

National Jersey Queen Maria Noble to the AJCA Annual Meeting

Hello fellow Jersey breeders. First, I would like to thank you for attending this meeting the past few days. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know other Jersey enthusiasts from across the United States.

For those of you I have not had the chance to meet yet, my family resides here in Pennsylvania on Nobledale Farms about four hours north of Gettysburg, in a town called Gillett. Our family milks a herd of 80 Registered Jerseys where I am the eighth generation to be involved



Noble

in the operation along with my parents, Stuart and Elaine, my uncle Steve, and younger siblings, Wesley and Cory.

During the past few days I have had the opportunity to attend both some adult meetings and tours and also work with our Jersey youth. Yesterday afternoon, Jersey youth participated in educational activities varying from social media know-how, a sire selection lesson, and

also had the chance to make bars of Jersey milk soap with my mother and me. These activities are just the beginning of endless ways that Jersey youth can get involved. I think we are very fortunate to have such a strong youth program and I would encourage youth to participate in as many activities as possible. With things like Jersey Youth Academy, Pot O'Gold sales, the Youth Achievement Contest, and the many scholarships you can apply for, the options are limitless.

Sometimes, and I can speak from experience, it just takes a little bit of encouragement to get youth involved. Many don't realize the endless amount of doors that are open to them or might be afraid to take the plunge. Regardless of your age or interests there is a Jersey youth program for everyone.

In my role as National Jersey Queen, I have had the opportunity to meet many new people and hear their Jersey stories. This is something I have greatly enjoyed as each person's experiences have been different. My challenge to you is to share that story as many times as possible, and not just to fellow Jersey breeders, but to everyone you meet. We all know how much love and passion we have for the Jersey cow and your dairy practices back

home. Unfortunately many of our consumers have misconceptions about the way we run our operations, and treat our animals. This is where you all come in. Other promoters greatly enjoy the promotional efforts we're able to participate in. But sadly it's not enough. Everyone needs to be an ambassador of the products that they produce and the cattle they raise. So I challenge you to start sharing your Jersey story with everyone you meet. It can be as simple as talking to someone in the dairy aisle of the grocery store or opening up your farm for visitors. Any every effort you make to promote the Jersey breed and dairy farm in general is going to go a long way.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2016 National Jersey Queen and thank you for visiting my home state of Pennsylvania.