

Iowa Holds Summer Picnic

Jersey breeders from the Hawkeye State met for their annual summer picnic and summer meeting of the Iowa Jersey Cattle Club (IJCC) on June 12, 2015, at Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar. Jersey breeders held a short business meeting, honored juniors, toured the dairy facilities and enjoyed lunch and fellowship with their peers.

Nick Bagge, Worthington, was announced as winner of the junior club's highest honor, the Iowa Jersey Youth Achievement Award. The son of Loras and Jolene Bagge will be a senior at Beckman Catholic High School this fall. He plans to major in dairy science at NICC and then return to the family farm, which has been in his family since 1964.



Bagge

His Registered Jersey herd of seven cows and two heifers is managed with the family's mixed herd, which is 15 Jersey cows and 15 Holstein cows. The farm's resident herd was Holsteins until Nick asked to purchase Jerseys as youth projects because they were less expensive. His goals are to grow Jersey numbers to 75% of the milking string and attain a herd average over 24,000 lbs. milk.

Nick is active in his local FFA chapter and 4-H club, which he serves as vice president. He was a member of the FFA team that topped the dairy judging contest at the state level last year and then competed at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), where Nick earned a gold rating for dairy judging. As well, he is a member of the 4-H team that won the state dairy quiz bowl contest this summer and will represent the state at the NAILE this fall.

Nick also enjoys showing cattle at the local shows, the Iowa State Fair and World Dairy Expo. One of the first Jerseys he purchased with his brother, Bambis Lizard Eadie, Very Good-85%, was Reserve Grand Champion of the county fair in 2010.

For winning the Iowa Jersey Youth Achievement Award, Bagge will receive a Registered Jersey calf donated by an Iowa Jersey breeder and compete in the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest, with winners announced next fall.

Mikayla Lien, Calmar, earned a \$500 scholarship from the IJCC. The daughter of Gary and Patty Lien and will be a sophomore at the University of Northern Iowa. She is studying public relations and

plans to pursue a career with a company in the Midwest.

Mikayla is the reigning Iowa Dairy Princess and was crowned as the Iowa Jersey Princess in 2014. She also received the Iowa Jersey Youth Achievement Award in 2014.

In high school, she was cast in leading roles in musicals, received honors in band and choir and was a member of the National Honor Society. She was active in her local FFA and 4-H organizations, serving as president, treasurer and historian of the later.

Mikayla is a sixth generation dairy farmer. Her herd of six Registered Jerseys is managed with the family's herd of 10 Jersey cows and 50 Holstein cows. Mikayla's herd has grown from the first animal she received as a gift from her parents, Kunde Saber Zesty, and a heifer she received for winning the youth achievement contest last year, Verona of Covington Jerseys.

She enjoys showing at the county and state fairs and has been a member of the 4-H dairy judging team that competed at the state level.

Kara Maxwell, Donahue, was crowned as the 2015 Iowa Jersey Princess. The daughter of John Maxwell and Trish Reisener will be a senior at Iowa State University, majoring in dairy science and minoring in agriculture business, international agriculture and Spanish. She is completing an internship as an ice cream and cheese maker at Young's Jersey Dairy, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Her herd of Registered Jerseys is managed with the family farm, Cinnamon Ridge Dairy. In



Maxwell

2011, she topped the National Jersey Youth Production Contest with Cinnamon Ridge Rasmus Lily and attended Jersey Youth Academy. The following year, she placed fifth in the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest and earned the William A. Russell Memorial Scholarship.

At Iowa State, she is an ambassador for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and a member of the school's honors committee. She recently was named winner of a junior merit scholarship



Lien

from National Dairy Shrine.

Maxwell has studied abroad in France and Italy, performed volunteer missionary work in Bolivia and lived in Argentina to become more fluent in Spanish. She plans to return to the family farm after graduation.

Business Meeting

Members discussed the Iowa Spring Extravaganza Sale, the Hawkeye Pot O'Gold Sale and the Prairieland Production Sale. Demand for cattle has been very strong at all sales. This spring, the Iowa Spring Extravaganza Sale sold 47 lots for an average of \$2,935.64 and the Prairieland Production Sale auctioned 78 lots for an average of \$1,971.79.

Members were also brought up to speed on happenings at the Iowa State Fair. The milking parlor will be renovated with larger and more stalls to a double-10 parlor, with viewing of 10 cows for the public. As well, the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association revised rules for coloring of animals. Spray painting, oil use and other similar practices will no longer be permitted in the show ring.

There was also discussion about the Hall of Breeds at the Dairy Center at NICC, which includes life-size photos of notable cows from each major dairy breed in the corridor between the museum and milking parlor. The photos will be updated with a grant from the Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. The IJCC has been asked to help select the new Jersey representative. Nomination letters will be mailed to members, with nominated cows featured in the fall issue of the Iowa Jersey Today. Voting by members will determine which cow will be used in the display.

It was also reported that Joe Gibbs, Epworth, has been selected as the new Jersey representative for the Purebred Dairy Cattle Club.

Farm Tour

NICC milks a mixed herd of 70 Jersey cows and 180 Holstein cows. The Jersey herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2014 lactation average of 19,632 lbs. milk, 1,045 lbs. fat and 698 lbs. protein. Actual production for the herd today is more than 70 lbs. milk per day. With the latest appraisal in June, the herd includes one Excellent and 43 Very Good cows and has an average of 81.2%.

The facilities were expanded and renovated in December 2013. The breeds are managed separately and housed in a 270-stall, six-row, sand-bedded free stall barn. They are milked by a pair of Lely robotic milkers. Forty-plus head of Iowa-

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bred Jerseys were purchased from Grand Central Jerseys, Bristow, Hei-Bri Jerseys, Hawkeye, and Lyon Jerseys, Toledo, with the expansion.

The college also operates the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, an outreach center that educates agriculture and non-agriculture audiences about the dairy industry, demonstrates common dairy practices and performs dairy research. The college is also a site in the Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area.