

## **North American Vice President Report**

### **American Jersey Cattle Association**

The value of good Jersey Genetics continues to be high in the United States. High pedigreed animals remain in high demand and bring above average prices. Milk pricing continues at a level price, making Jerseys and components desirable. Cull cattle prices remain high so breeders can cull unprofitable animals.

Most of the United States is receiving adequate moisture with some of the southern states getting and over abundance, creating flooding conditions. Interest rates remain high and commodity prices low, making it difficult to make ends meet.

Jerseys continue to excel in all areas of production averages. Production averages for milk reached 20,710 pounds of milk, 1038 pounds of fat and 778 pounds of protein on mature equivalent basis. Component tests are 5.01% fat and 3.76 protein. On a cheddar cheese yield basis (38% moisture) average production is 2657 pounds and cheese yield per hundred weight is 12.83 pounds. 2023 averages are based on 91,673 lactations. The projected averages for the next few years are a substantial increase in production with a drop in lactations.

AJCA has completed the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of more than 100,000 registrations with 123,303, making it the 5<sup>th</sup> highest. This represents 5279 different owners, over 1000 more than 2022.

We are nearing 1,000,000 Jersey males and females that have now been genomic tested, showing a value in genomics.

For the past 11 years more than 100,000 cows have been evaluated each year by the type appraisal team, proving it is very important to the genetic program worldwide.

Partnership in REAP and other programs like the equity portion of the Association remains vital for the economics of the organization. Herd numbers remain high although one large herd was lost. The directors here voted to continue to raise the standards for males with Generation Counts.

The Jersey Journal remains a struggle even with some new options. It has received a good review since going online.

At the Annual Meeting this year in Massachusetts the membership will be voting on revising the districts for directors, with the U.S. being divided into three sections and 4 directors elected from each district. It has become harder to find breeders being able to find time to be leaders from certain areas.

The AJCA and its staff continue to do a fantastic job for the Jersey Breeders as times continue to be more challenging.

Jersey Breeders know they have the best cow available, and more farmers continue to add them to their herds.

## **Jersey Canada**

2023 saw the continued expansion of the Jersey breed across Canada as predicted. Messaging from provincial milk boards concerning payment reductions and caps for solids-non-fat and incentives to increase butterfat production, was delivered well in advance of the final planned adjustment that took place in August 2023. These changes affected 75% of dairy producers in Canada and have resulted in a 2.7% increase in national butterfat production year-over-year to Q1 of 2024, and an overall decrease in the SNF:BF ratio. These changes have also meant record demand for Jerseys, and Jersey Canada's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest registration total all-time. Holstein producers are responding to the pricing changes by purchasing Jerseys to lower their SNF ratios and maximize their payments. When domestic supply of animals is not available, buyers are looking south, as US imports of Jerseys to Canada set a record in 2023 of 642, almost 200 more than the previous record set in 2018. This represents a 333% increase from 2022 and 70% increase over 5 years.

Record classification numbers in 2023, a 9% increase over 2022, shows the value Jersey breeders place on herd improvement. Jersey Canada worked closely with industry partners in 2023 to update the services and tools available to Jersey owners, including classification, which is delivered by Holstein Canada for all breeds, as the Jersey Canada Genetic Improvement Committee reviewed and revised the Jersey classification scorecard and added two new weighted traits within the Feet and Legs section: Front Leg View and Locomotion. Another major industry update, a multi-year endeavor involving discussions between Lactanet, the organization responsible for milk recording in Canada, and breed associations, was the implementation of modernized standards for publishable lactations. This initiative addresses the continuing upwards trend of automated milking systems on-farm and is intended to capture a wider range of data sources while adhering to established quality-standards.

The Canadian Jersey herd will continue increasing in numbers as more producers put pencil to paper and realize the benefits that adding Jerseys to their barns can have on their bottom lines. Steady, predictable shifting in market demand has Canadian Jersey breeders reaping the benefits of their hard work over decades, developing an easy to work with breed perfect to meet today's demands.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sorenson, North American Vice President

