

## **Iowa Breeders Gather for Spring Meeting**

The Iowa Jersey Cattle Club held its annual spring meeting on March 17, 2012, at the Best Western in Clear Lake. Members enjoyed a buffet lunch and fellowship with their peers and attended to club business.

Brad Barham, business development consultant for the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA), reported on the stellar performance of the national Jersey organizations in 2011, which included 11 new records for key programs. Jersey production is on the rise, with new records for all measures of standardized production (18,633 lbs. milk, 889 lbs. fat, 676 lbs. protein and 2,294 lbs. cheese) in 2011. Jersey Marketing Service (JMS) posted its eighth best year in history in 2011 and has many sales booked for the spring. Interest in JerseyBid.com and JerseyAuctionLive.com, a real-time bidding option now available for many JMS-managed sales, is increasing.

Members discussed the Iowa Spring Extravaganza Sale and the Hawkeye Pot O'Gold Sale. They talked about the pros and cons of genotyping all consignments in the youth sale, as had been done at the Pot O'Gold Sale held in Louisville, Ky., the past two years. Since the program is a learning experience for juniors, genotyping is encouraged, though left to the discretion of the consignor. Members discussed the option of hosting the sale with Illinois Jersey breeders rather than Iowa Ayrshire breeders as has been done in recent years and potentially holding the sale the same day or the week following the Midwest Spring Special Sale to bring more buyers to the sale.

This year, the Iowa State Fair will be held on August 11 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. The junior show will be held on August 9. Robert Yeoman, Dover, Okla., will serve as the judge. The Iowa Jersey Cattle Club approved a one-time donation of \$100 to the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association for sponsorship of trophies, halters and other awards.

The club also approved donation of \$150 for an awards and distinctions display at Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar. The college will host a breakfast at the farm on June 23 and unveil a memorial artwork display for the late Duffy Lyon. Artwork and donations are requested.

The Iowa Jersey breeder's summer picnic will be held at Kunde Jersey Farm in Manchester. Date and time are to be determined.

A scholarship program from the National Cattle Congress will be awarded for the first time this year. All 4-H and FFA youth who show at their cattle at county fair dairy shows are eligible. More information will be published in the spring issue of Iowa Jersey Today. The junior show and supreme scholarship show will be held on September 15. The exhibitor of the Grand Champion will earn \$2,000. Reserve Grand Champion will receive \$1,000; Honorable Mention Grand Champion will earn \$500. The money will be held in a trust until the youth reaches college age.

The current slate of officers was re-elected to serve the organization in 2012 as follows: Jeff Holtz, Maquoketa, president; Harvey Metzger, Lester, vice president; Jennifer Zumbach, Hopkinton, secretary/treasurer.