

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.*

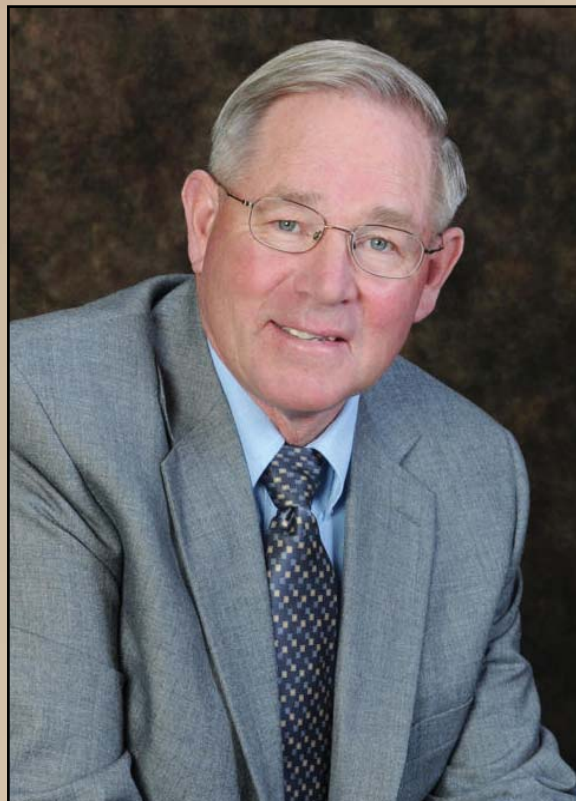
Formal presentation of the award will be made on June 25 at the Jersey Breeders' Banquet held during the 2010 Annual Meetings of the AJCA and National All Jersey Inc. (NAJ) in Portland, Ore.

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

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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 with his wife, Robin Denniston-Keller in Byron, N.Y. "Robin and I are successful Jersey breeders and active young farmers because of the early influence of Paul Chittenden and his family."

"Paul (and Melanie) motivated Robin and I to succeed with a breed neither

of us started out with. We both came from Holstein backgrounds, but with encouragement from our Jersey neighbors we saw the light and have pursued our dreams working with Registered Jerseys."

Like his father, Paul has been effective in passing the torch of service to his and Melanie's four children.

Brian currently is the vice president of the New York Jersey Cattle Club and active in the local fire department. Alan is involved with the New England Jersey Breeders Association and New England Jersey Sires and has held leadership positions with each organization. He has been a member of the AJCA Type Advisory Committee and has judged many local and regional dairy cattle shows. Nathan sits on the board of the county cooperative extension service and Karin owns one of Australia's leading Registered Jersey herds, Riverside Jerseys, with her husband, Corey Couch.

Service aside, Paul has also found time to develop a top-quality herd of Registered Jerseys. Dutch Hollow Farm is a charter member of Project Equity and been enrolled on REAP since the inception of the program in 1995. The 525-cow herd has a 2009 AJCA lactation average of 19,600 lbs. milk, 948 lbs. fat and 702 lbs. protein. The herd is ranked among the top 100 herds in the country for Jersey Performance Index (JPI) after the April 2010 genetic evaluations with an average JPI of +37.

Brian, Alan and Nathan and their families are involved in the operation of the 2,000-acre farm with their parents. Jersey efficiency and effective herd management have allowed the Chittendens to make extensive improvements to the operation in recent years. A new parlor was completed in 2009 and a new calf and heifer barn is in the works.

The doors at Dutch Hollow Farm have always 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.

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.

"The list of those who have made major contributions to our breed is long," Ferry wrote. "The list of those who have given their lives to total support, service and promotion of the Jersey breed is a much shorter one. Paul Chittenden stands high in the second category."

A father and son who have worked with Chittenden in service to the national Jersey organizations, G. Joe and Eric Lyon, Toledo, Iowa, summed it another way.

"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 Folck, Springfield, Ohio*
1960	Ernest Greenough, Merced, Calif.*
1961	Paul Jackson, Wilmington, Ohio*
1962	Harriet J. Groos, Vancouver, Wash.*
1963	R. K. Stout, Lansing, Mich.*
1964	Herbert G. Myers, Boise, Idaho*
1965	Charles S. Kelly, Hudson, Wis.*
1966	Joseph F. Sawyer, Galt, Calif.*
1967	Henry P. Knolle, 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	Amzi Rankin, Jr., Faunsdale, Ala.*
1974	Capt. T. J.* and Elizabeth Bay*, Lynden, Wash.
1975	Mrs. Thomas H. Carruthers, III, Glendale, Ohio*
1975	Paul Sparrow, Athens, Tenn.*
1976	Wyatt A. Williams, Orange, Va.*
1977	Dr. J. H. Arnold, Newnan, Ga.*
1977	Reuben R. Cowles, Statesville, N.C.*
1978	Jean E. Lemmermen, Tiffin, Ohio*
1979	John Weir Jr., Geuda Springs, Kan.
1980	Clyde K. Chappell, Knoxville, Tenn.*
1980	Newell Mills, Fallon, Nev.
1981	Harold Wright, White River Junction, Vt.
1982	C. L. Collins, Jr., Sylacauga, Ala.*
1983	Ray Chamberlain, Wyoming, N.Y.*
1984	Dr. C. A. Ernstrom, Logan, Utah*
1985	J. F. Cavanaugh, Columbus, Ohio*
1986	W. Charles McGinnis, Mountville, S.C.
1987	G. Joe Lyon, Toledo, Iowa
1988	Dr. John Wilk, Raleigh, N.C.
1989	Robert Lord, Woodstock, Vt.*
1990	Dr. H. Duane Norman, Fulton, Md.
1991	Edwin L. Crotty, Trenton, N.J.
1992	Richard A. Riggs, Evansville, Ind.
1993	Maurice E. Core, Columbus, Ohio
1994	John Giacomini, Eureka, Calif.
1995	W. R. Lutz, Newton, N.C.
1996	Max Gordon, Winchester, Ind.*
1997	Harold Owens, Frederic, Wis.
1998	Richard Clauss, Hilmar, Calif.
1999	Elmer D. Larson, Burlington, Wash.*
2000	Dr. J. J. Malnati, Newberry, S.C.
2001	Harold W. Roller, Weyers Cave, Va.
2002	Ray R. Schooley, Marshfield, Mo.
2003	D.L. Strandberg, D.V.M., Alma Center, Wis.
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
2009	Dr. Robert C. and Helene C. Dreisbach, Mercer, Pa.
2010	Paul Chittenden, Schodack Landing, N.Y.

* deceased