

Pennsylvania Hosts Annual Meetings



2017 AJCA-NAJ ANNUAL MEETINGS
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania - June 21-24

The Keystone State is the destination for Jersey breeders making their trek to the Annual Meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc. this summer. It is the fifth time in the past 50 years Pennsylvania has hosted the annual meetings of the national Jersey organizations, with Gettysburg chosen as the setting for 2017.

One of the country's leading dairy states, Pennsylvania ranks fifth for milk production at 10.8 billion pounds annually and second for number of dairy farms to Wisconsin. Livestock and livestock products generate almost 70% of the state's agricultural income, with milk outpacing all agriculture products. Dairy farms are as diverse as the state itself, with its fertile lowlands in the southeast, mining, forestry and manufacturing industries in the northwest and Appalachian Mountains slicing through the center.

Pennsylvania Jersey breeders previously hosted the meetings in Valley Forge in 1970, in Lancaster in 1985 and in Pittsburg in 2005. They registered nearly 4,500 animals with the AJCA in 2016, a mark that ranks sixth in the nation. The reigning National Jersey Queen hails from the state, as does the exhibitor of the Grand Champion of the 2016 All American Junior Jersey Show. More than 20 have

earned the Young Jersey Breeder Award, two have won the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest and seven have won either the National Jersey Youth Production Contest or the Pot O'Gold Production Contest.

A trip to the area would not be complete without a visit to the historic Gettysburg battlefield, site of the Civil War's bloodiest battle and inspiration for President Abraham Lincoln's immortal "Gettysburg Address." One could spend days taking in the historic sites or browsing the specialty shops and boutiques that abound in downtown.

Outside the historic area, other treasures beckon tourists, including Hershey, popularly called ChocolateTown USA, and Lancaster County, home to the Pennsylvania Dutch. Area attractions also include a host of local vineyards, antique stores and arts and crafts shops. Bargain hunters will appreciate the area's outlet malls.

So, partake of the hospitality of Pennsylvania Jersey breeders and take them up on their suggestion to "come early or stay late" to enjoy Gettysburg and visit local Jersey farms.

Glamourview

One of two designed tour stops for Thursday, June 22, is Glamourview in Walkersville, Md.

Glamourview is a partnership between Gene Lager and Emily and Craig Walton. Emily's parents, Max and Carol Thornburg, lend a hand with the operation of the dairy, as does a part-time employee who maintains machinery.

Glamourview is milking a mixed herd of 175-180 Holstein, Jersey and Ayrshire cows. The herd averages 70-75 lbs. milk daily across all breeds. The Jersey herd is enrolled on REAP. With the latest appraisal, the herd includes 20 Excellent and 58 Very Good cows (none lower) and has an appraisal average of 86.6%.

The barn houses a number of elite show cows, including Cascadia Iatola Puzzle, Excellent-94%, Supreme Champion of the 2012 North American International Livestock Exposition and Overall Premier Performance Winner of the 2013 All American Jersey Show. Also in the herd are Avonlea Connected to Kanada-ET, Excellent-95%, Intermediate Champion of the 2009 New York Spring Carousel Show; Marhaven Minister Corona-ET, Excellent-91%, 2016 All American Senior Three-Year-Old and 2015 Reserve All American Senior Two-Year-Old; Elliotts Comerica Sable-ET, Excellent-93%, reigning Senior Champion of the Maryland State Fair; and Stoney Point Tequila Sunrise, Very Good-89%, Junior Cham-

pion of the All American Jersey Show and the International Jersey Show in 2013.

The operation was built from scratch, with technology as a focus. The initial farm included an old, renovated tie stall barn that is now used for events, a three-sided pole barn now used as a commodity shed and a house.

Glamourview broke ground for the main milking facility, a 320' x 120' freestall barn, in April 2014. The vast, open barn is divided into four sections, with a drive-through alley in the center.

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Glamourview, a partnership of Gene Iager, second left, and Emily and Craig Walton, holding their son, Briggs, center, milks a mixed herd of Ayrshires, Jerseys and Holsteins. The dairy is a tour stop for June 22.

Pennsylvania Jerseys

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Jerseys are managed in the first section; first and second-lactation Holsteins and smaller Ayrshires in the second section; third and later-lactation Holsteins in the third; and show and special needs cows in the fourth, which is equipped with box stalls. The barn is ventilated with large fans that produce a minimal amount of noise. Though they started milking cows conventionally, three Lely robots were installed in August 2014 when they were contemplating moving from two to three times daily milking and found the robots to be less expensive. A Lely robotic feeder

continually pushes feed to the cows on an hourly basis, circling the barn in 20 minutes and then recharging for 40 minutes. Milk calves are fed with an automatic feeder as well.

Solar panels are installed on the roof of the main and heifer barns and in a pasture. They generate enough electricity to meet all the needs of the farm. Excess electricity is sold to the power company. Rain water is captured from the barn roofs, purified and stored in large underground barrels. It is used as drinking water for the cows and for cleaning purposes. Automatic alley scrapers push manure to the end of the barn. Gravity moves it the rest of the way to a pit, where it is then composted.

Iager and the Waltons also grow crops on the farm's 160 acres and 300 acres of rented land.

Mount Rock Jerseys LLC

Located in Newville, Mount Rock Jerseys LLC is home to Pennsylvania's largest herd of Registered Jerseys, with 570 milking cows and an equal number of herd replacements.

Mount Rock Jerseys is owned by Dan Mains and his family and operated with the help of six other full-time employees and six milkers. Dan is managing partner and owns the business with his father, Fran,

who is transitioning into retirement. Dan's step-brother, Kyle Kotzmoyer, is also a partner and feed manager. Herd managers are Steve Carpenter, Josh McCulloch and Will McAnlis, who handles duties for calves and heifers. Matt Zimmerman is the crops and machinery manager; Constantino Santos is the night manager.

The herd is enrolled on REAP, uses JerseyTags for permanent identification and utilizes JerseyMate for herd matings. The January 2017 rolling herd average is 19,996 lbs. milk, 1,020 lbs. fat and 780 lbs. protein on 663 cows. The dairy ranks #32 in the nation for genetic merit with a herd average JPI of +58 on 392 cows (April 2017). Thirty-three percent of the milking string is genotyped; half



Dan Mains operates Mount Rock Jerseys LLC with his family in Newville. The state-of-the-art facility is a tour stop on June 23.

of the replacement heifers are P-level 8 or 9. Milk is marketed to Land O'Lakes in Mount Holly/Carlisle, Pa. Mount Rock Dairy also manages a herd of about 95 beef-feeder crosses that are the result of breeding the bottom 20% of the Jersey herd to beef sires.

Over the past 30 years, the dairy has adopted new technology, diversified and adapted to remain viable in an era when many of its peers have been forced to exit. One of the changes—a switch from Holsteins to Jerseys—came in 2004 when Mount Rock Jerseys began adding brown cows to the herd. Jerseys were a better fit for their facilities, with its smaller stalls. The Mains also figured they could feed more animals on the same amount of land, boost milk value with higher components and improve calving ease and overall herd health. As well, they hoped to capitalize on a void they saw in cattle merchandising by serving as a single source of truckloads of Jerseys for markets in the Midwest and western part of the country. The transition took six years; the herd was fully Jersey by 2010.

Mount Rock Jerseys uses sexed semen for 90% of herd matings. The Mains consider milk yield, components and udder and health traits, including longevity and persistence in lactation, when selecting service sires. Their goal is to not only sustain the herd from a genetic standpoint, but also to merchandise excess breeding animals. Last fall, they sold 210 dairy herd replacements.

Herd size at Mount Rock Jerseys has grown from 60 cows in 1984, when the farm was purchased, to a pinnacle 952 cows in 2013. Facilities have been altered to accommodate the growth. In 1997, a six-row, 160-cow freestall barn was built

and an older parlor was converted to a double-12 herringbone parlor. A pair of four-row, 140-stall freestall barns were also constructed in 2006 and 2007. At that point, replacements were custom raised by heifer growers.

In 2013, the Mains made the decision to raise replacements on the home farm. The older, six-row barn was renovated to house heifers as well as cows and the milking string was reduced to 250 cows. In 2014, two new barns were built to raise calves from birth through six months. In one barn, calves are raised from birth through 63-days-of-age. They are fed milk replacer with three DeLaval automatic calf feeders. They are then moved to the second barn, where they are grouped in pens by age.

Manure is separated in a compost system, with liquids stored in a covered pit and sprayed on fields as fertilizer and solids treated and sold as solvents, the easiest sale he's ever made, noted Dan.

Mount Rock Jerseys farms about 1,200 acres of corn, beans, barley, wheat and rye, with half of the harvest sold as custom crops.

A future goal at Mount Rock Jerseys is to install robotic milkers and increase overall herd production by 10%.

Stoney Point Jerseys

Stoney Point Jerseys is owned and operated by John and Julie Mayer in Taneytown, Md. Located 15 miles south of Gettysburg, the farm is a tour stop on Thursday, June 22.

The 75-cow herd is enrolled on REAP. The Mayers get a hand with matings and showing from fellow Maryland Jersey breeder, Michael Heath of Boonsboro. The herd includes 35 Excellent and 47 Very Good cows and has an appraisal average



John and Julie Mayer own Stoney Point Jerseys in Taneytown, Md. The farm is a tour stop on June 22.

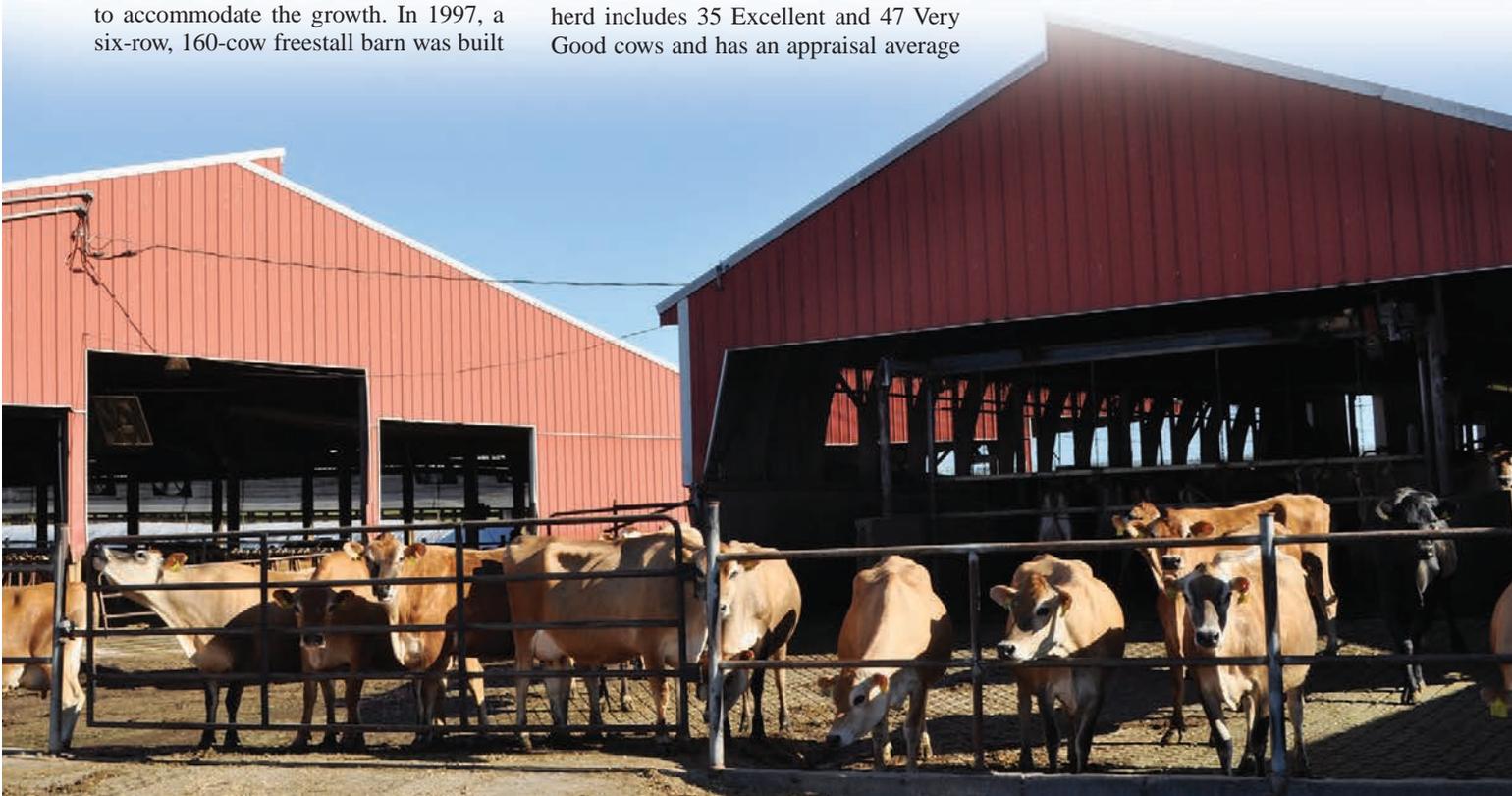
of 87.5%. A dozen cows are appraised Excellent-92% or higher.

The Mayers have been successful in securing quality foundation animals and developing the genetics at Stoney Point. Included in this group is SHF Sambo Fuchsia, Excellent-92%, purchased as a four-year-old from the Sycamore Hill Farm dispersal in 2004. Seventeen of her daughters bear the Stoney Point prefix as do another 48 females across three generations, to date. Included in this group is the highest-appraised cow today, Stoney Point Vindication Faline, Excellent-95%.

Another foundation was Bridon GC Eva-ET, Excellent-92%, with 10 daughters registered by the Mayers, including Stoney Point HG Encore-ET, Excellent-91%, and progeny sold to breeders in Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

A pair of purchases in the current donor dam program at Stoney Point are River Valley Minister Anthem II-ET, Excellent-93%, purchased at the Rendezvous at River Valley in 2016, and Harmony Cor-

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Pennsylvania Jerseys

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ners Firefly-ET, Excellent-92%, with six daughters sired by Tower Vue Prime Tequila-ET, GJPI -129, all under 16 months-of-age.

The Stoney Point prefix has graced the names of several show winners exhibited by other Jersey breeders as well. At The All American Jersey Show in 2013, Stoney Point Excitation Jamie, Excellent-96%, was named National Grand Champion for Andy Sauder, Tremont, Ill., and Stoney Point Tequila Sunrise was tapped National Junior Champion for Gene Iager. Stoney Point Giller Farrah-ET, Excellent-93%, a daughter of "Fuchsia," was Reserve Grand Champion of the 2014 California State Fair for Yosemite Jerseys, Brett Barlass and Robert Teixeira, Turlock, Calif., after her purchase from the Norse Star Summer Hummer in 2012.

The Mayers have built the farm from the ground up. When they made the purchase in 1987, the only structure on the 147-acre farmstead was an aging house. They built a parlor in 1989, followed by a freestall barn in 1992 and their home two years later. An additional 37 acres of neighboring property was purchased in 2013 and a new parlor and machine shed

were constructed in 2015. The Mayers also rent a small 30-acre farm, where they raise heifers and some crops.

John and Julie are proud stewards of the land. Cows are intensively and rotationally grazed. Corn, small grains, beans and alfalfa are raised with conservation in mind. Farm waterways, including the famous Monocacy River as a natural farm border on the east, are fenced off. The Mayers were named Cooperator of the Year by the Frederick Soil Conservation District in 2015.

John and Julie are active off the farm as well. John operates a sign business established by his father. Julie is a volunteer scuba diver for the Baltimore Aquarium. The farm and Julie's service to the aquarium were featured in a February 2016 episode of Maryland Farm & Harvest. The Mayers are also involved with their family, which includes son, Shawn, a skilled carpenter, and daughter, Ashley, and her husband, Ryan Savage, who operate the well-known Savage-Leigh Holsteins, and their children, Easton, 3, and Rhett, 1.

Ardent Farm

In Tucker Hardy's family, Jersey heritage runs deep. Five generations have raised brown cows on four different farms in central Pennsylvania.

The legacy was established with his great-great grandparents, John and Lilly Colpetzer, who milked a dozen Registered Jerseys and delivered milk to a local creamery with horse and buggy. Then came his great-grandparents, Robert and Fanny Colpetzer, who owned Level Acres Jerseys in Tyrone. His grandparents, Denny and Becky Hardy, operated Twix Jersey Farm until the herd was dispersed when his father, Jerome, left for service in the Marines and his uncle pursued another career of the farm.

In 2003, Jerome returned to his roots, establishing Ardent Farm with 45 cows on a rented facility in Saxton. Four years

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Tucker Hardy and his family operate Ardent Farm. Here he is pictured with one of his favorite matriarchs, Sniders Future Fenola, Excellent-95%, winner of the 2010 National Jersey Youth Production Contest.

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later, he purchased the current farm in Belleville. Since Jerome also works off the farm as a nutritionist and consultant and Tucker was cyber-schooled, the youngster got an early start managing the cows and farming the land. Two months ago, Tucker became sole proprietor of Ardent Farm, but continues to get help operating the farm from his father and brother, Sterling.

The herd is enrolled on REAP and has a March 2017 rolling herd average of 16,259 lbs. milk, 764 lbs. fat and 585 lbs. protein. The herd includes 23 Excellent and 52 Very Good cows (none lower) and has an appraisal average of 87%. Well over half the herd is first or second-lactation heifers, as the Hardys have been so pleased with their young cows that they have more heavily culled the older cows. Milk is sold to Lanco-Pennland. Tucker also raises all replacements and about five young bulls annually as herd sires for neighboring dairy producers.

Cows are milked in a tie stall barn, which Tucker hopes to remodel with additional stalls and tunnel ventilation. All forages for the milking cow are raised on about 60 acres. Hay and grain for heifers is purchased.

A cow that comes close to Tucker's

vision for an ideal cow is Sniders Future Fenola, appraised Excellent-95%, with outstanding type and the ability to transmit desirable traits to progeny. The Hardys purchased her in 2003 as a bred heifer from neighboring Jersey breeder, Kendy Beth Gable of New Enterprise. "Fenola" was named Junior All American Aged Cow in 2008 and started on her best record of 28,500 lbs. milk, 1,671 lbs. fat and 1,055 lbs. protein the following year at 7-8. With the record, she won the 2010 National Jersey Youth Production Contest. One of her daughters, AF Furor Fudge, Excellent-93%, the highest-appraised cow in the herd today, has calved eight times in 10 years and has multiple records over 20,000 lbs. milk.

Cass Ridge Jerseys

The farm began in 1938 by Norman and Stanley Oakes but the first Jersey cow didn't arrive until 1978., Sally and Gary Oakes are the current owners and operators of the farm, she- is the fourth generation to take over the farm. They have hired on Mike Friedl and his daughter who live with them while helping with the cattle. Mike does the planting, harvesting and maintains all the machinery on the farm.

A third of the herd population is Jersey. The milking herd consists of two-first



A view of the mixed herd at Cass Ridge Jerseys during the summer of 2016. The herd is owned by Sally and Gary Oakes.

lactation, four-second lactation and four-four-plus lactation cows. There are also 10 replacement heifers located on the farm as well. The herd is enrolled in the REAP program and an Equity investor.

The Oakes family is working on expanding their Jersey herd as heifers become available to increase production on the farm. The Jersey cow is valued for her profitable components and feed conversion efficiency by the family.

One of their standout cows of all time was Xanadu D Lester Bess, who had four consecutive lactations over 30,000 lbs. milk and over 200,000 lbs. in her lifetime.

Gary and Sally Oakes are proud to have bred a total of 19 Excellent scoring Jersey

cows, including two 94 point cows along with winner herd management awards.

Cedar Acres Jerseys

Cedar Acres Jerseys is operated by Marty and Lois Hoover in Mohnton. The couple started dairying in October 2003 as a self-described “mid-life crisis.” Marty had been working as a salesperson for a local feed mill, and, with nine years under his belt, figured he’d retire from the place. But, when they were given a chance to rent a farm to graze cattle, the Hoovers jumped at the chance and made the life-altering change. A family friend and mentor, Keith Campbell of Greene, N.Y., had Jerseys and had good things to say about the breed, so the Hoovers chose to stock the pastures with brown cows.

Marty and Lois purchased 34 head of Registered Jerseys to establish the herd, most from Potters Brook Jersey Farm in Litchfield, Maine. About 80% of the herd today traces to this breeding.

The Hoovers purchased the farm in Mohnton eight years ago. Cows are milked in a 70-stall tie-stall barn and intensively grazed during the summer on 10 acres. The Hoovers rent 60 acres, growing all the forage needs for the herd on a two-year rotation of corn, barley, Sudan and triticale. Milk is sold to Clover Dairy.

Marty is responsible for managing the herd, feeding and breeding. Louis takes care of calves and heifers and does field work. Racheal Jones, a single mother who has taken a special interest in the cows, is the herdsperson-in-training. A pair of high schoolers, Andrew and Drew, help with milking.



Marty and Lois Hoover with herd matriarch, Potters Brook Khan T Lill, Excellent-90%, in the group of cows they purchased to establish the herd in 2003. Pictured here at 15 years-of-age, she only recently left the herd.

The Hoovers have been using services offered through REAP to improve the herd. Over the past 10 years, the herd average has increased by more than 4,000 lbs. milk. Cedar Acres Jerseys was the leading fat producer in the state in 2016 among herds with 60-99 cows, with a herd average of 18,395 lbs. milk, 941 lbs. fat and 686 lbs. protein on 83 cows. The Hoovers have also been improving the genetic base and type of the herd. Cedar Acres ranks among the top 25% in the nation for genetic merit with a herd average JPI of +39. The milking string includes nine Excellent and 60 Very Good cows and has an appraisal average of 83.4%. At the most recent herd appraisal, Cedar Acres TBone Wonder was appraised Excellent-94%. The seven-year-old has a pair of records over 20,000 lbs. milk, 1,100 lbs. fat and 790 lbs. protein.

The Hoovers use BullsEye to select a group of service sires for the herd. They select bulls that are A2/A2, JH1 and JH2 free and plus for Daughter Pregnancy

Rate initially. Then they consider Jersey Udder Index (JUI), Productive Life, JPI and Cheese Merit Dollars. Typically, three proven and three genomic bulls are used, mating each cow or heifer individually to improve progeny.

The career change and Jerseys have been good for the Hoovers. Now both 58, they appreciate a calling that enables them to head to the barn at the crack of dawn and look down the line of their beautiful Jersey cows and relish their blessings.

Conn-Quest Jerseys

In 1945, the farm was originally an all registered Holstein herd. The Jersey herd started about 15 years ago when 4-Hers needed housing for their Jerseys. Four years ago, Scott and Connie Troutman, Mohrsville, decided to expand their herd with Jerseys carrying the prefix Conn-Quest Jerseys, which Scott says stands for Connie’s quest for breeding amazing Jerseys.

On the farm, Scott is head of the feeding and management while Connie takes on herd health and sire selection. Also on the farm is Connie’s mother, Ruth, who maintains the accounting records. Scott and Connie have two sons who help on the farm: Jason sustains the crop production and custom harvest business and Eric is the herdsman. The farm is family run and owned with two part-time milkers. Their milk is marketed through MD-VA Co-op.

They are currently milking 55 Jerseys and 145 Holsteins on the farm with 75 heifers. They raise approximately 10 Jersey

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Connie and Scott Troutman own and operate their Jersey herd at Conn-Quest Jerseys, Mohrsville. Connie is holding Crossbrook HG Devin and Scott is holding River Valley Chrome Rejoyce.

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bulls a year to sell for breeding and they are currently enrolled in the REAP program.

When selecting sires for their breeding program they stress high udder traits and health traits. Connie strives to utilize all the genomic information available to breed a cow with better health and longevity.

The farm would like to develop their foundation cows with the ability to be consigned in sales. "The opportunity to consign to the National Heifer Sale feels great to give something back to Jersey youth."

Delaware Valley University

Delaware Valley University prides itself on being the only institute on the east coast able to provide students experience with all major breeds of domestic dairy cattle. The Registered Jersey herd at the university in Doylestown numbers 10 cows and seven heifers. The herd also includes Ayrshires, Brown Swiss, Guernseys, Holsteins and Milking Shorthorns.

The herd is managed by Darrin Mayer, superintendent, and Ethan Arsenault, assistant superintendent, and operated by the pair and 20 student employees. Darrin, a Pennsylvania State University (PSU) alumnus, has been managing the herd at Delaware Valley for 17 years and earned a master's degree in food and agribusiness from the college as well. Ethan graduated from Delaware Valley and has been em-



The newest facility upgrade at Delaware Valley University is a Virginia style calf barn for calves from birth through weaning.

ployed by the school since May 2016.

The Jersey herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2016 lactation average of 18,195 lbs. milk, 923 lbs. fat and 674 lbs. protein. The herd includes one Excellent and eight Very Good cows (none lower) and has an appraisal average of 83.9%.

Cows are managed in facilities that were constructed in 1989. They are milked in a double-five parallel parlor and housed in a freestall barn with water mattresses. They are fed in a covered bunk in an open lot with access to the freestalls. Special needs cows are housed in eight, bedded pack box stalls. Dry cows are pastured year 'round. Manure is stored in a slurry tank and then composted for use on campus.

Calves and heifers are raised in a heifer barn in group pens based on size. The most recent facility upgrade is a new Virginia-style barn for calves from birth through weaning. The barn includes 12 pens for bottle calves and two pens for calves post weaning. The investment has paid off with healthier, cleaner calves and an improved environment for calf caretakers.

A future investment is genotyping and in-vitro fertilization to grow the genetic base of the herd.

Delaware Valley was founded in 1896 as the National Farm School by Joseph Krauskopf with an emphasis on learning by doing. Today, the university offers majors in natural sciences, business and humanities. The 1,000-acre complex includes campus, an arboretum, acreage for crops and facilities for equine, beef and swine studies.

The dairy science club hosts a spring sale each year, cataloging about 95 head from guest consignors representing each breed. Delaware Valley also hosts Activities Day, a three-day event resembling a county fair, each spring and operates a farmer's market on campus.

Edn-Ru Jerseys

Edn-Ru Jerseys is operated by Harold E. Harpster and his family in Boalsburg. The herd of 50 cows is managed in a rented facility that includes a 30-cow tie-stall barn and a freestall barn for an additional 30 head.

Though the herd has humble roots—a handful of three-quartered and older cull cows from local Jersey breeders—it now has a reputation as being a well-bred group of stylish, productive cows. Edn-Ru Jerseys is enrolled on REAP and has a 2016 lactation average of 20,340 lbs. milk, 1,035 lbs. fat and 789 lbs. protein. The herd includes 28 Excellent and 19 Very Good cows (none lower) and has an appraisal average of 89.2%. A dozen cows are appraised Excellent-92% or higher, includ-



Harold Harpster, left, and his family operate Edn-Ru Jerseys in Boalsburg near State College. Grandson, Gregory McMurtrie, herd manager, is at the halter of Edn-Ru Action Ivankas Ivana, Excellent-93%, a three-time Supreme Champion.

ing Edn-Ru Paramount Leadsman Lisa and Edn-Ru Rocket Peekabo Prisilla, both Excellent-94%. The herd is a contract advertiser with the *Jersey Journal*. Milk is sold to Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers.

The business is a family affair, operated by three generations of Harpsters and their spouses: daughter Joyce Martz and her husband, Doug, and their children, Danielle and Mary Zimmerman, and Mary's husband, Christopher; daughter Eugena McMurtrie, and her husband, Mike, and their children, Jessica and Gregory, who is the current herdsman.

Dairying as a career was first pursued by the Harpster family in 1936, when Harold's grandparents, Frank and Clara, bought a farm near State College, Pa., and began milking Holsteins. The farm was then passed to Harold's parents, Russell and Edna, the namesake for the Edn-Ru prefix. Harold took reins of the business in 1969. Jerseys came to the place in the 1970s as 4-H projects for the girls and the Holsteins were eventually phased out. The homestead was sold in 2005 after Russell passed away and the Harpsters moved the herd to its current home in Boalsburg.

The Harpsters caught the show bug in 1977 when they took their first entry to The All American Jersey Show and placed third in a class of 33 heifers. The family has routinely shown at The All American in the years since, as well as several local fairs and the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where they have captured the Premier Breeder banner 13 consecutive years and the Premier Exhibitor banner 11 times.

Other Jersey breeders have taken notice of their breeding acumen as well, purchasing purple-banner-winners privately or at leading consignment sales. Included in this group are En-Ru Tequila Lilaes Lilac, two-time Reserve All American and Reserve Intermediate Champion of the 2013 Mid-Atlantic Regional Jersey Show for Marisa A. Reitnouer, Mohrsville, Pa., and Edn-Ru Tequila Prissy Prilly, first

place milking yearling at the 2015 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair for Milk Source Genetics, Kaukauna, Wis.

Four Springs Jerseys

Craig and Susan Wicker purchased their first Registered Jersey in 1980 and registered their first animal with the Four Springs prefix the following year. Today, their herd of nine milking cows is managed with the herd at Ardent Farm, owned by the Hardy family, in Belleville. Heifers are raised at the farm owned by Susan's father, Fred Burris. Susan, a veterinarian, and Craig, a certified veterinarian technician, also operate a clinic in Centre Hall.

The Wicker's milking herd has had several homes since it was established. Initially, cows were raised on Susan's father's farm. When they outgrew facilities, they moved to the farm in Centre Hall owned by Jake and Sally Tanis and were managed with the couple's herd of Holsteins. Four Springs Jerseys joined the herd at Ardent Farm in 2007.

The Wickers showed extensively through the 1980s and 1990s. They retired from the pastime in 2000 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where they received both the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor banners. Their herd of Four Spring Jerseys was represented thereafter on the tanbark

trail by Susan's niece, Jennifer Groff, who is wrapping up a decade of youth projects this year.

Four Springs Jerseys is enrolled on REAP and a contract advertiser with the *Jersey Journal*. The herd has ranked nationally for production, ranking as high as second for fat and third for milk and protein in 2004. A cow bred by the Wickers, Four Springs Counciller Crystal, Excellent-92%, won the 2003 National Jersey Youth Production Contest for Josh Kellerman, son of their former herdsman.

The "M" cow family, which comprises a good part of today's herd, traces to Goodwin Title Beauty Miss 1L, purchased by the Wickers in 1983. Four members of the cow family are appraised Excellent, including Four Springs Remake Miss Maude, Excellent-93%. The 10-year-old matriarch has been an equity builder for the Wickers, with seven daughters by natural birth, including Four Springs Joshua Miss Marie, who became a fourth generation Excellent when she was appraised 90 points at 3-1. Another Excellent daughter-dam duo in the herd today is Four Springs Miles Meredith and her dam, Four Springs Governor Miss Mira.

Some of their best times have been with people they've met through their involvement with Jerseys, the Wickers note. The



Craig Wicker and his wife, Susan, operate Four Springs Jerseys. The cows are managed with the dairy herd at Ardent Farm in Belleville.

Jersey cow has taken them to the Isle of Jersey and countless other beautiful places in this country, where they have made wonderful friends over the past four decades.

Heavens Blessins Farm

For Ernest and Wanda Derr, Linden, Jerseys entered their lives through 4-H projects while they were growing up. In 1986, they began milking their own Jerseys at three rented farms until they could purchase their own farm in 1996. More than 20 years later, Heavens Blessins Farm is still located on this land today.

Like father, like son, Matt Derr and Ernest are the primary work force on the farm. They feed and milk the cattle, while

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Matt and Alicia Derr holding their son Blake with a group of dry cows at Heavens Blessin Farm in Linden.

Pennsylvania Jerseys

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sticking to their “old time family farm work” on the 450 acres of land, spreading manure and fertilizer, planting, harvesting and storing the crops. Wanda’s responsibilities include calf care management, registration, and steps in as a relief milker when she is needed. Matt’s wife, Alicia helps with the calf care, manages the bookwork and is also a relief milker.

As of December 2016, the farm’s rolling herd average (RHA) was 19,226 lbs. milk, 905 lbs. fat, and 701 lbs. protein on 84 cows. The farm also contains roughly 80 replacement heifers and they are currently enrolled in the REAP program. Heavens Blessins Farm markets their milk to Dairy Farmers of America. The farm is breeding excellent cows and ranking in the top of the nation for milk and protein, with 20,974 lbs. milk and 755 lbs. protein.

Matt and Wanda team up to perfect their breeding program while Ernie and Matt do the breeding. They use Bullseye and JerseyMate as the core of their breeding program. Typically, bulls must be higher than +300 pounds of milk to be considered for their breeding program. They then eliminate bulls with a negative udder traits, while looking at rump and leg traits. They would like to improve their components so they focus on lower fat producing animals and concentrate on improving fat production in the herd.

The ability to handle heat and humidity, lower feed intake and lower waste production are some of the characteristics that make the Jersey cow most profitable for Heavens Blessins Farm. “They have such unique personalities making life interesting every day. You never know what is around the corner when you are working with the Jersey cow.”

Highland-H Farm

Beginning in the 1950s as a predominant Holstein herd, Highland-H, introduced a Jersey cow in 1996. A group of Jerseys was added to the herd in 1999 and has

been growing ever since. Highland-H is now one-third Jersey, run by Dale, Coleen and their daughter Christy Hindman Lyle. Dale oversees the herd health, breeding program and crop production. Coleen balances bookkeeping, milking and feeding calves, while Christy maintains herd health with vaccinations, dry treating along with milking and feeding daily.

In March the rolling herd average was 18,284 lbs. milk, 899 lbs. fat and 685 lbs. protein on 33 cows. Their milk is marketed to Dean Foods and they are currently enrolled in the REAP program. Type is the Hindman’s main breeding objective



Christy Hindman Lyle holding her daughter Bristol, and Coleen and Dale Hindman standing beside the Highland-H Farm sign outside the farm.

and they feed for milk production while focusing on a well attached mammary system and good feet and legs. The high components in the Jersey’s milk are very important to the profitability of the farm.

The Hindman family’s greatest accomplishment with their Jerseys was the bred and owned Junior Champion Highland-H Minister Sea, at the 2012 All American Jersey Show in Louisville, Ky.

Hillacres Jerseys

Hillacres Jerseys is a diversified Jersey business operated by Thomas and Amanda Arrowsmith and their children, Jonny, 16, Caroline, 15, Alex, 13, and Nicole, 12, in Peach Bottom. The Arrowsmiths manage a herd of 150 Registered Jerseys and finish about 30 Jersey steers annually. They also make artisan cheese and farm 140 acres in Lancaster County.

The herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2016 lactation average of 16,275 lbs. milk, 870 lbs. fat and 630 lbs. protein. Hillacres Jerseys includes 36 Excellent and 33 Very Good cows (none lower) and has an appraisal average of 88.4%. Eleven cows are appraised Excellent-93% or higher. The Arrowsmiths use JerseyTags for permanent identification.

The farm has had Registered Jerseys since 1912. Tom’s parents, William and Geraldine, took ownership of the farm and herd in 1959. Tom began to take reins

of herd management shortly after high school graduation. He and Mandy married in 1999 and assumed responsibility for operation of the farm in 2002. Every member of the family is involved with the business. Tom handles milking, feeding, breeding and crops while Mandy and the kids feed calves and heifers. Mandy also keeps the farm books and registers calves. The girls milk when needed.

The Arrowsmiths have capitalized on their location—a popular tourist destination—and Jersey advantages—rich milk and delicious beef—to sustain the family farm. In 2003, they started processing milk for cheese. Six year later, they built a facility to process additional cheese. The Arrowsmiths produce a variety of cheeses, including Cheddar and Colby and flavored variations of the two, feta, ricotta, quark and several artisan cheeses. Cheese and beef are sold to consumers at farmer’s markets in Philadelphia and New Jersey. Products are sold wholesale to orchards and specialty stores across southeastern Pennsylvania.

Since he received the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder award in 2000, Tom has continued to develop the Hillacres Jersey herd. His goal is to breed functional cows with snugly attached udders that will last lactation-after-lactation and fancy cows that do well in the show ring. High-visibility show winners include Hillacres Morrae Maryland, Excellent-95%, winner of the National Jersey Jug Futurity in 2011 for Peter Vail and Budjon Farms, Lomira, Wis., and Hillacres Be A Star, Supreme Champion of the North American International Livestock Exposition in 2009 for Steven Pozzi, Petaluma, Calif. As well, Hillacres Rhonda Ricotta, Excellent-90%, was named All American Milking Yearling in 2009. Another matriarch is 19-year-old Hillacres Eggo Envy, Excellent-93%, who placed in the 2015 AJCA Leading Living Lifetime Production Contest with 271,683 lbs. milk, 11,687 lbs. fat and 9,689 lbs. protein in 4,492 days at 15 lactations.

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Tom and Mandy Arrowsmith, front left and second right, operate Hillacres Jerseys with their children, Jonny, front, Caroline, third left, Alex, center, and Nicole, right.

Pennsylvania Jerseys

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Tom plans to continue to grow these genetics through the donor dam program, which currently includes “Ricotta” and Hillacres Kanadian Morrae, the dam of “Maryland.”

Kenny Jersey Farm LLC

Bob and Alma Kenny began working as the hired hands on a farm in Enon Valley, Pa., in 1952. Eventually, the couple purchased the small herd of Jersey cattle, equipment and farm that is now the home of Kenny Jersey Farm.

Clayton Kenny and his wife, Renée, are the third generation to own and operate the farm. In 2015 they purchased the cattle and equipment to begin Kenny Jersey Farm, LLC. Their children, Nora and Landon will be the fourth generation on the farm.

Clayton and Renée handle the day to day operation of the farm including herd health, calf care and employee management. While Clayton remains in charge of equipment maintenance, feed inventories, feed rations and crop growth and management. Renée maintains all the financial records and bookkeeping for the farm. Bob and Alma remain active in the farm with decision making and Bob continues to enjoy the grazing program.



The Kenny family—Bob and Alma Kenny, Clayton and Renée and their children—own and operate Kenny Jersey Farm LLC in Enon Valley. Landon and Nora are the fourth generation of the Kenny family to grow up on the farm.

“We appreciate the community of fellow Jersey breeders the most,” they wrote.

As of January, their rolling herd average is 15,693 lbs. milk, 813 lbs. fat, 595 lbs. protein on 216 cows with 155 heifers. Their milk is marketed through United Dairy.

Kenny Jersey Farm LLC., is a REAP herd and Equity member. They utilize the appraisal program, registering their calves and the reduced rates to genomic test their cattle. They use JerseyMate and are a *Jersey Journal* congract advertiser. Within the next three years Clayton and Renée are putting a focus on cow comfort to further improve their herd and they think feed efficiency is the most profitable part

of the Jersey cow.

Latimore Jerseys

Janet Ludwig and her family fell in love with the little brown cow more than 20 years ago. Over the years, they have expanded and grown their herd putting a lot of value on type traits. They love the Jersey cow’s ability to ‘turn green grass into green bills.’ The herd is enrolled in the REAP program and is an Equity Investor.

Janet’s mother manages the farms book-keeping and her father runs the skid loader and helps where he is needed. They hope to improve their use of pasture and they want to continue their flush and IVF program.

One of their favorite Jerseys is Latimore Counciller Ingrid, Excellent-95%. She is 14-years-old with her offspring running five generations deep within the herd.



Rockin J Ringo Joyce is the cow that started it all for Joseph Stitt at Laurel-Brook Jerseys.

Their farm is located in York Springs, Pa., just 15 minutes from Gettysburg.

Laurel-Brook Jerseys

Jerseys entered Joseph Stitt's life in 2002 at the North American International Livestock Expo when he purchased Rock-in J Ringo Joyce as a senior 2-year-old. Every Jersey currently on the farm can be traced back to 'Joyce' and they have an average appraisal score of 89.

On the farm in Belleville, Joseph takes on the responsibility of feeding calves, sire selection and matings of the herd. While selecting sires he looks for solid type and strong maternal families, placing most emphasis on mammary traits and feet and legs. His sister, Susan Sellers, oversees the daily operation of the farm, animal care and feeding.

Joseph hopes to continue breeding solid type animals and he hopes one of the two cows entered in the Jersey Jug will be good enough to walk on the green shavings in 2018. Joseph is also currently enrolled in the REAP program.

Little Hill Farm

Little Hill Farm is a small family owned and operated dairy farm in Lebanon. Kevin and Terry Shuey along with Rich Hill started their dairy as a primarily Holstein and Brown Swiss herd. In 2010, Kevin and Terry's daughter, Allison, introduced her first Jersey calf to the farm.

Their Jersey herd has expanded since the first addition. Allison is extremely happy to announce that she just bred her first Excellent Jersey cow.

While striving for excellence, the Shuey family collectively selects bulls that are over +1.0 for PTA Type and have positive Daughter Pregnancy Rate and positive milk and components. They are currently enrolled in the REAP program.

Allison says the Jersey cow is most profitable for their farm because they are trouble free, aggressive eaters, and they have high milk production with high components. She also loves their personalities



Allison Shuey has taken great pride in showing her Jerseys. Here she poses with Little Hill Belvedere Hazel, at the Schuylkill County Fair.



Pamela and Craig Rhein operate Meadowview Farm in Pine Grove with his brother, Terry, and mother, Dawn.

and hardiness. One of Allison's goals for the farm is to start showing and marketing more of her Jersey cattle

Meadow View Farm

Meadow View Farm is operated by the Rhein family—brothers Terry and Craig and their mother, Dawn—in Pine Grove. The brothers are third-generation Jersey producers, breeding cattle using the MVF prefix.

The 126-cow herd at Meadow View Farm is enrolled on REAP. It has been on official DHIA test since 1933 and has a 2016 lactation average of 21,253 lbs. milk, 929 lbs. fat and 729 lbs. protein. Meadow View Farm ranks among the top 25% in the nation for genetic merit with a herd average JPI of +50. More than 40% of the milking string is genotyped. The dairy has contributed to Project Equity for more than 30 years.

Cows are milked in a double-10 rapid-exit parlor built and housed in a freestall barn with capacity for 300 head. The Rheins farm 300 acres of owned land and 400 acres of rented land, growing all the feed needs for the herd and selling half as cash crops. They raise corn, soybeans and wheat, as well as certified organic alfalfa hay.

Meadow View Farm has breed several bulls that rank among the breed's best for genetic merit, including the former #1 milk bull, MVF Bold Venture Daniel, GJPI +1, with more than 8,600 daughters in his proof. Contemporary bulls include MVF Axis Topsy 2146-ET, GJPI +111, ranked on the current G-code list, and, MVF Jevon Lotto-ET, GJPI +72, who was heavily used in contract matings.

Females have ranked among on the genetic lists as well. Included in this list is the high-seller of the all-donation 2005 National Heifer Sale, chaired by Craig, MVF Paramount Golda 1218-ET, sold to the Golden River Syndicate, Seymour, Wis., for \$14,100.

Meadow View Farm has hosted several sales at the farm over the years. From

1999-2003, the Rhein family hosted the Summer Splash at Meadow View Sale. The past three years, the Rheins have hosted the Mid-Atlantic Fall Jersey Classic at the farm in September.

Craig has been equally active off the farm. He served as AJCA Director from the Third District for two terms beginning in 2003. He is a former president of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Association and co-chaired the National Heifer Sale in 1985 and in 2005, when it was an all-donation event. He received the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder Award in 1994 and is this year's recipient of the AJCA Distinguished Service Award.

Mish-Ro Jerseys

Mish-Ro began with Gary and Denise Morian milking eight cows by hand before and after work every day. The Jersey cow made its way into their herd after 1989, once they built a 40-cow tie stall facility. Today, there are still multiple animals that trace back to one of the original Jerseys, Irishtown SS Trick.

Gary is the owner and manager of the farm, upholding the responsibility of crop production, equipment maintenance, finance, building projects, repairs, etc. Their daughters are very active on the farm as well. Rose is the calf manager along with assisting with all things mechanical and feed related, while Michelle handles milking, herd health, records, breeding and mating.

Breeding long-lived, balanced cattle who produce well for many years is their goal. When selecting sires for the herd, they tend to choose bulls that have a combination of good type and production.

As of April, their rolling herd average was 15,707 lbs. milk, 744 lbs. fat and 555 lbs. protein on 18 Jersey cows. All the milk is marketed to United Dairy, Uniontown, Pa., and they are currently enrolled in the TPE program. The herd's average appraisal score is 87.8%, including Mish-Ro

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The team of Mish-Ro are pictured from left: Michelle Morian is holding Mish-Ro Fire Libby, Very Good-88%, Denise and Gary Morian, Joan and Jeff Hall, and Rose and Cody Wise are holding Mish-Ro Absolute Chaos, Very Good-85%.

Pennsylvania Jerseys

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On Time Nastia, Excellent-93% and Mish-Ro Coalition Gentry, Excellent-92%.

“I would say that the greatest accomplishment on our farm has been Dad and Mom’s beginning a dairy with having no assets (land, cattle, nor equipment), to now farming 300 acres, having nearly 100 head, and having a nice, older line of equipment while having very little debt,” Michelle wrote.

In the future, Mish-Ro is hoping to update their facilities and they are working toward a more efficient means of raising calves. They have found that the Jersey, compared to the other breeds on the farm, breeds back more efficiently and are less likely to be affected by heat stress. The Jerseys on the farm have a lower somatic cell count and a smaller carbon footprint.

“There is never a dull moment with Jerseys! They are inquisitive, spirited, vivacious little creatures who make you laugh almost every moment of the day” Michelle wrote.

Musser Run Jerseys

Musser Run Jerseys is operated by Joe and Kristin Diehl and their children, Hannah, 17, Naomi, 15, Sarah, 12, and Zachary, 10, in Mcveytown.

The dairy, named after the unpaved, seasonal road that leads to the place, is a first-generation enterprise. Joe was raised in the suburbs of Chicago but moved to Pennsylvania to attend Penn State, the alma mater of his father. Kristin grew up on a Holstein farm in Pennsylvania, graduating from Messiah College with a degree in behavioral studies. Always inter-



Joe and Kristin Diehl and their children, Hannah, Zachary, Naomi and Sarah, operate Musser Run Jerseys in Mcveytown.

ested in cattle, Joe took a job working for Kristin’s father and uncle doing a variety of farm tasks. The two married in 1996. They purchased 40 head of Jerseys two years later and managed them on a small, rented farm in Huntingdon County. They purchased the present farm in 2001.

Over the past 15 years, the Diehls have been improving the facilities and the herd using AJCA services. Joe became a lifetime member of the AJCA in 2008. The couple used the Genetic Recovery and Jersey Expansion programs to bring the herd to herd register status.

The 164-cow herd is enrolled on REAP and has a January 2017 rolling herd average of 18,652 lbs. milk, 871 lbs. fat and 684 lbs. protein. Musser Run Jerseys uses JerseyTags for permanent identification, in part because they can customize the tags. The Diehls family has begun to merchandise excess breeding stock through Jersey Marketing Service. Milk is sold to Dairy Farmers of America.

The family has bred at least 13 Excellent cows, including Musser Run Riley Orchid,

Excellent-90%, with a two lactation m.e. of 21,509–899–772. Another member of the herd, Musser Run Maddys Mocha, was named Supreme Champion at the 2014 Mifflin County Youth Fair for Hannah.

Recent facility improvements include a new heifer barn in 2009, a swing-12 parlor in 2015 and a new maternity/dry cow barn and pasteurizer in 2016. The Diehls note that the pasteurizer was expensive, but one of the best investments they ever made for raising healthier calves. Cows are housed in a covered freestall barn with access to a covered, drive-through feed bunk. Calves are raised in hutches and a Virginia-style calf barn.

Every member of the family is involved in the operation of the farm, including Joe’s parents, John and Rachel, who help part-time with the calves. Musser Run Jerseys also employs two part-time milkers and another full-time employee.

Feed and reproductive efficiency are two Jersey advantages they appreciate most. In a decade, the herd grew from 40 to 164 cows—all from internal growth. All the while, the family has fed the growing herd on the same 145 acres of farm land.

Nobledale Farm

In 1832, Andrew Jackson was re-elected president of the United States. That same year—185 years ago—the Noble family began farming in northern Pennsylvania in the town of Gillett. The Nobles began raising Registered Jerseys in 1888. Today, the 360-acre farm is a 50-50 partnership between brothers Stuart and Stephen Noble, who share management duties of the farm. The pair get a hand running the business from Stuart’s wife, Elaine, and their children, Wesley, Maria and Cory, the eighth generation to be involved in daily operation of the farm.

Wesley is now a full-time employee, responsible for milking, heifer care, breeding and the show string. Maria, a senior at Empire State College (State University of New York) majoring in communications



The Nobles—Stuart, Cory, Elaine, Wesley, Stephen and Maria—operate Nobledale Farm on land that has been in the family since 1832. Here they are pictured with a current favorite, Nobledale Action Bella, Excellent-93%.

and public relations, works part-time, helping with calves and the show string and doing relief milking. Elaine and Cory are relief milkers and calf and cow caretakers. The Nobles are also very active in Jersey youth activities. Wesley placed seventh in the 2015 National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest and Maria is the reigning National Jersey Queen.

The Noble's 80-cow herd is enrolled on REAP and has a February rolling herd average of 17,550 lbs. milk, 802 lbs. fat and 626 lbs. protein. The herd includes 16 Excellent and 55 Very Good cows and has an appraisal average of 85.9%. The Nobles use JerseyTags for permanent identification and advertise with the *Jersey Journal* on a contract basis. Milk is sold to Dairy Farmers of America and shipped to the Leprino Foods in Waverly, N.Y., or Schneider-Valley Farms Dairy in Williamsport, Pa.

About 20% of the herd is bred for show. The remainder of the herd is bred using high-genetic service sires that will produce fertile cows that breed back in a timely manner, with sound udders and component-dense milk. As such, bulls must be herd registry status and have a DPR of at least +1.0, a SCS equal to or lower than +2.9, a JUI greater than +20, and

combined fat and protein yield over +50.

One of the farm's most well-known, heavily-merchandised cow families traces to matriarch, Nobledale Juno Vermont, Excellent-94%. In all, she has 52 registered progeny and numerous other descendants. One of her daughters, Nobledale Pitino Victoria-ET, Excellent-94%, sold in The All American Jersey Sale in 2002 to Goff Dairy, Hobbs, N.M., for \$15,000. "Victoria" has 300 descendants across six generations to date, including Dave-Ron Militia Security, who was syndicated in The All American Jersey Sale in 2007.

As the eighth generation becomes more involved with the business, the family plans to explore potential for value-added products, genotype the entire herd as routine and increase marketing efforts for males and females alike.

Normandell Farms

The Norman family has been operating Normandell Farms in Liberty since 1904 and raising Registered Jerseys since the 1920s. The current proprietors are Ernest and David and their wives, Dorothy and Aggie, respectively. The brothers are the third generation to operate the 200-acre farm in the northern part of the state near the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon.



Normandell Farms is operated by the Norman family—Ernest and Dorothy Norman, left, and Aggie and David Norman, right. Ernest and Dorothy's daughter and son-in-law, Cathleen and Roger Alexander, center, operate Rog-Al Jerseys, at Normandell Farms as well. Also pictured is their son, Matthew, front.

The 70-cow herd is enrolled on REAP and has a March 2017 rolling herd average of 17,395 lbs. milk, 883 lbs. fat and 651 lbs. protein. The herd ranks among the top 25% in the nation for genetic merit with a herd average JPI of +48 (April 2017). Normandell Jerseys includes seven Excellent and 51 Very Good cows and has an appraisal average of 83.9%. The Normans genotype about 25% of the herd, use JerseyTags for permanent identification and JerseyMate for herd matings. They are

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Pennsylvania Jerseys

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contract advertisers with the *Jersey Journal* and market milk to Dairy Farmers of America.

Cows are milked in a parlor and housed in a freestall barn built in 2001. Generally, Ernest focuses on crops and machinery and David manages the cows. Aggie feeds calves. Rog-Al Jerseys, the Registered Jersey herd owned by Ernest's daughter and son-in-law, Cathleen and Roger, is also managed at Normandell Farms.

The Normans have bred several notable Registered Jerseys, including former world milk and protein champion, Normandell Khan Ariel. She was purchased by Norse Star Jerseys, Westby, Wis., as a bred heifer and became the champion in 2001 with production of 43,023 lbs. milk, 1,914 lbs. fat and 1,529 lbs. protein in 365 days as a junior four-year-old. More recently, JX Normandell Harris Wesley {5}, GJPI +168, available through ABS Global Inc., was ranked #4 among G-code bulls following the August 2016 genetic evaluations.

Though breeding and raising Jerseys has been enjoyable for the Normans, they most appreciate the brown cow for the people she has brought into their lives and the environment she's provided for raising their families. David has served the state Jersey association as president and as secretary-treasurer for 20-plus years. He was an AJCA Director for two terms beginning in 2009. He and Aggie are currently chairing the committee to host the 2017 AJCA-NAJ Annual Meeting. The pair received the AJCC Young Jersey Breeder Award in 1987; Roger and Kathleen earned the award in 2009. Ernest is dairy chair for the Tioga County Fair and a township supervisor.

The Normans have also sponsored the Norman Genetic Award for the state's leading genetic herd for more than three decades and has contributed to the AJCC Research Foundation at the President's Club level.



Mark Knepper, left, and his sons, Denny, Allen and Phillip, pose in front of the heifer barn at Red Hills Dairy in Hustontown. The dairy is among the state's largest Registered Jersey dairies, with 370 milking cows.

Red Hills Dairy

Among the largest REAP herds in the state is the 370-cow Red Hills Dairy owned by Mark Knepper and his family in Hustontown.

The farm was established by Mark's grandfather, Joel Knepper, and then passed to Mark's late father, Fredric. Mark and his brother, Milton, took reins of the business in 2002. Four years later, Mark became sole proprietor. The farm was incorporated as an LLC in 2014, with Mark and his wife, Lisa, and their sons, Denny and Allen, as proprietors. Their youngest son, Phillip, is also employed by the farm, as are two other full-time employees and a son-in-law, who milks part-time.

The dairy was established with Holsteins; Jerseys were added in the 1960s. Because of their feed and reproductive efficiency, components and longevity, the Kneppers focused on Jerseys and phased out the Holsteins. The herd has been fully Jersey since the late 1990s.

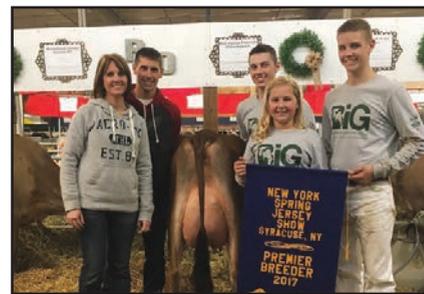
The sprawling complex at Red Hills Dairy includes a freestall barn with capacity for 400 cows, initially built for 150 cows and expanded for another 200-250 cows in 2015. The two-row, drive-through barn includes an automatic alley scraper. Cows are milked in a double-eight parallel parlor constructed in 1993. Manure is stored in a million-gallon slurry tank. Calves are raised in older, but efficient wooden hutches. Weaned heifers are raised in groups by age until they are bred in a 240' x 60' heifer barn built in 2008. Bred and springing heifers are raised in a bank barn.

The Kneppers farm 700 acres of corn, triticale and alfalfa as forages for the herd. Production and functional type are the primary traits of focus in the breeding program, as the Kneppers use bulls that are a minimum +700 lbs. milk and no lower than +1.2 for type. The March 2017 rolling herd average is 20,168 lbs. milk. The appraisal average for the herd is 80.3%.

The family plans to grow the milking string to 400 cows and then market extra breeding stock, primarily bred heifers. Since their milk marketing company, Land O'Lakes, established a milk quota in the fall of 2014, there is little incentive to grow cow numbers beyond 400.

Reich-Dale Jerseys

As the eighth generation to grow up on Reich-Dale Farm, it was "in the blood" as the saying goes for Curtis Reichard, who is operating the family business today with his wife, Autumn, and their children, Skyler, 17, Hayden, 14, and Shaylin, 10. The land in Chambersburg that is now Reich-Dale Farm was deeded to his family



Reich-Dale Jerseys was recently named Premier Breeder of the New York Spring Carousel Jersey Show. The Registered Jersey dairy is owned by Curtis and Autumn Reichard and their children, Skyler, Shaylin and Hayden, and his family.

in 1874 and has been passed through eight generations.

Curtis, the youngest of four sons, got hands-on experience with the cows working on the farm and through 4-H and FFA projects. He met his high school sweetheart and future wife, who grew up on a dairy farm as well, at the Franklin County Fair in 1997. They married in 1999. Curtis attended Penn State for a year and then worked for two other dairies before returning home in 2000.

The dairy at Reich-Dale Farm was established with black and whites. Jerseys came to the place as youth projects for Curtis' brother, Brian, in 1985. Today, the 100-cow milking string is a mix of about 50 Jerseys, 40 Holsteins, 10 Brown Swiss and Guernseys. Milk is sold to Dairy Farmers of America. The Jersey herd is enrolled on REAP. The Reichards focus on type in the breeding program, which is reflected in the appraisal statistics. The herd includes 32 Excellent and 27 Very Good cows (none lower) and has a herd average of 88.6%. Nine cows are appraised Excellent-92% or higher.

Curtis manages the herd and gets a hand with milking and feeding from Autumn and the kids. His father, Ed, manages the crops and his mother, Frances, feeds calves and milks. Autumn also is the mastermind behind landscaping at the farm. The well-kept, beautiful farm recently received the Dairy of Distinction award.

Cows are milked in a double-five her-ringbone parlor and housed in a freestall barn with 75 stalls and headlocks. Show cows are cared for in three box stalls. Calves are raised in calf hutches and then in a heifer barn in nine groups by age. The Reichards farm 150 acres of corn, alfalfa, barley and soybeans and have begun to double crop with triticale. Forages are stored in a bunker silo.

Passion for Jerseys and showing has been passed through the generations as well. Curtis established his Jersey herd

in 1989 at the age of eight with Pleasant Valley Slam Sandee, a purchase from neighbors Doug and Julie Martin, also of Chambersburg. One of her daughters, Reich-Dale Brigadier Sandra Dee, Excellent-94%, was named Junior National Grand Champion in 1997. Her great-great-granddaughter, Reich-Dale Vaden Strollin, is the reigning Junior National Grand Champion for Hayden.

The Excellent-91% "Strollin" is backed by Reich-Dale breeding on the top and bottom sides of her pedigree. She is sired by Reich-Dale Vaden-ET, GJPI -60, a son of Select-Scott Minister-ET, GJPI -86, out of Reich-Dale Starlite Vinesse, Excellent-91%, who was tapped Reserve Intermediate Champion of The All American Jersey Show as a junior two-year-old in 2008 for Skyler.

Other successes at the granddaddy of all Jersey shows are Reich-Dale Counciller Hali, Excellent-94%, 2008 All American Four-Year-Old, and Reich-Dale Action Survivor-ET, Excellent-93%, 2014 Reserve All American Junior Three-Year-Old.

It was the breeding success of "Sandra Dee" that prompted the Reichards to establish a donor dam program to grow her genetics and merchandise progeny. In all, she had 10 Excellent daughters by

six different sires. Today, her descendants comprise a good portion of the group of Excellent Jersey cows that reside at Reich-Dale Farm.

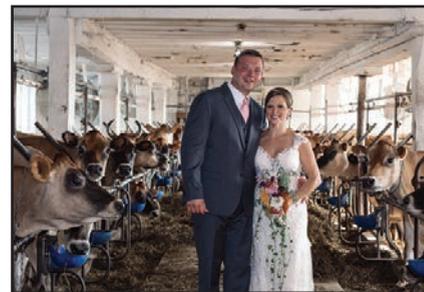
The Reichards share their success at home and in the show ring with family and friends who have helped over the years. As such, they have paved forward by giving the Jersey experience to other youth in the community who don't live on dairy farms. The passion took root as many of the now-grown children continue to visit the farm and lend a hand when needed.

Spatz Cattle Company

Spatz Cattle Company, Lititz, got its start in 2007 when Jacob Spatz realized how much he missed showing and raising Jersey cows on his grandfather's Jersey farm, Blue Mountain Jerseys. Jacob gave life to the farm by purchasing TC Country 1036 Iris and Kamps Hollow Appeal at the Field of Dreams Sale in Iowa that year.

Nearly 10 years later, the barn is overflowing with quality Registered Jersey cows and heifers. As of March their rolling herd average is 18,097 lbs. of milk on 55 cows. All the milk produced on the farm goes to Wawa Plant in Media, Pa., for cheese production.

In September 2016, Jacob and Megan tied the knot and have been planning to



Jacob and Megan Spatz on their wedding day, in September 2016, in the Spatz Cattle Company barn

start a family as the second generation to Spatz Cattle Company. They do all the milking and chores on the farm and they custom hire all the field work and they are currently enrolled in the REAP program.

Spatz Cattle Company breeds for longevity and type throughout the herd working towards success in the show ring and the barn. They turn to Michael Heath, Westminster, Md., and Andy Dice, Fredericksburg, Pa., for their expertise of sire selection when mating their cows.

Spruce Row Farms

Spruce Row Farms began in the 1950s where Charles Hotson used A.I. Jersey

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The Peters family—Jeff, Janet, Jessica and Cole—own and operate Spruce Row Farm in Meadville.

Pennsylvania Jerseys

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bulls within the herd. Jeff Peters, partnered with Charles and began his career with Jerseys in 1980. Jeff and Janet married in 1981 and assumed full ownership of the farm in 1999. They continued raising Registered Jerseys along with their three children, Slade, Jessica, and Cole. In 1994, they expanded from a tie-stall facility to a freestall barn and parlor and continued to grow. Jessica and Cole entered the management of the farm in 2015 and are now milking over 250 cows, raising over 220 young stock and farming 600 acres of farm land.

Jeff, Jessica and Cole are the active managers on the farm. Jessica manages the herd day-to-day along with record keeping. Cole strives to keep the equipment running as the farm's diesel mechanic. Jeff manages the mating and breeding of cows, crop management and various projects around the farm. Janet steps in to do the

book work while Cole's wife, Michelle, helps with the calves.

In March, the farm's rolling herd average was 19,267 lbs. milk, 881 lbs. fat and 687 lbs. protein on 280 cows. The farm's milk is marketed to Dean Foods fluid plant. Spruce Row Farms is a REAP and Equity contributor.

Spruce Row Farm's breeding selections are different for every cow. They work to better each animal by choosing bulls that will complement each cow's strengths and weaknesses. They strive to breed a more balanced cow that are functionally sound with high milk production.

In the next three years, the farm would like to reach 20,000 lbs. RHA with a 5.0% fat test. Their biggest accomplishment is having the ability to work together efficiently and effectively as a family farm.

"These little brown cows can do amazing things. To get to live and work with them every day is truly a privilege," Jessica says, "We wouldn't want to be in this



The Jerseys at Stoney Hollow in Martinsburg enjoy a night on the pasture. The farm is owned by Don and Jill Stonerook and family.

business with any other partner than the Jersey cow."

Stoney Hollow Jerseys

When Don and Jill Stonerook took over Stoney Hollow Jerseys from Don's father in 1986, their intent was to continue with a mixed herd. But Jerseys stole their hearts and eventually took over the barn.

Don is the general chief executive officer on the farm, Jill is bookkeeper, oversees calf management, and milking, while their son, Garrett is the farm herdsman and other son, Jason helps when he is available.

As of March, the farm's rolling herd average was 16,540 lbs. milk, 829 lbs. fat and 636 lbs. protein on 73 cows. They are also raising 55 replacement heifers. The milk produced on the dairy is shipped to Lanco-Pennland Co-op cheese plant in Hancock, Md., and they are currently enrolled in the REAP program.

Don says the Jersey cow fits their farm because they are very adaptable. "Jerseys have made it possible to raise our family, have a profitable business and a happy life."

Ty-Ly-View Farm

February 1991 was not only the start of Paul and Carolyn Moyer's marriage, it was when their first Jersey with the Normandell prefix (from Carolyn's home farm) walked through the barn doors, entering a herd of black and white at Ty-Ly-View Farm, Roaring Branch.

With hopes of continually expanding their Jersey herd, in 1993 Paul and Carolyn purchased Tin-D-Champ Dottie Donna. "Donna's" genetics brought great success for the farm, introducing 10 Excellent daughters to the herd, including a fifth-place Jersey Jug Futurity winner.

Ty-Ly-View Farm has maintained a mixed herd of Jerseys and Holsteins, containing 23 Excellent Jerseys and 22 Very Good Jerseys at one time. When raising their Jersey cows, they tend to focus on the total cow, balancing dairy strength with high components while maintaining solid Jersey genetics.

Paul began as an appraiser in 2014 for the AJCA, which led to the downsizing of the Ty-Ly-View herd. Currently, Paul and Carolyn are milking 10 Registered Jerseys alongside raising five Jersey heifers, five Jersey steers and hogs. They are also currently enrolled in the REAP and Equity programs.

Paul and Carolyn cannot imagine life without their cows. She wrote, "Many people ask us why we are still milking cows, especially when we are not shipping milk. The answer lies somewhere between love and insanity!"

When asked what some of the farm's

greatest accomplishments are, Carolyn responded, "Life on a dairy farm is not easy, but it is the best place in the world to raise a family. The lessons learned are invaluable. Our children are our best crop."

Van De Jerseys

John and Amy Vanderstappen, Transfer, are currently milking more than 300 Jerseys at Van De Jerseys, which has been in Amy's family for four generations. The Jersey farm was started by her great-grandfather D.J. Willaman, then grandfather Albert Willaman and purchased from her dad, Robert Willaman. John attended a dairy herd management school in Wisconsin for one year and rented two different farms before marrying Amy. Seven years later they bought her family farm, building a new 64 tie-stall barn before moving the cows.

Amy says a high point for them was selling Van De Brook Shadow Cloud in the 1995 Spring Valley Sale. She was purchased by Brentwood Farms, Orland, Calif., where she became the dam of BW Legion, GJPI-3. The sale of "Cloud" enabled building a milking parlor, which will undergo another renovation this summer.

As of April, the rolling herd average was 17,966 lbs. milk, 919 lbs. fat and 677 lbs. protein on 325 cows. The milk produced on the farm is sold to Marburger Dairy, Evans



John and Amy Vanderstappen of Van De Jerseys enjoyed a beautiful day while attending the World Jersey Conference in Europe last year.

City, Pa.

John oversees the day-to-day management of the farm. Feeding calves on milk is shared with Amy. Their son, Wes, helps on the farm every day with various tasks and responsibilities. John and Amy do the sire selection while John and Wes breed the cows.

They are fortunate to have good help besides son Wes at Van De. Mike does the feeding with Randy and Gene handling the rest of the chores. Although everyone pitches in where they are needed. In the milking parlor, they are happy to have Sarah, Shelby, Danielle and Jenna, who all are reliable and proficient help.

In selecting sires, they look for good

udder and feet traits, sound cows that breed back. They have been using Danish semen. Van De Jersey Farm is currently enrolled in the REAP program and are Equity investors. John and Amy have traveled with the World Jersey Conference on trips and are frequent attendees of the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings.

Jerseys are easier to handle, calve easy and the calves grow well. Daughter Lynde and husband Billy have settled back close to the farm with their five children. Twin granddaughters Abby and Ruth look forward to their second year in 4-H with their Jersey heifers. Along with siblings Grace, Blaze and Anna, they represent the sixth generation of family involved with Jerseys.

Vanderfeltz Jerseys

Among the 20-plus Pennsylvania breeders who have received the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder Award since it was first given are Joe and Melinda Vanderfeltz. The pair own and operate Vanderfeltz Jerseys with their sons, Kyle, 15, and Corey, 12, in Lawton.

Since receiving the award in 2003, some changes have been made, including improved facilities and increased cow numbers. The same careful attention to cow care, however, has remained unchanged.

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Joe and Melinda Vanderfeltz and their sons, Corey and Kyle, operate a mixed herd of Jerseys and Holsteins in Lawton.

Pennsylvania Jerseys

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The current milking string is 180 Jerseys and 135 Holstein. Cows are milked in a parlor and housed in a two-row freestall barn that was built in 2002 and subsequently expanded. Dry cows and close-up cows are raised in the tie-stall barn that was previously used for milking cows. Short-term facility upgrades include improved dry cow and calving areas and Lely robotic milkers.

Calves are raised on the farm from birth through weaning. They are then sent to a pair of local calf growers, where they

are raised until confirmed pregnant, then brought back to the home farm.

The family farms about 700 acres of corn and alfalfa hay, growing most of the forage needs for the herd. Joe is a stickler for high-quality forage and having plenty of it in front of the cows, day and night.

Cow care is reflected in production statistics for the herd. The Jersey herd has a March 2017 rolling herd average of 21,663 lbs. milk, 1,022 lbs. fat and 843 lbs. protein on 172 cows. The projected m.e. stands at 23,906 lbs. milk, 1,122 lbs. fat and 910 lbs. protein. Production for the Holstein herd is 39,668 lbs. milk, 1,402 lbs. fat and 1,237 lbs. protein on 121 cows.

Vanderfeltz Jerseys is enrolled on REAP and has an appraisal average of 86%, with 52 Excellent and 151 Very Good cows following the January 2017 herd appraisal. The herd is a contract advertiser with the *Jersey Journal*. Milk is marketed to Readington Farms Inc. in Whitehouse, N.J., a private company that supplies fluid milk for the ShopRite grocery chain.

Both Joe and Melinda were raised on dairy farms: Joe with Holsteins and Melinda with Jerseys. The farm has been in her family since the 1950s and raising Jer-



William and Lolly Lesher operate Way-Har Farm with their children, Josh, Jaylene, Laura and Olivia. They are pictured with a family favorite, Way-Har Comerica Precious, Supreme Champion of the 2011 Berks County Fair.

seys since 1956. Joe and Melinda became partners in the business in 1995 and then sole proprietors in 2001 after the passing of Melinda's father.

Way-Har Farm

Way-Har Farm is operated by William and Lolly Lesher and their children, Josh, Jaylene, Laura, and Olivia, in Bernville. The herd was black and white until 2000, when Jaylene asked for a Jersey for her birthday. Today, the Lesher's milking string is a mix

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<h3>RIVERSIDE-F FARMS</h3> <p><i>HOME OF CA-THEO JERSEYS</i> Charles and Amy Theobald and Family 1557 Creek Drive, Waymart, PA 18472-9732 570/448-2215 (home) • 448-3083 (office) • catheo2@nep.net A REAP Herd and an Equity Investor</p>	<h3>Shan-Mar Jerseys</h3> <p>Shannon & Mark Gardner 1055 Kittanning Ave., Dayton, PA 16222 814/257-8627 • shanmar@windstream.net</p>	<h3>Stoney Hollow Jerseys</h3> <p>Don, Jill, Garrett, and Jason Stonerook 231 Stonerook Rd., Martinsburg, PA 16662 Phone: 814/793-3059 Email: stoneyhollowjerseys@gmail.com</p>

Pennsylvania Jerseys

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of colors: 250 Holsteins, seven Jerseys and a handful of Ayrshires, Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorns. The Jersey herd is owned by the three sisters.

The Leshers also operate a processing plant and dairy store established by William's father, Wayne, and uncle, Harold, in 1970. Located on a main road about a mile from the home farm, the facility bottles milk and processes cream. About 25% of the farm's milk is processed; the balance is sold to DFA.

Way-Har Dairy also manufactures its own ice cream and will produce a special variety—Jersey Jubilee—just for the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings this summer. The delicacy is a French vanilla base infused with swirls of toffee chips and fudge.

Products are sold retail at the dairy store and wholesale to restaurants and stores through the Lesher's delivery route.

The Lesher family has been milking cows at the farm in Bernville, halfway between Harrisburg and Allentown, since 1952. Cows are milked in a double-six herringbone parlor. They are housed in a 255-stall, sand-bedded freestall barn with a bedded pack for special needs cows and a maternity ward. Corn, alfalfa, barley and wheat are grown on 300 acres, supplying most of the feed needs for the herd. The Jersey herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2016 lactation average of 16,460 lbs. milk, 894 lbs. fat and 619 lbs. protein. The herd includes three Excellent and six Very Good cows (none lower) and has an appraisal average of 86.8%.

All family members are involved with the business. William manages the farm, cows and bottling plant. Lolly oversees the books and dairy store. Josh is responsible for field work and equipment. Jaylene and Laura help with management of the cows and heifers and the parlor and make breeding decisions for the herd. Olivia helps feed calves and heifers and works with the show animals.

In addition to producing richer, tastier milk, the Leshers appreciate the opportunity Jerseys have provided for youth activities for the girls. They have merchandised animals at several local sales and participated in public speaking, youth achievement and Jersey Jeopardy contests sponsored by the state Jersey association. In 2013, Jaylene was crowned the Pennsylvania Jersey Queen. The sisters have also found success in the show ring with their home-bred Jerseys. Among the favorites are Way-Har Comerica Precious, Supreme Champion of the Berks County Fair for Olivia, and Way-Har Tequila Thumbelina, Jaylene's senior calf entry at The All American Jersey Show, both shown in 2011.