

American Guernsey Association and Golden Guernsey Inc.

7614 Slate Ridge Blvd. | Reynoldsburg, OH 27068
Ph: 614.864.2409 | Fax: 614.864.5614 | www.usguernsey.com
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST M-F

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President & District 4 (WI) 2010

World Guernsey Cattle Federation U.S. Rep.

Dale Jensen 715.268.8711
1308 80th St., Amery, WI 54001

First Vice President & District 1 (CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT & WV) 2010

Tom Ripley 315.496.2380
RD 3 Eaton Rd., Moravia, NY 13118

Second Vice President & District 3 (IN, IL, KY & MI) 2008

Forrest Keefer 260.761.2852
3829W 800N, Wawaka, IN 46794

District 2 (OH & PA) 2009

Berneta Gable 814.766.3272
2345 Brumbaugh Rd., New Enterprise, PA 16664

District 5 (IA, KS, MN, NE, ND & SD) 2011

Jillian Walther 563.880.3750
30844 215th St., Garnavillo, IA 52049

District 6 (AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, MO, NC, SC, TN & VA) 2009

Keith Dixon 257.589.2906
15823 Merchant Dr., Philipsburg, MO 65722

District 7 (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA & WY) 2008

Walt Kessler 209.754.2644
10220 Walnut Ave., Galt, CA 95632

Director At-Large (2009)

Leon Zweegman 360.354.4669
9265 Double Ditch Rd., Lynden, WA 98264

Director At-Large (2011)

P. Morey Miller 860.653.7778
P.O. Box 748, Granby, CT 06035-0748

ADMINISTRATION

Seth Johnson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

sjohnson@usguernsey.com | 614.864.2409

Mary Ann D'Ippolito - Accountant

mdippolito@usguernsey.com | 614.339.5396

Ida Albert - Records Department Director

ialbert@usguernsey.com | 614.864.2409

Brian Schnebly - Programs Coordinator & Youth Director

brschnebly@usguernsey.com | 614.864.2409

Journal and Information

Lynnette Wright - Editor, *Guernsey Breeders' Journal*

lwright@usguernsey.com | 614.339.5395

Appraisers

Brian Schnebly - Appraisal Coordinator

Steve Mills - 864.992.2514 | Saluda, SC

Extension

Jim Trotter - PA GBA Business Manager | 724.667.0834

PUREBRED PUBLISHING

7616 Slate Ridge Blvd. | Reynoldsburg, OH 27068

Ph: 614.575.4620 | Fax: 614.864.5614

lwright@usguernsey.com

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President - Berneta Gable

First Vice President - Keith Dixon

Second Vice President - Leon Zweegman

Dale Jensen, Walt Kessler, Tom Ripley & Forrest Keefer

GENERAL MANAGER

Seth Johnson

Golden Focus

*What a great year for
the Guernsey breed!*

When you read those words you might automatically think about Pistachio Pie and her historic wins at Harrisburg and World Dairy Expo. But, I encourage you to consider the big picture and you will soon see that 2007 truly could be viewed as a turning point for our breed from just about any point of view.



Seth Johnson

Golden Guernsey – Yoder's

Golden Guernsey Milk is officially being sold in Lancaster County, Pa., showing off the unique attributes of Guernsey fluid milk. Lucky Layla drinkable yogurt, made largely from Guernsey milk, was selected as the best yogurt in the nation by the American Cheese Society in August – a major win for this product from Lavon Farms in Texas. In reviewing the entries in the butter contest at that show, the Lucky Layla submission made it obvious that Golden Guernsey milk has lost none of its Golden color over the years. Brown Cow Ice Cream in New York and several small cheese makers around the country continue to prove the value of Golden Guernsey milk.

Registrations – As we go to press with this last issue of the year, it is certainly within reason to think that we will record our third consecutive year of increased registrations - something that has not happened since 1947.

Production – In the first three quarters of 2007, 32 new class-leading records have been made. More importantly, the average production of the breed as a whole continues to climb. While the breed's genetic direction has clearly shifted to more emphasis on functional type and management traits, we continue to make progress for improved production and we must continue to do so to remain competitive. Our commitment as a breed to improve fat production is yielding results, lets not forget about protein!

Young Sires – In 2006 and 2007, 30 young sires have been released for AI sampling. They represent a diverse group that includes something to fit just about every breeding strategy. Among these 30, 19 different sires and 15 different maternal grandsires are represented. This commitment to genetic diversity is unparalleled in recent years.

Marketability – The highlight of the year from a marketing standpoint was certainly the \$23,600 National Sale topper, Joke, who combined pedigree, performance and show ring appeal to draw interest from all over the industry. That sale achieved an all-time high average for a National Sale, continuing to prove the value of deep pedigrees. However, I will look back on the Upper Mid-West Spring Sale, held in April in Minnesota, as a tremendous day for our breed. 87 animals averaged \$2,450. Only one, a December calf, ever appeared in a National Show class. The market for these outstanding animals was driven by their deep pedigrees, profitable production levels and commercial appeal. This is how our breed will grow!

Youth Involvement – In recent years, the AGA Youth Auction has regularly raised over \$10,000 to help fund our youth programs. New

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2007 Third Quarter Class Leaders

A complete listing of the All-Time class leaders can be found on the web at www.usguernsey.com/classleaders.htm



OCS Dairy Downunder Deb, EX-91
Total Performance Cow NGS-Harrisburg

OCS Dairy Downunder Deb, EX-91, has completed a class-leading record for milk, fat and protein with 4-07 365D 38,160M 5.8% 2,196F 3.1% 1,181P giving her over 100,000M lifetime in just three lactations. Deb was the HM All-American Spring Calf and Jr. Two-Year-Old. She was the winning 100,000M Cow and the Total Performance Winner at the NGS-Harrisburg last fall. Her dam, by Fayette, is scored VG-88 and boasts nearly 120,000M lifetime, having finished a lactation with over 1,300F and 1,000P. The next dam is Diadora, EX-94. Diadora received recognition in the All-American contest each year from the time she was a Spring Calf until she was an Aged Cow. She finished with over 180,000M lifetime with 5.5% fat and 3.7% protein. Deb has a VG-86 Tiller daughter with over 1,800F. Deb is bred and owned by OCS Dairy of Jefferson, Md., and the Downunder Syndicate of Australia. The Syndicate purchased her dam as an open heifer nearly a decade ago in the 1998 World Guernsey Conference Sale.

Trotacre Lock Miss Lime has completed a class-leading record for milk with 2-09 305D 3x 28,050M 3.7% 1,036F 3.1% 880P. With this, her second lactation, she is already over 50,000M and 2,000F lifetime. Her sire, Trotacre Valiant Lock, is a son of Tamaracks Perfecto Valiant-ET and out of Mercury Loretta, EX-91, making him a maternal brother to Luxury. The dam was an EX-90 daughter by Perfecto and the granddam was a VG-83 Victory. Lime, scored VG-88, was bred by Amy Gable and is now owned by her cousin, Abby Trotter of Enon Valley, Pa.

Golden J Landon Lizzy has completed a class-leading record for milk with 1-10 305D 24,700M 4.2% 1,029F 2.8% 685P. She is scored D-77 and is the first daughter of Flambeau Manor Ron Landon to make a class-leading record. Her dam is a D-78 Trumpet and the granddam was a VG-82 Telestar daughter, each with over 19,000M and 850F. The next two dams are both scored EX-90. Lizzy is bred and owned by



Tru Lan MM Classy
Daughter of Brook Haven Rons Calsi

Trent Jensen of Amery, Wis.

Brook Haven Rons Calsi, VG-85, has completed a class-leading record for milk with 4-02 305D 31,500M 3.8% 1,203F 2.9% 923P. She is a daughter of Marodore Goliath Ronald-ET. Her dam was a D-72 daughter of Trumpet with over 19,000M and nearly 900F. The next dam was a Perfecto with three records over 700F and 600P. At 391 days, in early November, she was still milking 124 pounds and had not had a test day of less than 101 pounds. Her daughter by Magicman was the winning Fall Calf at the NGS-Madison in 2007. Calsi was bred by Brian Honebrink of Belle Plain, Minn., and is owned by Casey Nelson of Ellendale, Minn.

Jens Gold Lucas Buttermax has completed a class-leading record for protein with 1-11 365D 25,260M 4.6% 1,166F 3.6% 907P. Her sire is the newly-proven Flambeau Manor Option Lucas-ET. Her dam was a VG-83 daughter of Trotacre Mercury Lord-ET that has over 100,000M lifetime, including two records over 1,000F. The granddam was a VG-80 Prince Jay daughter, also with over 1,000F. The next dam was a VG-86 Perfecto with over 100,000M, followed by a VG-85 Maple Leaf Admiral Topstar with over 950F. The fifth dam was a VG-84 Volcano with two records over 850F followed by a VG-86 Fayette with 900F. Stretching the pedigree to the early 1970's, the next two dams are both Very Good Gold Star Cows. Buttermax was bred by Jens Gold Farm of Amery, Wis., and is owned by Dennis Nelson of Hilmar, Calif.

Sunrise Roys Gem has completed a class-leading record for milk with 3-02 305D 29,870M 4.2% 1,242F 3.1% 928P. She is a VG-83 daughter of Marodore Enhancer Roy-ET. She was 3rd as a Winter Yearling at the NGS-Louisville and Junior Champion of the North Carolina State Fair in 2003. Her dam had records to 18,000M and 800F. She was by a Fayette son and the granddam was

sired by Frank. Gem was bred by Renee and Ashley Bridges of Shelby, NC, and is now owned by Austin Knapp of Epworth, Iowa.

Dairyman Regis Bambi has completed a class-leading record for fat with 3-10 262D 24,750M 5.6% 1,377F 3.1% 772P. Bambi, who was unfortunately lost before completing a full lactation, was sired by Marodore Enhancer Regis-ET. Her dam was a D-78 Goliath with a top record of 4-05 365D 25,270M 4.6% 1,153F 3.4% 870P. Bambi is bred and owned by the W.D. Hoard & Sons Co. of Ft. Atkinson, Wis.

Balmorals Prime Sosha, EX-91, has completed a class-leading record for milk and fat with 4-07 305D 31,580M 4.5% 1,413F 3.0% 941P. Her sire is Geo Mars Andy Prime-ET. Her dam was an EX-91 Canadian-bred cow with a top record of 3-06 365D 33,440M 4.9% 1,653F 3.3% 1,107P. The dam was nominated All-American as a Sr. Two-Year-Old. She is backed by two EX-90 dams. The granddam was All-Canadian and the third dam was HM All-American. Sosha has five VG sisters by four different sires and has a VG-86 Marfred Masterpiece daughter that finished with over 900F at 2-00. She has Visa and Challenge heifers on the ground. Sosha is bred and owned by Krista Richardson of Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Golden Focus

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contests and programs are added annually, it seems. The AGA provides no less than four scholarships to deserving college-bound Junior Members, and in 2008 we will add yet another as the Turley Scholarship begins rewarding two deserving youth instead of just one. It has been gratifying to watch as the Junior Members came together to add some structure to their part of our organization, formalizing the American Guernsey Youth Association (AGYA). This has given the youth even more of a voice in their own youth events and programs.

Reproduction – Dr. John Mozier appointed a committee to research the improvement of reproduction in the Guernsey breed last summer. The committee has met twice since June and is moving forward in several directions to investigate ways to help the Guernsey cow calve more times and produce more heifer calves.

I look forward to an even more exciting year in 2008 as we strive to improve services to members, add value to the Guernsey breed and improve the cow herself.