

## Summary of March AJCA, NAJ Board Meetings

The winter meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc. Boards of Directors were held March 12-14, 2015 at the Embassy Suites–Airport, Columbus, Ohio. Actions taken are summarized.

### AJCA-NAJ-AJSC Finances

Unaudited financial reports through December 31, 2014 were reviewed, showing:

- AJCA revenues of \$3,977,340 and expenditures of \$3,759,877, for net income from operations before the All American and other income and expense of \$217,463;
- NAJ revenues of \$899,587 and expenditures of \$670,357, for net income from operations before other income and expense of \$229,230; and
- All-Jersey Sales Corporation (Jersey Marketing Service) revenues of \$520,237 and expenditures of \$451,189, for net income from operations before other income and expense of \$69,048.

Financial statements through January 31, 2015 were approved, reporting net income for all companies of \$378,241.

The 2014 investment summary and unaudited Research, Scholarship and Special Funds summary were approved. Market value of investments at December 31 was \$5,132,583.

### 2015 Research Grants

The AJCC Research Foundation received nine proposals for 2015 competitive grant awards. Projects approved for funding were:

Nicholas Gengler (Université de Liège, Belgium), *Predicting Body Weights Throughout Lactations Using the AJCA Uniform Functional Type Traits Appraisal Program*, using generated linear type scores as predictors of body weight for longer term use in the estimation of feed energy efficiency traits for U.S. Jersey cows, \$9,000;

Scott Poock (University of Missouri), *Level of BHBA, NEFA, Glucose and Progesterone in the First 4 Weeks of Lactation and Subsequent Fertility and Production*, a prospective study that will add to limited data on the transition status of Jersey cows and contribute to developing breed-specific strategies for optimizing cow health during the transition period, \$9,932; and

Amber Adams-Progar (Washington State University), *Effectiveness of Calf*

*Jackets to Improve Growth and Health in Jersey Calves During Cold Weather*, addressing the lack of Jersey-specific analyses evaluating use of calf jackets, \$5,919.

### Identification Programs

The *Rules for the Registration and Transfer of Jersey Cattle* pertaining to the Jersey Expansion program for identifying Jersey-crossbred animals were amended retroactive to program implementation January 1, 1999. This action makes Jersey Expansion a stand-alone pedigree recording program. Females may be recorded at all levels (J1 through J6), but males will only be recorded at the J4, J5 and J6 levels provided the bull and both parents are genotyped. Herd Register status is achieved by offspring of J6 and HR parents.

Rules pertaining to the Genetic Recovery program were also amended, effective March 14, 2015. To enter the program as an Original Animal (OA), the female must have a Herd Register status parent (sire or dam) or be genotyped. The lowest step at which a bull will be recorded will be at the third step, GR, provided the bull and both parents are genotyped.

A numeric code in brackets will become part of the registration names for OA Oomsdale Gordo Goldie Gratitude 11224922 and all descendants, with “Gratitude” labeled {1}, her progeny {2}, and continuing through six generations.

### Genetic Evaluations, Recognitions

Kent Weigel, University of Wisconsin-Madison, briefed the directors meeting in joint session with directors of National All-Jersey Inc. He reviewed adjustments that will be implemented by CDCB in April affecting PTAs for Productive Life and Daughter Pregnancy Rate and noted that updates to Jersey Performance Index™ would be made based on the December base change. Dr. Weigel also discussed procedures used in the all-breed animal model to adjust for heterosis. He pointed out that evaluation accuracy hinges on correct identification and assignment of the animal to breed of origin.

Primary reports for the *Jersey Genetic Summary* (“Green Book”) will be divided by recording program: (1) Herd Register and (2) Genetic Recovery and Jersey Expansion. A reference list of A.I. marketed bulls with an ancestor of another breed in their 7-generation pedigree will be included for each official summary.

Only HR and GR status cows will be eligible for Honor Roll, Hall of Fame, and National Class Leader recognition, and the President’s Trophy, Hilmar Cheese Award, Living Lifetime Production Contest and National Jersey Youth Production Contest, effective March 14, 2015.

### Type Appraisal Program

The report of the AJCA Type Advisory Committee, which met February 18-19, was approved. The committee received a comprehensive analysis of 2014 activity. A total of 109,963 final scores were assigned in 2014, with 87% of cows in first and second lactation. The committee recommends that research continue to produce genetic evaluations for Rear Teat Placement (RTP)-Rear View and RTP-Side View, and determine the economic impact of these traits on lifetime profitability.

### Jersey Directory

The “Jersey Directory,” published as part of *Jersey Journal*, will become an annual publication. Breeder listings will be \$30 per year, and \$50 for allied industry, with no change in fees for expanded messages, logos, and landing pages.

### Recognitions

The following awards will be made at the 2015 AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings:

- Master Breeder: Lyon Jerseys LLC, Toledo, Iowa;
- Distinguished Service Award: George and Shirley Barlass, Janesville, Wis.;
- AJCA-NAJ Award for Meritorious Service: Paula M. England, Columbus, Ohio; and
- Young Jersey Breeder Awards: Brett Barlass, Hilmar, Calif.; Jim and Jessica Engel, Kewaunee, Wis.; Jason and Jory Fremstad, Westby, Wis.; Charlie Luchsinger, Syracuse, N.Y.; Leroy J. and Martha Sue Miller, Fredericksburg, Ohio; and Jason Nuhfer, Willard, Ohio.

### National All-Jersey Inc.

Directors of National All-Jersey Inc. received extensive briefing from staff on a range of issues before Congress, Federal Order activity, and research and market development efforts.

Priority has been given to filing a request with strong support for a hearing to convert the Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMOs) in the southeast to be based

## Jersey Expansion Restructured, Genetic Recovery Enhanced By More Information

The restructuring of the Jersey Expansion identification program, plus amendments to Genetic Recovery rules, “will continue to define a clear pathway to registration for producers using these programs and provide information to all Jersey breeders in a reliable way so they can use it to meet their breeding objectives,” according to AJCA President Chris Sorenson.

Genetic Recovery was created by the association in 1975 to record unregistered but purebred Jersey females and has been adopted by other dairy cattle associations across the world. Jersey Expansion was implemented in 1999 to identify animals with both Jersey and other-breed genetics in their pedigrees, allowing offspring of first-generation females sired by Registered Jersey™ bulls to be recorded through Genetic Recovery.

At its March, 2015 meeting, the AJCA Board of Directors separated Jersey Expansion from the Genetic Recovery program retroactive to program implementation January 1, 1999. Under revised rules for Jersey Expansion, six continuous generations sired by Registered Jersey™ bulls starting with the first-generation female (J1) will result in an animal eligible for the AJCA Herd Register (table, right).

Females will be recorded at all levels (J1 through J6). Males are only eligible at the J4, J5 and J6 levels, and only

when the bull and both parents are genotyped. Offspring status will advance one level (a) when sired by a bull recorded in the AJCA Herd Register (HR status, no prefix) or (b) when one parent is three or more generations higher than another. For all other pedigree combinations, offspring status will be no higher than that of the lowest status parent. AJCA Herd Register status is achieved by offspring of J6 and HR parents. The descendants of J1 females now recorded by the AJCA will be assigned a new prefix according to their status in this recording system and replacement certificates issued to owners.

| Prefix | Pedigree ( <i>JE designates AJCA Herd Register status</i> ) | Pedigree Inheritance from |             |
|--------|---|---------------------------|-------------|
|        |   | Jersey                    | Other Breed |
| J1     | JE x Other Breed  | 50.0%                     | 50.0%       |
| J2     | JE x (JE x Other)   | 75.0                      | 25.0        |
| J3     | JE x [JE x (JE x Other)]                                    | 87.5                      | 12.5        |
| J4     | JE x [JE x JE x (JE x Other)]                               | 93.75                     | 6.25        |
| J5     | JE x [JE x JE x JE x (JE x Other)]                          | 96.88                     | 3.12        |
| J6     | JE x [JE x JE x JE x JE x (JE x Other)]                     | 98.44                     | 1.56        |
| HR     | JE x [JE x JE x JE x JE x JE x (JE x Other)]                | 99.22                     | 0.78        |

Modifications to the Genetic Recovery program, effective the date of Board action on March 14, 2015, now require an Original Animal (OA prefix) to have a Herd Register status parent (sire or dam) or else be qualified by genotyping. Males can now be recorded only at the third program level (GR), provided that the bull and both parents are genotyped. “Genetic Recovery continues to serve the original intent of bringing purebred but grade Jerseys into the AJCA database,” noted President Sorenson. “The changes made by the Board of Directors make it even stronger by adding another level of pedigree information or applying genomic testing tools. The result will be more complete pedigrees earlier and more accurate genetic evaluations.”

The Board revisited prior decisions related to OA Oomsdale Gordo Goldie Gratitude 111224922 and descendants. The Board voted to add an identifying label to the name of these animals for six (6) generations. “This Board action gives Jersey owners the additional information they requested about extended members of this family,” explained Sorenson.

Actions were also taken regarding genetic evaluation reports published in the *Jersey Genetic Summary*. Starting with the April 2015 official genetic evaluations, “Green Book” reports for males and elite fe-

males will be split into two groups. One will list only animals with Herd Register status (HR, no prefix). The second will combine the eligible animals that are recorded through the Genetic Recovery and Jersey Expansion programs. The cutoff for the female Genetic Recovery-Jersey Expansion lists will be determined by the lowest qualifying Jersey Performance Index™ (JPI) on the HR list. In addition, a reference list will be generated after each official summary listing A.I. bulls (codes A, F and G) with an ancestor of other-breed origin in their 7-generation pedigree.

on multiple component pricing. Primary reasons are to standardize milk pricing between this region and surrounding orders, increase the value of pooled milk, standardize milk cost among manufacturing plants, and provide opportunity for producers to increase the value of their milk.

The Board was updated on efforts to establish a FMMO for California, with a hearing proposal submitted to Dairy Programs February 5 by the three primary cooperatives operating in the state. Among the proposal’s main provisions are to use multiple component pricing and to retain current minimum standards for fluid milk. Dairy Programs will receive alternative proposals through April 10. An economic

impact study is in progress, and Dairy Programs is expected to hold informational meetings in the state during May.

Financial statements for January 2015 were reviewed and approved. Equity participants at the end of February were 1,048.

Gross value of animals, embryos and semen marketed by Jersey Marketing Service exceeded \$9.5 million in 2014. Use of the internet-based Jersey Auction Live program increased significantly with a 70% increase in registered bidders. Eight public auction sales have been booked by Jersey Marketing Service through the 58<sup>th</sup> National Heifer Sale on June 26, and Jersey Auction Live has been booked for 10 additional sales thus far in 2015.

### Annual Meetings

The AJCA Board of Directors will meet June 23 and 24 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria, Ill. The NAJ Board will meet June 23 at the same location.

The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of National All-Jersey Inc. will be held Friday morning, June 26. The AJCA’s 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, June 27.

Nominating petition deadlines are April 24 for the AJCA. A President and four Directors, from the First, Third, Fifth and Ninth districts, will be elected. Nomination petitions for NAJ Director #1 from District 1 must be filed with the Executive Secretary no later than April 28.