

## Grand Central Jerseys Hosts Iowa Picnic

The summer picnic and meeting of the Iowa Jersey Cattle Club (IJCC) was hosted by Robert and Patricia Horst and their family at Grand Central Jerseys LLC in Bristow on June 26, 2010. Jersey enthusiasts enjoyed a potluck meal and fellowship with their peers and were among the first to tour the farm's recently completed freestall barn, which includes a new machine shop, commodity storage sheds and calf pens.

Kara Maxwell, Donahue, was named winner of the 2010 Iowa Jersey Breeder Award. The daughter of John Maxwell and Patricia Maxwell is a junior at North Scott High School in Eldridge. She is the drum major for the marching band and a member of the varsity soccer team and plays soccer with the Amateur Athletic Union. This past summer, she was selected as the Iowa representative for the Hugh O'Brien Youth (HOBY) World Leadership Congress in Los Angeles, Calif.



Maxwell

Maxwell also manages the heifer raising and mating programs at her family's Cinnamon Ridge Dairy.

Kara's herd of Registered Jerseys numbers 15 head and includes several purchases from the Pot O'Gold Sale. She has fared well in the ensuing production contest, placing 10<sup>th</sup> in the competition last year with Wilsonview Abe Karlie and 11<sup>th</sup> this year with Iatola N Betty. The past three years, she has been a leadsperson at the Pot O'Gold Sale.

Kari Lien, Calmar, was given the IJCC Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500. Lien is the daughter of Gary and Patty Lien and a sophomore at the University of Northern Iowa majoring in communicative disorders. This past summer, she spent three months in Ansbach, Germany, as an assistant pre-school teacher at the Katterbach military base as a part of the university's Camp Adventure program.

She got a start with Jerseys in the Share-a-Heifer project and her herd today numbers 11 Registered Jerseys. In 2009, she was crowned as the Iowa



Lien



The Horst family—Ron, Patricia and Robert—hosted the Iowa Jersey Cattle Club summer picnic at Grand Central Jerseys in Bristow.

Jersey Princess and named winner of the Iowa Jersey Breeder Award. Lien was a member of the team that topped the national FFA dairy judging contest in 2007 and competed internationally at the Royal Highland Show in Scotland.

Iowa juniors will soon be given opportunity to participate in a state Pot of Gold program similar to that sponsored by the national Jersey organization. A committee headed by Brian Lantzky, Hawkeye, is currently working on the details.

Grand Central Jerseys is operated by the Horst family—Robert and Patricia and their daughters, Heather and Hillary, and Robert's brother, Ronald, a former director of USDA's National Animal Disease Center in Ames, and his wife, Myke.

The Horsts got their start in dairying in West Virginia and moved to the farm in central Iowa in 1999 to escape urban sprawl. Robert purchased his first Registered Jersey in 1982 from the Waverly Invitational Sale.

Grand Central Jerseys is enrolled on REAP and has a September 2010 rolling herd average of 18,341 lbs. milk, 902 lbs. fat and 607 lbs. protein on 170 cows. With the July 2010 appraisal, the herd includes 34 Excellent and 115 Very Good cows and has an average appraisal of 84.6%. Four cows are appraised Excellent-92%.

Cows are milked in a double-seven parlor and housed in sand-bedded free stalls. Milking cows and heifers are fed a total mixed ration (TMR) and grazed on 35 acres of pasture. Dry cows are fed a dry-cow TMR with a base of grass hay, corn silage and dry cow minerals.

The Horsts enjoy showing their herd at local and national shows. Among the standouts is GCJ Jade Varsity, Excellent-93%. "Varsity" was named Intermediate Champion of The All American Jersey Show in 2004. She repeated the feat in 2005 and was also tapped as Grand Champion of the junior show. A maternal sister, GCJ



The group was among the first to tour the Horsts' recently completed freestall barn, which houses 200 cows and uses sand bedding.

Centurion Valerie, is one of the herd's Excellent-92% cows, and a daughter, GCJ Bomber Vacca, is Excellent-91%. Another daughter, GCJ Resurrection Vanquish-ET, Excellent-90%, is a donor dam in the farm's embryo transfer program. "Varsity's" dam, RH Leverage Virginia, is still in the herd as well and celebrated her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday in February.



The Horsts have been dairying in central Iowa since they moved from West Virginia in 1999. Cows are milked in a double-seven parlor.