

Dutch Hollow Farms LLC

Dutch Hollow Farms LLC, Schodack Landing, N.Y., will be honored as Master Breeder of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) at the Jersey Breeders' Recognition Banquet in North Conway, N.H., on June 29, 2012.

The Master Breeder Award is bestowed annually to a living AJCA member, family, partnership or corporation that, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, *has bred outstanding animals for many years and thereby made a notable contribution to the advancement of the Jersey breed in the United States.*

"The nomination of Dutch Hollow Farms for Master Breeder is not just about a farm that has bred outstanding Jerseys. It's about a family—three generations—with a passion for Jerseys and the dairy industry, an ability to breed outstanding cattle and a desire to provide them with the best care and management to express their bred-in potential."

These words that led the award application for Dutch Hollow Farms could not better express the commitment Paul Chittenden and his family have to bettering the Jersey cow, not just at Dutch Hollow Farms, but on other farms across America as well.

Dutch Hollow Farms is a limited liability corporation owned by brothers, Brian, Alan and Nathan Chittenden, and their parents, Paul and Melanie. The third generation of the Chittenden family lends a hand with the business as well and is beginning to make their marks on the breed. Grandchildren at the farm include Cassie and Meagan Chittenden (daughters of Brian and his wife, Beth), Emily, Maxwell and Lydia Chittenden (children of Alan and his wife, Donna) and Zachary, Jonathon and Carol Ann Chittenden (children of Nathan and his wife, Jill).

The Dutch Hollow impact on the breed comes from the 90-plus bulls bred by the farm that have entered A.I. service over the past four decades and a handful of young progeny-test bulls earning their first proofs



The Chittendens—(front row) Melanie, Alan, Donna, Zachary, Paul, Beth, Brian, (back) Cassie, Jonathon, Emily, Maxwell, Lydia, Meagan, Jill with Anna Carol, and Nathan—operate Dutch Hollow Farms. *Photo courtesy Sarah A. Martino.*

now. Dutch Hollow Farms has consigned high selling females at a number of high-visibility Jersey sales over the years and sold others privately that have become genetic leaders and production champions in the herds of their new owners. Several of these have also become bull mothers.

As much as anything, Dutch Hollow Farms has continued the legacy of quality polled genetics established at Paul's home farm, Fair Weather Farm, New Lebanon, N.Y. The breeding philosophy that Paul brought to Dutch Hollow Farms when he set out on his own in 1976 still holds true today. "A cow was put on this earth for one reason—to produce milk. She doesn't have to be ugly to do it and it is better if she is born without horns."

"Those of us who have taken the possibility of polled Jerseys seriously as a present herd benefit and future breed advantage are grateful to the support of Paul and Melanie Chittenden and their three sons in propagating and merchandising useful polled animals that have raised the genetic profile of polled Jersey cattle in the U.S.," wrote Greg Palen, Ovid, Mich., in a letter supporting the family's nomination for the award.

Of the eight Dutch-Hollow-bred bulls on the current list of Active A.I. Jersey bulls, half are naturally polled. The pedigree of the highest-ranking naturally polled G-code bull, Schultz Legal Critic-P, GJPI +242, traces three generations back to Dutch Hollow Barber Milady-P-ET.

The three most heavily-used, naturally-polled bulls bred by the Chittendens are

Dutch Hollow Berretta Choice-P and Dutch Hollow Brendon-P-ET from the "Mischief" cow family and Dutch Hollow Honour-P from the "Honey" cow family. "Choice-P" was also heavily used as a sire of sons in the early 2000s and has more than 100 registered sons to date.

Though the polled gene is something the Chittendens strive to include in their pedigrees whenever possible, profitability is the primary focus of the breeding

program at this commercial operation.

"It would be a disservice to limit the Dutch Hollow contribution to that particular market niche within the expanding tent of Jersey breeding," continued Palen. "This is a breeding herd that has expanded internally to four times its original size to accommodate three new households. . .with never any break in production and type improvement and without sacrificing its willingness to contribute genetics from the herd to the benefit of others—horned or polled."

Each of the past 12 years, Dutch Hollow Farms has ranked among the top 25 herds in the nation for all measures of production among similar-sized herds. In 2003 and 2004, the farm ranked first or second for milk, fat and protein nationally among large herds with 300 or more cows. The 2011 AJCA lactation average of 20,085 lbs. milk, 1,001 lbs. fat and 699 lbs. protein on 438 lactations ranks sixth for fat and ninth for milk among herds with 300-749 cows. During the past dozen years, 281 members of the milking string produced Honor Roll records; 83 made Hall of Fame records.

Breeding cows that last lactation-after-lactation is another hallmark of the breeding program at Dutch Hollow Farms. The Chittendens have bred 146 Excellent cows and 207 cows with lifetime credits in excess of 100,000 lbs. milk. Fourteen have lifetime totals in excess of 200,000 lbs. milk. Eleven of these have ranked among the top 10 for milk, fat or protein in the AJCA Leading Lifetime Production Contest.

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AJCA Master Breeder

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The Chittendens have used a number of AJCA programs and services to effectively manage the herd. Dutch Hollow Farms joined REAP in 1997 and started using JerseyTags to permanently identify the herd several years ago. The farm has continuously contributed to Project Equity since 1977 and been a contract advertiser in the *Jersey Journal* since 1980. It recently hosted a website on JerseySites.

Dutch Hollow Farms ranks among the top 100 herds in the country for Jersey Performance Index (JPI) with an average index of +59 (April 2012). Eleven females on the list of the Top 500 Females for Genomic JPI (GJPI) carry the Dutch Hollow prefix, including the breed's #2 female, Dutch Hollow Charmaine-ET, with a GJPI of +268. Almost half of the 425 calves in the heifer pens are P-level 7 or higher.

Genetic gain has often come from a heavy dose of young sires. Dutch Hollow Farms was a founding member of New England Jersey Sires and has since become a member of Liberty Jersey Sires. At times, young sire usage has accounted for 60% of herd matings and even been an option for contract matings on the most elite cows in the Dutch Hollow herd.

One might say the ability to breed quality cattle is in the blood at Dutch Hollow Farms as both patriarch and matriarch grew up on distinguished Registered Jersey farms. Paul was raised on Fair Weather Farm and is the son of the late Jane and Stanley Chittenden, recipient of the Master Breeder Award in 1983. Stanley and Paul are one of just two father-son duos in breed history to receive the national Jersey organization's most prestigious award. Melanie, the daughter of the late Louis M. Fish Jr., was also raised with Registered Jerseys. Her family bred cattle using the LF prefix.

The herd at Dutch Hollow Farms was built from Paul's project animals at Fair Weather Farms and a few foundation animals for Melanie and the children. One of the early purchases that set herself apart was a bred heifer—Kamefield Observer Mischief-P—from a long-time family friend. Though "Mischief" was a standout in her own right as she was appraised Excellent-91% and made more than 20,000 lbs. milk, her true mark was as a brood cow. More than half of the bulls the Chittendens have sold to A.I. hail from this cow family as do many of the high genomic animals in the Dutch Hollow herd today. Included in this group are "Choice-P," "Brendon-P," "Charmaine" and eight other females on the list of the Top 500 Females for GJPI.

Another purchase that proved her value was SC Millie from the Cedarcrest Sale in

1999. The Excellent-93% "Millie" made more than 30,000 lbs. milk and placed in the AJCA Leading Living Lifetime Production Contest in 2008 and 2009. The most widely-known of her 11 daughters is Dutch Hollow Jace Melinda, Excellent-92%, a finalist in *The Art of Fine Breeding* contest. Numerous bulls from the cow family have also been sent to A.I., including "Melinda's" son, Dutch Hollow Alabama-ET, one of three Dutch Hollow-bred bulls to be syndicated in All American Jersey Sales.

Other cow families that are making their marks at Dutch Hollow Farms are the "Deva," "Lee" and "Gail" cow families. The leading "Deva" in the herd today is Dutch Hollow Klassic Deva, Very Good-88%, with six records over 20,000 lbs. milk and six sons in A.I. One of her 13 registered daughters, Dutch Hollow Rebel Diva, Excellent-90%, is the dam of Dutch Hollow Lexicon, ranked #26 among active A.I. bulls with a GJPI of +151.

The "Lee" family is the foundation family for granddaughter Emily. LF Lester Emmi Lee-ET, Excellent-92%, is the third generation to produce more than 200,000 lbs. milk lifetime. Her daughter, Dutch Hollow Paramount Emlee-ET, Excellent-90%, placed in the National Jersey Youth Production Contest twice and has three sons in A.I. sampling programs.

The "Gail" cow family is the foundation family for granddaughter Cassie. The matriarch is Huestis Brook Gail, Excellent-91%, who was purchased as a baby calf at the Fantastic 50s Sale in 1993. "Gail" placed in the AJCA Leading Living Lifetime Production Contest three times beginning in 2004. Cassie has also fared well in youth competitions with descendants from this family, earning a top-10 ranking in three National Jersey Youth Production Contests and receiving the Sunbow Jerseys Trophy at The All American Junior Jersey Show in 2011 with GR Dutch Hollow Gannon Glide, Very Good-89%.

Involvement with Jerseys doesn't stop at the end of the driveway for the Chittendens. Every member of the family is a lifetime member or junior member of the AJCA. Paul received the AJCA Distinguished Service Award in 2010 for his years of service to the national Jersey organizations. Brian is the current president of the New York Jersey Cattle Club. Alan won the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest in 1988, is past president of both the New England Jersey Breeders Association and the New England Jersey Sires and now sits on the boards of both organizations.

Paul and Melanie received the Young Jersey Breeder Award in 1979. Alan and Donna and Brian and Beth earned the recognition in 2000. Eldest granddaughter,

Cassie, was named first alternate in the National Jersey Queen Contest in 2011 and placed third in the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest in 2010.

Dutch Hollow Farms consigned animals to the all-donation National Heifer Sale in 2005 when it supported the AJCC Research Fund and again in 2006 when it helped to fund Jersey Youth Academy. Dutch Hollow Farms also presents the awards for the Best Bred and Owned Female at The All American Junior Jersey Show each year.

With such enthusiasm for Jerseys, even amongst the youngest members of the Chittenden clan, the influence of Dutch Hollow Farms on the Jersey breed is sure to continue for many years to come.

Master Breeders

1944	William MacPherson, Thomasville, Ga.*
1945	W. R. Kenan, Jr., Lockport, N.Y.*
1946	George W. Sisson, Jr., Potsdam, N.Y.*
1947	E. S. Brigham, St. Albans, Vt.*
1948	Guy Miller, Modesto, Calif.*
1949	Dr. Howard D. Odum, Chapel Hill, N.C.*
1950	Judge J. G. Adams, Asheville, N.C.*
1951	N. M. Tibbles, Independence, Ore.*
1952	Frank W. Barber, Fayetteville, Tenn.*
1953	Herman F. Heep, Buda, Texas*
1954	Dale Dean, Ridgeway, Mich.*
1955	Maurice Pollak, Lincroft, N.J.*
1956	J. L. Hutcheson, Jr., Rossville, Ga.*
1957	John R. Sibley, Spencer, Mass.*
1958	J. Chester Elliff, Tulia, Texas*
1959	A. W. Sweet, Sixes, Ore.
1960	Col. H. G. Wilde, Lenox, Mass.*
1961	C. Edward Knolle, Sandia, Texas*
1962	Russel Hoar, Newark, Ohio*
1963	William Ross Proctor, Pittstown, N.J.*
1964	Clifton F. Russell, Rossville, Ga.*
1965	Chester Folck, Springfield, Ohio*
1966	C. Scott Mayfield, Athens, Tenn.*
1967	E. E. Greenough, Merced, Calif.*
1968	Henry Uihlein, Lake Placid, N.Y.*
1969	Charles S. Kelly, Hudson, Wis.*
1970	H. Fowler Hupman, Springfield, Ohio*
1971	Milton Humberd, Cleveland, Tenn.*
1972	Willis Rupert, New Waterford, Ohio*
1973	Earl Hutchinson, Tunbridge, Vt.*
1974	Antone J. Regli, Ferndale, Calif.*
1975	Mrs. Diana Ryan, Newport, R.I.*
1976	James and Georgia* Pappas, Modesto, Calif.
1977	Mrs. H. G. Wilde, Lenox, Mass.*
1978	Henry W. Black, West Baldwin, Maine*
1979	John Bishop VI, Columbus, N.J.*
1980	Mrs. A. G. Rankin* and Sons, Faunsville, Ala.
1981	W. L. Payton, Stephenville, Texas*
1982	Curtis Hobson, Athens, Tenn.*
1983	Stanley N. Chittenden, New Lebanon, N.Y.*
1984	Walter H. and Joan Brown, Hughson, Calif.
1985	Newell Mills, Fallon, Nev.
1986	John R. Owen, Lewisburg, Tenn.*
1987	Robert S. Pike* and Family, Cornish, Maine
1988	Ray Chamberlain, Wyoming, N.Y.*
1989	Ralph* and Betty Reichert, Riley, Kans.
1990	Stanley K. Bansen, Dayton, Ore.*
1991	Henry P. Knolle, Sandia, Texas*
1992	Phil V. Fanelli, Hilmar, Calif.
1993	Dr. J. J. Malnati, Newberry, S.C.*
1994	Walter and Sally Goodrich, West Danville, Vt.
1995	Edward, Harold, and Donald* Wright, White River Junction, Vt.
1996	Elmer D. Larson, Roy, Wash.*
1997	Albert Bradford, Turner, Maine
1998	Robert Stiles Family, Clearbrook, Va.
1999	Robert and Barbara* Howard, Tillamook, Ore.
2000	Charles L. Lutz, Newton, N.C.*
2001	Duane Kuhlman, Snohomish, Wash.
2002	Duane Wickstrom, Hilmar, Calif.
2003	James Chaney, Bowling Green, Ky.*
2004	Charles J. Steer, Cottage Grove, Tenn.
2005	William G. Mason Family, Buhl, Idaho*
2006	Aaron F. Richards, Farmington, Utah*
2007	Robert Bignami, Orland, Calif. and Harlan Askeland*, Orland, Calif.
2008	James S. Huffard III, Crockett, Va.
2009	Ahlem Farms Partnership and Ed Fisher, Hilmar, Calif.
2010	Donald and Elsa Sherman, Hilmar, Calif.
2011	Dan Bansen, Dayton, Ore.
2012	Dutch Hollow Farms, Schodack Landing, N.Y.

* deceased