

Iowa Breeders Gather for Annual Meeting

Jersey breeders from the Hawkeye State gathered for the annual meeting of their state Jersey organization on March 2, 2013, at the Country Junction restaurant in Dyersville. Members handled organization business and heard from American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc. Area Representative Londa Johnson.

Johnson spoke about new opportunities for genotyping. Jersey breeders can now genotype their bulls. As well, they can test all Jerseys for three additional traits—horned/polled gene, beta casein A2 gene and BVD-PI—as add-ons to the low-density genotyping test.

Johnson also talked about the growing interest in online options for buying and selling cattle. Through Jersey Marketing Service (JMS), breeders can purchase and consign animals through JerseyBid.com, for auctions conducted entirely online, or watch and place bids through JerseyAuctionLive.com, an online service for sales managed by other sale managers. Jersey breeders can also buy and sell cattle using Jersey Classifieds. JMS has established a blog to keep breeders posted on last-minute details for JMS-managed sales and as a wrap-up of recent events.

Members discussed options for the Iowa Spring Extravaganza Sale, which has been hosted with the Iowa Ayrshire Association for the past 10 years. Another option that is being considered is a production-type sale similar to those managed by JMS. Breeders were reminded that next year's sale will also include awards for the inaugural Hawkeye Pot O'Gold Production Contest, which is based on the first lactations of heifers sold through the Hawkeye Pot O'Gold Sale held in conjunction with the spring sale in 2010.

The National Cattle Congress will be held on September 13. The junior show will be on September 14. In the junior show, the Grand Champion will be awarded a \$2,000 premium, Reserve Grand Champion will earn \$1,000 and Honorable Mention Champion will receive \$500. All premiums will be held in a trust until the junior is of college-age.

The Iowa Jersey Cattle Club summer picnic will be hosted by the Maxwell family at Cinnamon Ridge Dairy in Donahue on July 6.

Members voted to retain the current slate of officers for 2013. Jeff Holtz, Maquaketa, will serve as president; Harvey Metzger, Lester, will be vice president; and Jennifer Zumbach, Hopkinton, will perform duties as secretary/treasurer.