. and his wife, Kirsten, is 2017 California Jersey Queen Charley Baptista.



Outgoing California Jersey Queen Charlie Baptista, center, congratulates the new queen Aspen Silva, left, and alternate queen Tatiana Nevarez, right.



Juniors received certificates for the youth production contest from 2017 California Jersey Queen Charley Baptista: back row Rebecca, Nicky and Hanna Sanders; front row Kiara Konyin; Joshua Sanders; and Jax Souza.

introduced special guests.

AJCA directors Kelly Moss, Litchfield, Ariz., and C.A. Russell, discussed recent updates to programs at the association, including online credit card payments now available to members; the addition of JX to a registered name to show the presence of non-Jersey genetics within their lineage; and the addition of body weight composite to JPI. They also announced the unveiling of a new Jersey portrait at the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings in June.

Mike Wickstrom, former NAJ director, updated attendees on the status of the California Federal Order hearings and talked of the research that NAJ is funding for the study of the benefits of A2 milk to lactose intolerant people.

Members were presented a recap of national Jersey achievements for 2017 by AJCA-NAJ Area Representatives Seth Israelsen and Emma Sills. The duo talked about the growth of registrations, JerseyTag sales and the continued increase of production levels in the breed.

Jersey Marketing Service Manager Greg Lavan provided a recap of the 2017 sale season and shared that it was the sixth best year in the 48-year history of JMS.

Carol Ahlem, Hilmar, treasurer for the National Dairy Board, brought the group up to speed on efforts to build demand and expand markets for dairy products.

Jim Ahlem, Hilmar, talked about the AJCC Research Foundation and the process to receive monies from the association. Discussion centered on the type of research being submitted and how to generate some projects to be practically used on dairies today.

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. Brett Barlass, Scott Wickstrom and C.A. Russell were re-elected to two-year terms as directors.



Kirsten Russell and Margaret Wickstrom were named California's Sweethearts by the association. They received their flowers from Queen Charley Baptista.



Kiara Konyin won the novice division of the California Youth Achievement contest and received her certificate from Charley Baptista.

California Meeting

(continued from page xx)