

Seven Young Jersey Breeders to Be Honored in Gettysburg

The AJCA Board of Directors has named seven recipients of the Young Jersey Breeder Award for 2017. They are Bernie Bakker, Alvoid, Iowa; Nathan Chittenden, Schodack Landing, N.Y.; J Hodge, Norwich, Ohio; Heather Hyman, Adams, N.Y.; Case Kasbergen, Tulare, Calif.; Clayton and Renee Kenny, Enon Valley, Pa., and Jessica and Cole Peters, Meadville, Pa.

The first Young Jersey Breeder Awards were presented in 1976. Since then, more than 280 producers have received this award, including this year's recipients.

The Young Jersey Breeder Award is presented to individuals or couples younger than the age of 40 on January 1 of the year nominated who merit recognition for their expertise in dairy farming, breeding Jersey cattle, participation in American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ) programs, and leadership in Jersey and other dairy and agriculture organizations.

The 2017 honorees will receive their awards during the Young Jersey Breeders Banquet on Thursday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m.

Bernie G Bakker

Bernie G. Bakker, Rock Bottom Dairy, Alvoid, Iowa, is fairly new to the Jersey business as he has only owned Registered Jerseys for a dozen years. Today, the Rock Bottom herd currently totals 1,950 Registered Jerseys.

"Starting a dairy farm from the ground up has been very difficult but rewarding. Along with our hard-working team we strive to use each God-given day to continually improve our farm and livestock operations," Bernie wrote in his application. "We strive to make a positive impact on the community that surrounds us and our employees and their families. We enjoy sowing seeds of respect, honesty, love and joy each and every day."

Agriculture has always been in Bernie's background; his father was a feed salesman and farrowed about 200 sows. Along with caring for the pigs growing up, Bernie tried to raise a few calves while going to school. At the young age of 13, he began working for a large feedlot in the neighborhood, he worked here through high school. Bernie moved to Carmel, Iowa, when he was 17 to work at the feedlots second location while attending college.

On July 20, 1996, He married his wife



Bernie and Rachel Bakker
Olivia, Jordan and Micah



J and Rachel Hodge
Elaina and Braden

Nathan Chittenden

Nathan Chittenden was born and raised on the family farm, Dutch Hallow Farm LLC., Schodack Landing, N.Y. While the farm and its well-known herd of Registered Jerseys has earned many laurels through the years, Nathan is quick to point out the success of the dairy is a team-effort of the family. However, he is proud to share in the responsibilities of breeding, raising and caring for the animals.

Lending a helping hand around the farm began at a young age for Nathan. The start of kindergarten was the start of his daily tasks on the dairy. From simple chores like cleaning and re-bedding the calves to replenishing their grain and filling hay racks, he learned early that "there was no place for laziness and every job was important," wrote Nathan. As he grew so did his list of responsibilities, including staying home from social and Jersey events throughout the year to "hold the fort down" and care for the herd.

"As I got older, it just became second nature to stay home and help on the farm while others went to meetings and events," Nathan wrote in his application.

Nathan remembers his first trip to Louisville when he was just five-years-old. He was amazed by the amount of passion the exhibitors had for their dairy industry and their cows. "At Louisville there was

(continued to page XX)



Nathan and Jill Chittenden
Anna, Zachary and Jonathan

J Hodge

J Hodge owns and operates Windy Ridge Jerseys, Norwich, Ohio, alongside his wife Rachel, and his two children, Alaina and Braden. Although J was not raised on a dairy farm, he gained valuable experience working on a neighboring Brown Swiss dairy while he was growing up.

After high school, his interest in dairying increased when he attended The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio. Here he acquired a degree in dairy cattle production and management. For several years after graduation, J worked as the herdsman for two dairies and herd manager for five years at a large commercial dairy in central Ohio.

He and Rachel (a fourth generation Jersey breeder) eventually decided to start their own dairy herd, turning to her father,

(continued to page XX)



Heather and Todd Hyman
Elizabeth, Garrett and Charles



Renee and Clayton Kenny
Landon and Nora

Heather Hyman

Heather Hyman not only grew up on a dairy farm but she now owns and operates Hy-Light Farms LLC, Adams, N.Y., with her husband, Todd, and their children, Elizabeth, Garrett and Charles.

She has been breeding Registered Jerseys for 13 years, starting their herd with only 10 head. In that time, they have expanded to a 1,250-cow mixed herd with more than 100 Registered Jerseys.

Growing up on her parent's dairy farm, raising Jerseys and Holsteins, Heather says she was always fond of the Jersey breed. She wrote in her application letter, "Jerseys will always be part of my herd as I appreciate their fertility, superior feed conversion, resistance to hairy foot warts, low SCC, and great feet and legs."

Although her family had to sell their herd when she was in middle school, Heather and Todd had always dreamed of owning their own cows and their own farm. The couple met while attending Cornell University in the Dairy Fellows Program.

(continued to page XX)



Case and Allison Kasbergen
Kate, Kamryn and Henry

Case Kasbergen

Case Kasbergen, Rancho Teresita Dairy, Tulare, Calif., has owned Registered Jerseys for six years, although he has been involved in the dairy industry his entire life. His father and mother, Cornell and Annette Kasbergen, raised Case on their dairy farm which consisted of 500 milking Holsteins in San Jacinto, Calif., eventually relocating to Tulare in 1988.

When the family relocated, they stumbled across some difficulties with mycoplasma resulting in the loss of one-third of their herd. However, the family overcame the unfortunate event and rebuilt their herd, growing to 3,200 milking Holsteins.

Because Case was born into a dairy farming family he has always had the love for the industry. He pursued a degree in dairy science at Cal Poly in 1999, further instilling the desire to continue in dairy upon graduation.

Throughout the years, Case has had multiple hands on experiences that have helped in his growth and success within the dairy

(continued to page XX)

Clayton and Renee Kenny

Clayton and Renee Kenny own and operate Kenny Jersey Farm LLC., Enon Valley, Pa. Clayton is a third-generation Jersey breeder while Renee is a fourth-generation Jersey breeder, both getting their first Registered Jerseys when they were eight-years-old. They are joint partners of Kenny Jersey LLC, where 221 Jersey cows and 180 Jersey heifers are housed.

"Growing up on our respective dairy farms, Kenny Farms and Normandell Farms, Clayton and I both developed an appreciation for the Jersey cow, our family farms, and agriculture as a whole," wrote Renee in their application letter.

They are currently raising their Jersey herd along with their two young children, Nora, age 2, and Landon, 7 months, whom are frequently found helping and riding around the farm.

After high school, Clayton worked as a diesel mechanic while still helping on the family farm. When he returned to the farm he, his father, Don, and grandfather, Robert, implemented a new grazing program. Shortly after completion, Don passed away suddenly and thus Clayton took on the day-to-day management on the farm with

(continued to page XX)



Jess Peters and Cole Peters

Jessica and Cole Peters

Cole and Jessica Peters grew up on their family Jersey farm, Spruce Row Farm, Meadville, Pa., along with their older brother, Slade, and their parents, Jeff and Janet Peters. Chores on the farm came for the two at an early age, milking, making hay and helping with field work, and caring for heifers in barns they were given to care for.

As they grew older they became interested in different roles on the farm. Cole became more involved with the tractors and crops while Jessica took more of an interest in the cows.

Jessica attended Pennsylvania State University, obtaining a degree in animal science in 2007, and Cole received his degree in diesel mechanics from the Pennsylvania College of Technology in 2008. After college, he returned home to work on the farm while Jessica went on to work on dairies in New Zealand for two years.

Both were very involved with 4-H along and showing their Jerseys at the regional level. By attending the Western Pennsylvania Jersey Association meeting, they decided to join the state and national Jersey

(continued to page XX)

Bakker

(continued from page XX)

school sweetheart, Rachel Dibbet. Together they have three children, Jordan, Olivia and Micah. Roughly six years into their marriage, Bernie established an independent nutrition company for swine, feedlot and dairy called Bakker Consulting. With the growth of the dairy, Rachel has taken on the management of the firm's two locations (Rock Valley, Iowa, and Zeeland, Mich.) allowing Bernie to focus on the farm.

"Bernie is representative of the keen generation of Jersey dairymen who are going to take the breed to levels never before obtained or even imagined," wrote Russell Gammon of Semex, in a letter of support.

Their Jersey story begins in 2002 when he and Rachel started Rock Bottom Dairy as a chance to try something different. At the time of the purchase, the dairy had 100 Jersey cows on 12 acres of land, but the couple saw the potential to expand the herd and the facilities.

"Initially, the dairy farm was purchased as an investment and a hobby," wrote Bernie in his application. "But over time it has become a true passion for me. I was seeing my dreams begin to take shape."

Today, the farm has been remodeled and is home to an 1,100-cow milking operation that through expansion is on track to have 1,600 Registered Jerseys milking by July.

It has been a process spanning more than a decade. The expansion and remodeling project began in 2003, with a double-10 herringbone parlor. Next, the existing heifer barn was renovated into a freestall barn to house their growing 450 milk cow herd. Over the next two years, they installed a new holding pen and crowd gate, along with additional lagoons to keep up with DNR permitting.

Expanding the dairy to 750 milk cows in 2007, called for an additional freestall barn and upgrading to a double-14 herringbone parlor. Also in 2007, Bernie made the decision to end their cross-breeding program and focus on making their herd 100 percent Jersey. From 2010-2016 more additions were made to the farm including a shop, calving facilities, commodity shed, additional milk storage, lagoons, and heifer facilities.

The latest expansion at Rock Bottom Dairy, includes a new milking facility, a double-25 parallel parlor that opened in January 2017, additional freestalls, additional lagoons and a large concrete pad feedstuff silage piles.

In 2016, the family relocated from their home of 18 years to Alford, to be closer to the farm and oversee a large dairy expansion. Bernie and Rachel's sons have been extremely engaged with agriculture so the

Chittenden

(continued from page XX)

an entire community of likeminded folks celebrating their love for the Jersey cow and their belief in a successful future milking and breeding them," he said in his application.

"Nate has a wealth of information to share, be it about dairy farming in general, managing calves and employees, or the dairy industry and markets," wrote Joanna S. Lidback, Barton, Vt., in her recommendation letter. She goes on to tell how Nathan enjoys giving tours of his family farm to schools and other groups and how he attempts to ensure all his visitors leave with a positive outlook on dairy farms.

Dutch Hollow Volunteer Happy-P was one of Nathan's cows that brought him great pride and joy through her supreme champion award and countless grand champion winnings at the local fairs. He was extremely proud when "Happy" was selected for the *Hoard's Dairyman* Judging Contest. As Nathan says in his application, "Unfortunately my too practical mind-set judged her too harshly and I incorrectly placed her last in the class. I knew she made the least amount of milk of the four and how else would we judge a cow's productivity if not by her production?"

Nathan set off to obtain a degree in Dairy Science at Cornell University where he decided that he not only wanted to be a dairy farmer on his family farm but he was going to do it with the Jersey cow. It was an internship at a 1,000 cow Holstein dairy, that helped him to appreciate the Jersey and her strengths.

When he returned to Dutch Hollow, he made his way from labor in helping his mom manage the raising of calves, to becoming the calf and young stock manager for Dutch Hollow Farm LLC. "It can be both a daunting and a rewarding task caring for Jersey calves, and trying to raise them to reach the genetic potential they are born with," wrote Nathan, "But in this I have felt a part of the success of every animal we have milked or sold."

Nathan strives to breed and raise a Jersey cow that can pay the bills who looks good doing so, while finding the balance between pounds of milk and percent of components, where the cow is most efficient at converting feed. The herd has done this as their December 2016 rolling herd average was 20,698 lbs. milk, 1,023 lbs. fat, and 742 lbs. protein on 699 Registered Jerseys.

He and his wife, Jill, are raising the next generation of Jersey breeders through their three children, Zachary, Jonathan, and Anna.

Hodge

(continued from page XX)

Lynn Elliott, to rent his farm. In 2007, the first 25 head of the new Jersey herd were purchased and by the end of the first year, the herd had grown to 45 milk cows with a rolling herd average of 13,000 lbs. of milk.

Since then, the herd has expanded to a total of 110 milk cows, with a rolling herd average of 18,221 lbs. milk, 809 lbs. fat, and 667 lbs. protein as of December 2016. Windy Ridge Jerseys ships their milk to Pearl Valley Cheese. The herd has been enrolled on REAP since 2013. J and Rachel utilize tools through the AJCA such as appraisal, JerseyMate, and genomic testing to improve the genetics of their herd.

"This year, I am very pleased and excited to see our two-year-olds as they join the herd," wrote J in his application letter, "I am seeing the types of udders that we have been working towards with our sire choice and mating selection."

When J and Rachel purchased the farm, a total of 200 acres, from her father in 2012 they began making plans for renovations, such as expanding the milking facility to a double-6 herringbone parlor and along with an additional 92-cow freestall barn. The barn was remodeled with cow comfort, ease of handling and future expansion in mind.

"With J's expertise he planned a construction that is cow healthy," wrote Larry H. Chipps, McConnelsville, Ohio, in a letter of support. "J has the heartfelt desire to be a very successful dairy farmer and business man."

J takes on all aspects of management on the dairy from cow care, breeding and mating decisions, financial decisions, employee management, and even milking duties. His father-in-law, Lynn, still assists with the crop and equipment maintenance, while Rachel, a veterinarian, cares for the young calves and herd health protocols.

"J exemplifies the qualities of a young farmer in the promotion, breeding of the Jersey cow and farming practices," wrote Mark Hoewischer, past president of the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association.

He works every day to improve the genetics throughout the herd with young and genomic sires. J hopes to increase the number of Excellent cows raised on the farm and decrease the cull cow rate in the future even further. He also has hopes that his farm will one day begin an ET program with his Excellent cows to continue to advance the herds genetics.

J is also active off the farm, serving as the District 12 director of the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association.

"When I think of why I got started in the dairy industry and with Jerseys, raising our family on a farm is a major reason. I strongly believe there is no better place to raise children," wrote J.

Hyman

(continued from page XX)

In 2004, they purchased Hy-Light Farms LLC, that consisted of a 50-cow stanchion barn and 250 acres of good crop land. With help from family members and friends, they remodeled the existing barn to an 80-cow tie stall barn.

On the farm, she takes great pride in the day-to-day care of the herd. Heather is responsible for all herd health tasks, while managing six employees that work on the dairy. She says she is extremely lucky to work with her father and husband every day. She takes special pride in raising the calves and heifers and tackling the reproduction tasks, making all of the mating and breeding decisions. Two years ago, the couple remodeled their calf facility to group pens feeding free-choice acidified whole milk.

"The Jersey calves love this new system and grow like crazy," said Heather in her application.

Heather's philosophy for breeding her herd is to breed for balance throughout the herd. She focuses on new genomic sires specifically for JPI, with good JUI, along with good fat and protein.

"The type of cow that I admire every day when they are walking down to the parlor or just in the free-stall is a hard-working girl that also looks good," wrote Heather. Her entire herd has an appraisal average of 83.6 points.

Heather and Todd have not only found the time to juggle the responsibility of the farm and their family but they also serve as 4-H leaders working with quiz bowl and dairy judging teams in Jefferson County. They also serve on the board of directors of their county Cooperative. They also served on the Young Cooperator Advisory Council for Dairylea.

Heather and Todd have had the opportunity to work with some great cows and cow families on their farm starting with Maplerow Paramount Melody. She was purchased as a 4-H project for their daughter Elizabeth. This cow went on to score Very Good-86% and was the high dollar cow for New York State Jersey Cattle Club in 2009. One of "Melody's" daughters is Hy-light Daybreak Marly 1315, VG-88%, who has a most recent lactation of 25,900 lbs. milk, 1,262 lbs. fat, and 932 lbs. protein in 335 days.

"The challenge of always getting better and more efficient is deep-seeded in Heather," wrote Sandra L. Scott, state secretary of the New York Jersey Cattle Club. "She has set goals that we know she is more than capable of attaining with her knowledge, experience and willingness to stay current within the industry."

Another favorite and successful cow fam-

ily on the farm is Lake-Effect Iatola Magenta, Excellent-93%. She had produced over 120,000 lbs. milk over her lifetime. "Magenta's" best record was at 5-1, with 27,170 lbs. milk, 1,430 lbs. fat and 1,018 lbs. protein in 305 days. This record was also a Hall of Fame record. Heather hopes to be in the top five for fat and protein in the nation for their herd size and continue to raise their appraisal average.

"It's my love of cows and raising my kids on the farm that drive me to do a better job every day," wrote Heather.

Kasbergen

(continued from page XX)

industry. In 2002, He moved to Mansfield, Ill., to help this uncle George Kasbergen start a dairy.

"From the construction phase to moving the cows into a new facility I was able to learn the intricacies that starting a new dairy entails," wrote Case.

Ultimately, Case moved back to Tulare and pursued sales within the dairy industry, while breeding and learning from others before he returned to the family farm in 2005. He had shadowed their herdsman with hopes to learn more about running a day-to-day operation while managing employees. Case and his wife, Allison, decided to join forces to become a bigger asset on the farm. In 2012, they became partners in the family business.

In 2009, due to the extremely high feed costs, they decided to introduce the Jersey cow to their herd due to her ability to convert more of her feed into milk and make better use of the 1,800 acres of farm ground. They purchased cattle from several breeders including the Jars of Clay herd from Jim Quist, Fresno, Calif.

Without anyone's knowledge, the herd gained a polled Jersey cow in that purchase named, Jars of Clay Venerable 1771 2620-P. They became aware of the polled gene when her first son, Kash-In Santana-P, was sold to Select Sires and Tim Baumgartner, one of the Jersey sire analysts at Select Sires, began looking through his pedigree, confirming many members of the family carried the gene as well. The cow family has helped the Kash-In Jersey herd to gain national recognition through its sons and daughters. Many of the 20 young bulls that have entered A.I. with the Kash-In prefix hail from this family.

The Rancho Teresita herd today consists of 1,200 Holsteins and 2,400 Jerseys. The Jersey herd is made up of 158 Excellent cows and 1,554 Very Good cows. Currently 27 heifers rank among the top 500 of the breed on the GJPI list. Fifteen more heifers

Kenny

(continued from page XX)

his grandfather Bob. He became partners with his grandparents and was the active partner on the farm, feeding the cows and calves, managing the employees, milking and managing the crops.

Renee grew up on Normandell Farms which was operated by her father, David and Uncle Ernest. She attained her bachelor's degree in animal science from Penn State University and moved to Ohio as the Assistant Editor of the *Jersey Journal* then at Select Sires, Inc, as a Communications Specialist. In 2012, Renee and Clayton married and she moved to Enon Valley to join him in the partnership at the farm.

"They are young and full of ambition to learn and build the Jersey herd that either of their families would be proud to have following their footsteps," wrote John and Amy Vanderstappen, Van De Jerseys, Transfer, Pa., in a letter of support.

In January 2015, they purchased Clayton's grandparents portion of the partnership and transitioned the farm to Kenny Jersey Farm LLC. "Today, Clayton and I take pride in our cattle, farm and land. We jointly handle the day-to-day operation of the farm including herd health, calf care, and employee management," said Renee.

They have made big strides in the dairy industry, increasing production per cow, reclaiming registrations, focusing on genetics, improved reproduction standards, and crop quality. They have also increased the farms rolling herd average from 12,000 lbs. in 2010 to 15,550 lbs. in 2016. Recently they have been adding to their herd including seven cows of Renee's from Normandell Farms.

Clayton maintains the equipment, feed inventory, feed rations, and field and crop management while Renee maintains the financial bookkeeping, animal registrations and records along with the breeding and mating decisions.

"Clayton and Renee are hard-working and committed to the goal of constantly improving the genetic profile of their cattle," wrote Philip E. Taylor of AgChoice Farm Credit in a letter of support.

Over the years, they have expanded and remodeled throughout the farm including the holding alley, milk house, and cow stalls to improve cow comfort. They have also worked to improve their animal's health and reproduction as well as calf care and health with assistance of their nutritionist. The began a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan to begin the process of putting in a manure pit immediately.

The couple also began to utilize a profit team through a grant from the Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence. On the team

Peters

(continued from page XX)

associations. Jessica is currently the executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Association.

In January 2015, Spruce Row Farm became Spruce Row Farm Inc., and Cole and Jessica brought their herds of past 4-H animals into the corporation. There are about 450 Registered Jerseys on the farm. In December 2016, the current rolling herd average was 19,403 lbs. milk, 887 lbs. fat and 690 lbs. protein on 240 milk cows.

On the farm, Cole currently handles all equipment maintenance and repairs along with crop decisions and feeding the heifers daily. Jessica is responsible for caring for the high maintenance animals, milking the cows, and caring for the calves while maintaining the paperwork.

They find it very important that the public is well educated about the dairy industry, they do this through Facebook and Instagram. They share photos and videos of their daily lives to help teach people about what they do and why they do it. In 2011, they were the winners of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Social Media Award.

"Cole's 'poor man go-pro' videos show certain tasks through his eyes while I tend to tell people about the cow side of life; posting calf and cow photos and explaining how we care for our animals," wrote Jessica in their application. They have both been featured in several local and state community and agriculture publications.

Tours are another way they like to educate the public. "We take the time to show groups of all ages and cultures around the farm and tell them about our operation and our Jersey cows," wrote Jessica.

Cole and Jessica work to produce a safe and healthy product in an efficient and cost effective manner. They strive to raise happy, healthy cows that will produce a safe and nutritious product for consumption by their family and many others.

Currently on the farm is SR Golda Goldfinger, whose best record is 305 days with 25,136 lbs. milk, 706 lbs. fat and 782 lbs. protein and highest daily milk production on the farm with 130 lbs. milk a day. Also from the farm, SR Nathan Pro-P and SR Irwin Shaggy-P, both debuting as top polled bulls.

"This is an exceptional farm, with a herd of high-producing, purebred, Registered Jersey cows that has been a stand-in in our community and in the Jersey breed," wrote Dr. Kelly S. Johnson, D.V.M. in a letter of support.

They pay great attention to the genetics they use throughout their herd, resulting in being one of the top 25 JPI herds in the country and placing within the top 10 for

Kasbergen

(continued from page XX)

rank on the top 100 Polled list. There are 56 cows on the top 1.5% list and 69 heifers on the top 1.5% list all ranked by GJPI. In December 2016, the rolling herd average for the Jersey herd was 20,257 lbs. milk, 1,006 lbs. fat, and 774 lbs. protein on 2,361 cows. The herd is currently enrolled in the REAP program.

"My goals within the Jersey breed are to continue breeding both outstanding show type cattle and elite genomic animals that are focused on profitable production."

In 2016, Kash-Up Andreas Envy was sold in the Rendezvous at River Valley Sale. She went on to be named Junior Champion at the Ohio State Fair, second place fall calf at the International Jersey Show and Reserve All American Senior Calf and Honorable Mention Junior Champion at The All American Jersey Show and was nominated All American Fall Calf in the *AllBreed Access* (ABA) contest.

Also in 2016, they traveled to the World Dairy Expo where Kentville Candy Tequila (purchased at the Rendezvous at River Valley Sale) was sixth in the senior three-year-old class and was nominated ABA All American. Kash-In Jerseys received the Bourne LeSeuer Trophy for best barn display at The All American Jersey Show as well.

"I look forward to the day I can breed the #1 GJPI (unbracketed) Jersey heifer in the breed," says Case. "I am also working toward the goal of breeding a National Grand Champion and a Jersey Jug Futurity winner."

"Case prepared himself well for a major management and ownership role in the operation of his family's dairy business," wrote Douglas DeGroff, president of Diversified Dairy Solutions LLC. "He is one of the breed's emerging young leaders in the breeding of quality Registered Jerseys."

Peters

(continued from page XX)

production multiple times for their herd size. Last year more than 50 percent of the herd was bred to young sires.

In the future, they would like to build a robotic milk barn and expand the herd. They hope to sell more than 25 heifers a year and still maintain their herd size. Harvesting their own corn silage in the future along with the existing crops and baleage would allow them to better control the feed quality for their herd.

Bakker

(continued from page XX)

move was also to better enable their involvement with the dairy. The boys have started raising their own feedlot cattle which has been growing nicely for them.

"As I look forward to the future, I am excited to work with and teach my sons about the dairy business. And someday, the farm will go in into the second-generation ownership if the sons so desire to dairy farm," wrote Bernie in his application.

"Bernie truly knows what it takes to become a dairyman from scratch in this country and he doesn't seem to take it for granted for a minute," wrote David Ertl also of Semex in a letter of support.

Rock Bottom Dairy uses JerseyMate and JerseyTags to help manage his herd. Rock Bottom Dairy is enrolled on REAP and also uses genomics to identify the highly-marketable animals in the herd. They are proud of placing three sons into A.I. The herd has received milk quality awards from Land O'Lakes in the past eight years. It has also been recognized by the Dairy Reproduction Council with a three reproductive awards in recent years.

Bernie is a member of Western Iowa Dairy Alliance as well as serving Land O'Lakes Region 65 as a unit delegate since 2014.

Kenny

(continued from page XX)

is their herd veterinarian, nutritionist, reproductive specialist, breeder, accountant, lender and local extension agent. Through work with their profit team, they have implemented many new features to the farm and made gains in key areas.

Both Clayton and Renee are involved off the farm in leadership roles as well. Clayton has worked to promote the dairy industry with visits to the farm from the local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. He also worked with the township's planning committee. Renee is the youth director of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Association and a 4-H advisor for the county dairy club. She also serves on the Penn State Dairymen's board of directors and serves as a COBA/Select Sires, Inc. District 7 delegate. She works part-time for Dairy Girl Network. Together they promote the dairy industry through their blog EatFarmLove.com.