DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Paul Chittenden

Paul Chittenden, Schodack Landing, N.Y., will be honored as the 60th recipient of the Distinguished Service Award presented by the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA).

The Distinguished Service Award is presented by the Board of Directors to as many living AJCA members and/or members’ families, who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, have rendered outstanding and unselfish service for many years and thereby made a notable contribution to the advancement of the Jersey breed in the United States.

Formal presentation of the award will be made on June 25 at the Jersey Breeders’ Banquet held during the 2010 Annual Meetings of the AJCA and National All Jersey Inc. (NAJ) in Portland, Ore.

Some individuals are destined to serve, having been born into families in which the act is a birthright of sorts. In Jersey circles, the family name Chittenden is nearly synonymous with service. It was this heritage into which second-generation Jersey breeder Paul Chittenden was born and a legacy he ultimately honored.

“The word ‘no’ seldom arises when it comes to Paul and Jerseys,” wrote Rebecca Ferry, Johnstown, N.Y., secretary of the New York Jersey Cattle Association, in her letter supporting his nomination for the award. “Whether chairing a committee, filling an elected position, hosting a sale or tour, or housing a bull to get New England Jersey Sires off the ground, his answer is always, ‘Yes.”'

Chittenden is the eldest of four children born to Jane and the late Stanley Chittenden of New Lebanon, N.Y. The Chittendens operated Fair Weather Farms, a highly-regarded Registered Jersey herd in Columbia County near the Massachusetts border. Paul worked at the family farm right out of school and then established his own Dutch Hollow Farm in 1976 with his wife, Melanie, in Schodack Landing close to the farm on which he grew up.

It was no small feat for Paul to follow his father’s lead as the family patriarch had set the bar high. Among many other deeds, Stanley Chittenden served as director and president of the American Jersey Cattle Club (AJCC)—the predecessor of the AJCA—and was a member of the board that approved the incorporation of NAJ in 1957. He was honored with the national Jersey organization’s Distinguished Service Award in 1971 and its Master Breeder award in 1983.

Like all of his siblings, Paul showed an affinity for Jerseys early in life. He began showing cattle at the county fair by the time he was five years old and then moved on to stiffer competition at the state, regional and national level, including the All American Junior Jersey Show by 1958. Most often, he was at the halter of an animal of his own breeding. The value Chittenden places on this accomplishment is attested today by the fact that Dutch Hollow Farms sponsors the Best Bred and Owned award at The All American Junior Jersey Show and features photographs of winners in its Jersey Journal advertisements in January.

Chittenden wrapped up his junior career by placing sixth in the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest in 1964 and 1965 and traveling to Japan to care for a group of Jerseys that were part of an AJCC exhibition at the International Livestock Show in the spring of 1965. Paul and Melanie were named AJCC Young Jersey Breeders in 1979.

From his teenage years, he has been involved with the New England Spring Jersey Sale, getting his feet wet first as a fitter and working his way up to sale chair. His astute knowledge of pedigrees made him a natural choice in boxes at sales sponsored by the New England and New York Jersey cattle associations.

Chittenden was an early advocate of dairy character, strength and functional type—traits he has effectively bred into the herd at Dutch Hollow Farm. His keen eye for cattle has taken him on judging assignments in 18 states and internationally to Australia and South Africa. He was the official at the junior show at The All American in 1988 and judged the open show in 1990. Chittenden was associate judge for the National Jersey Jug Futurity in 1996.

Chittenden’s involvement in breed activities has almost always led to leadership responsibilities. He served every elected position of the Capital District Jersey Club, was director and president of the New York Jersey Cattle Club, was the breed representative on the livestock committee of the Eastern States Exposition and is a charter member of New England Jersey Sires Inc.

For his service to the New England Jersey Breeders Association, Chittenden earned three of the organization’s major awards—the Good Neighbor Award, the Distinguished Service Award and the Outstanding Jersey Breeder Award.

Chittenden was the dairy and livestock superintendent of the Columbia County Fair for 28 years and sat on the fair board for two decades. The fair currently has the highest livestock premiums in the state, including those paid by the state fair, in part because Paul explained to the board the importance of agricultural exhibitors and the value of them exhibiting superior cattle to the fair-going public.

Chittenden was a 4-H leader for 38 years and coached the county dairy judging team (continued to page XX)
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for a dozen years. He initiated a borrowed calf program in the county and made Jerseys from Dutch Hollow Farm available to non-agricultural youth long before the state adopted the idea.

Members of the American Jersey Cattle Club first elected Chittenden to represent them on the AJCC Board of Directors in 1990. After serving two terms, he was elected president in 1997 and served in this capacity for four years. Board members thought so highly of Chittenden that they elected him as vice president of the AJCC in 1993-1994.

“As a member of the board of directors and as president, his leadership helped set the stage for the growth the breed is currently enjoying,” noted the 52nd recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Ray Schooley, Marshfield, Mo., and his wife, Margaret. Ray served the AJCC as president from 1992-1994 and worked closely with Chittenden as a board member.

During Chittenden’s tenure of service to the national Jersey organizations, the cattle club reincorporated its name in Ohio as the American Jersey Cattle Association and implemented REAP. As president, he effectively led the approval of the Jersey Expansion program and guided the board through the appointment of a new executive secretary, Calvin Covington.

Paul has served on the AJCC’s registration, performance, finance and executive committees and chaired the Marketing and Research Committee in 1990-1996. He was a member of the planning committee for The All American Jersey Show & Sale and chaired both the junior activities and sale committees. He currently serves on the AJCA Investment Advisory Committee.

Chittenden has also been a mentor for many that are leading the Jersey industry today.

“Paul Chittenden has waved the ‘Jersey flag’ all the years I have known him,” said Kip Keller, who operates Den-Kel Jerseys and has been open to tours and youth functions. The farm hosted the Fabulous 40s Sale in 1992, the Fantastic 50s Sale in 1993 and the National Heifer Sale in 1995. More recently, the farm was a stop on the tour that followed the World Jersey Cattle Bureau conference in Syracuse, N.Y., in the summer of 2009.

The doors at Dutch Hollow Farm have always been open to tourists and youth functions. The farm hosted the Fabulous 40s Sale in 1992, the Fantastic 50s Sale in 1993 and the National Heifer Sale in 1995. More recently, the farm was a stop on the tour that followed the World Jersey Cattle Bureau conference in Syracuse, N.Y., in the summer of 2009.

Dutch Hollow Farm routinely consigns to the Pot O’Gold Sale, The All American Jersey Sale and the National Heifer Sale.

The farm has donated to the Jersey Youth Academy and was recognized for their Leadership Gift to the AJCC Research Fund in 2005.

“Many have made important contributions to our breed. Only a few have given their lives in total to the progressive movement and advancement of modern breed programs, even when it was not popular to be that person.”

“All gave some; some gave all.”

Paul Chittenden is one who gave it all.

Distinguished Service Awards
1954 W. W. Trout, Springfield, Ohio*
1955 Harold J. Turner, Bethel, Vt.*
1956 Judge Peter J. Shields, Sacramento, Calif.*
1957 R. C. Calloway, Baton Rouge, La.*
1958 Lynn Copeland, Nashville, Tenn.*
1959 Chester Foltz, Springfield, Ohio*
1960 Ernest Greenvough, Mercer, Calif.*
1961 Paul Jackson, Wilmington, Ohio*
1962 Harriet J. Groos, Vancouver, Wash.*
1964 Herbert G. Myers, Boise, Idaho*
1965 Charles S. Kelly, Hudson, Wis.*
1966 Joseph F. Sawyer, Galt, Calif.*
1967 Henry P. Knole, Sandia, Texas*
1968 H. I. Sawyer, Hughson, Calif.*
1969 M. L. Baird, Springfield, Ohio*
1970 E. Lea Marsh, Jr., Old Lyme, Conn.*
1971 Stanley N. Chittenden, New Lebanon, N.Y.*
1972 Arthur Dieterich, Sherman, Texas*
1973 Armi Rankin, Jr., Pea Island, N.C.*
1974 Capt. T. J.* and Elizabeth Bay*, Lynden, Wash.*
1975 Mrs. Thomas H. Carmithers, IL, Glendale, Ohio*
1976 Paul Sparrow, Athens, N.C.*
1977 Wyatt A. Williams, Orange, Va.*
1978 Dr. J. H. Arnold, Newport, Ga.*
1979 Reuben R. Cowles, Steubenville, N.C.*
1978 Jean E. Lemmermen, Tiffin, Ohio*
1980 Clyde K. Chappell, Knoxville, Tenn.*
1982 C. L. Collins, Jr., Springle, Ala.*
1983 Ray Chamberlain, Wyoming, N.Y.*
1984 Dr. C. A. Ernstrom, Logan, Utah* 1985 J. F. Cavanagh, Columbus, Ohio*
1986 Charles McGinnis, Mountville, S.C.
1987 G. Joe Lyon, Toledo, Iowa
1988 Dr. John Wilk, Raleigh, N.C.
1990 Dr. H. D. Duane Norman, Fulton, Md.
1991 Edwin L. Crothy, Trenton, N.J.
1993 Maurice E. Core, Columbus, Ohio
1995 W. R. Lutz, Newton, N.C.
1996 Max Gordon, Winchester, Ind.*
1997 Harold Owens, Frederic, Wis.
1998 Richard Claus, Hilmar, Calif.
1999 Elmert Larson, Burlington, Wash.*
2000 Dr. J. J. Malnati, Newberry, S.C.
2002 Ray R. Schooley, Marshfield, Mo.
2004 Neal F. Schirm, Canal Winchester, Ohio
2005 J. Lawrence Benson, New Lebanon, N.Y.
2006 Ted Luther, Mount Ulla, N.C.
2007 Alvin Moss, Litchfield Park, Ariz.
2008 David W. Spahr, Findlay, Ohio
2010 Paul Chittenden, Schoodack, Landing, N.Y.* deceased