

Nabholz is 10th Recipient of Max Gordon Award

Norman Nabholz, West Union, Iowa, has been named the 10th recipient of the Max Gordon Recognition Award. Nabholz was honored at a ceremony held during the National Jersey Jug Futurity in Louisville, Ky., on November 4, 2012.

The Max Gordon Recognition Award is given annually to an exhibitor who possesses the five key elements for which the award's namesake stood: sportsmanship, ethics, professionalism, ability and promotion of the Jersey cow. Recipients are chosen by a committee of individuals who have previously received the Max Gordon Recognition Award.

"It is fitting that Norm receive this award as he and Max were longtime friends and shared a mutual respect for each other as promoters of the Jersey breed," said Phil Gordon, Syracuse, Ind., son of the late Max Gordon. "Norm has brought young people and the Jersey cow together countless times over the years; many of these young people are breeding Jersey cattle today thanks to Norm's mentoring abilities."

Nabholz is known across the dairy industry for having a keen eye for the kind of cattle that can bring premium prices in the auction ring and earn purple banners in the show ring. He has owned or sold 16 cows that earned Grand Champion titles at World Dairy Expo; two were subsequently named Supreme Champion. He has also exhibited two National Grand Champions (Responses Wonder in 2001 and Blacky Rose of Briarcliffs in 2002), two winners of the National Jersey Jug Futurity (K.J.F. Dynamo Lassie Jill in 1983 and Nabdon Second Patsy in 1992) and two Grand Champions of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF). He has been presented with the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor banners at shows from coast-to-coast.

Nabholz has operated a sales business from Nabholz Farm since 1975. Though 80% of the business receipts come from selling cattle to commercial dairy producers across the country, Nabholz is widely recognized for his elite sales which have auctioned some of the Jersey and Holstein breed's high selling females. Two special offerings held in conjunction with the Field of Dreams series managed by Nabholz—Primetime in the Heartland and Chosen Few at Country Hills—rank as the Jersey breed's historical high and second high-averaging sales with respective averages of \$8,823.48 and \$8,506.82. The second high-selling female in breed history, Llolyn Jude Griffen-ET, sold



Josh Gordon, left, and Phil Gordon, right, congratulate Norman Nabholz for being named the 10th recipient of the Max Gordon Recognition Award.

through the Field of Dreams III sale in June 2005 for \$80,000 and then became National Grand Champion five months later.

Nabholz has judged dairy cattle domestically in more than 30 states and internationally in four Canadian provinces, Australia, Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico. He has judged both World Dairy Expo and the RAWF three times and served as an official for the *Hoard's Dairyman* judging contest.

Though Nabholz has developed a reputation for recognizing fancy type across breeds, Jerseys are his first love and his passion. He runs his sales business from the family farm, which has been Jersey since it was purchased by his father, Milford, and uncle, Marshall, in 1966. Nabholz got his feet wet in the show arena as a youth at the National Dairy Cattle Congress when he helped care for show strings owned by prominent Jersey exhibitors such as Heaven Hill. He was high individual overall and a member of the Iowa State University dairy judging team that won the contest at the National Dairy Cattle Congress in 1975.

Nabholz authored the book, "Millionaires in the Cornfields: The Glory Days of the National Dairy Cattle Congress," to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the show in 2011.

National Dairy Shrine honored Nabholz with the Klussendorf Memorial Trophy for sportsmanship in 1989.

Previous winners include: George Barlass, Janesville, Wis. (2011), Jim VanBuskirk, Mich. (2010); Brian Sayles, Ont. (2009); Mike Stiles, Va. (2008); the late Harry Mykrantz, Ohio (2007); Ronnie Rider, Ky. (2006); Chuck Myers, Ohio (2005); Charles Luchsinger, N.Y. (2004); and Ron Mosser, Ind. (2003).