

## Dutch Hollow Farm Recognized by Dairy Shrine

Dutch Hollow Farm LLC, the Chittenden Family, Schodack Landing, N.Y., will be honored as the 42<sup>nd</sup> recipient of the Distinguished Cattle Breeder award by National Dairy Shrine. This is the dairy industry's highest honor bestowed to a dairy cattle breeder and will be presented Thursday, October 2, 2014, during World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis.

"These folks are truly breeders as service sires are wisely chosen, after knowledgeable searches and decisions," stated Richard Smith, Jersey Sire Analyst, ABS Global, Inc. "They appreciate, enjoy, and take into account the history of the Jersey breed. The Chittenden family has an astute interest in the breed and seize each generation as an opportunity for improvement."

Dutch Hollow Farm LLC 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 potential.

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 Beth), Emily, Maxwell and Lydia Chittenden (children of Alan and Donna) and Zachary, Jonathon and Carol Ann Chittenden (children of Nathan and Jill). Each of the generations currently on the farm have been recognized at the national level for their ability to breed outstanding production-driven cows.

The Dutch Hollow herd consists of 668 Registered Jerseys on DHI test and just under 500 replacement heifers in the herd. But the dairy's impact on the breed most likely 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 now.

Dutch Hollow Farms has continued the legacy of quality polled genetics established at Paul's home farm, Fair Weather



Dutch Hollow Farm LLC owners from left: Paul, Nathan, Alan, Brian and Melanie

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."

Of the five Dutch-Hollow-bred bulls on the current list of Active A.I. Jersey bulls, more than half are naturally polled. One of their bulls, Dutch Hollow Lexicon, ranks among the top 10 of the breed for GJPI after the April 2014 genetic summaries. The most heavily-used, naturally-polled bull bred by the Chittendens was Dutch Hollow Berretta Choice-P. He has over 2,300 daughters on record and was also heavily used as a sire of sons in the early 2000s with 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.

Each of the past 14 years, Dutch Hollow Farms has ranked among the top 25 herds in the nation for various measures of production among similar-sized herds. In 2003 and 2004, the farm ranked first or second for milk, fat and protein nation-

ally among large herds with 300 or more cows. The 2013 AJCA lactation average of 20,846 lbs. milk, 1,011 lbs. fat and 719 lbs. protein on 592 lactations ranks the herd ninth for milk among herds with 300-749 cows. During the past dozen years, 293 members of the milking string produced Honor Roll records and 98 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 152 Excellent cows and 214 cows with lifetime credits in excess of 100,000 lbs. milk and five with more than 200,000 lbs. milk lifetime.

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. Melanie, the daughter of the late Louis M. Fish Jr., was also raised with Registered Jerseys. Her family bred cattle using the LF prefix.

Involvement with Jerseys doesn't stop at the end of the driveway for the Chittendens. In 2011, Brian's wife, Beth, established the Dutch Hollow Education Center. The center delivers a standards-based, hands-on experience for pre-school and elementary school groups. The family hosts tours often to groups teaching youth about the dairy industry. In 2013, the open house held at the farm hosted more than 700 people touring the dairy facility.

Every member of the family is a lifetime member or junior member of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA). Paul received the AJCA Distinguished Service Award in 2010 for his years of service to the national Jersey organizations and the farm was recognized in 2012 as Master Breeders of the AJCA. Alan, his sister, Karin Chittenden Couch (Riverside Jerseys, Australia), and niece Cassie have

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## **Dutch Hollow Honored**

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all won the National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest. Alan is a past president of both the New England Jersey Breeders Association and the New England Jersey Sires and both he and Brian have served on the boards of the organizations. In June 2014, Alan was elected to the AJCA Board of Directors – the third generation of the family to serve in this capacity. Both his father and grandfather also served as presidents of the AJCA. Paul and Melanie received the Young Jersey Breeder Award in 1979. Alan and Donna and Brian and Beth earned the recognition in 2000.

The annual National Dairy Shrine awards banquet will be held on October 2 during World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. For more information about the banquet or about students, producers and industry representatives being recognized by National Dairy Shrine, contact Dr. David Selner, Executive Director, at 920/863-6333. National Dairy Shrine membership information is also available by phone or online at [www.dairyshrine.org](http://www.dairyshrine.org). Dairy enthusiasts are encouraged to become a part of this important organization to help honor our heritage, inspire future leaders and promote the dairy industry.