Jersey Youth Academy

The mission of the Jersey Youth Academy is to attract, educate and retain talented young people for careers in the Jersey dairy business. It will be achieved through cooperative efforts of the American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc., Jersey owners everywhere, and allied industry.

Jersey Youth Academy provides a unique educational experience that motivates youth of high school and college age to prepare for and succeed in their adult careers in some aspect of the dairy industry, but specifically working with Jersey cattle and/or Jersey products.

As authorized by the Board of Directors of the American Jersey Cattle Association in June of 2008, Jersey Youth Academy seeks to:

- Encourage, guide and train youth from Jersey farm families towards productive careers in the dairy industry;
- Identify and support talented youth from outside the Jersey community who are motivated to pursue a career in this industry;
- Strengthen the connection of these young people to the American Jersey Cattle Association and demonstrate the fundamental importance of its breed improvement, marketing and promotional programs;
- Expand knowledge and understanding of the range of professional careers associated with the dairy industry and the academic preparation necessary to achieve success in those careers;
- Through a strong fundraising effort, develop a high-quality program that will attract student participation and also provide substantial financial support based on need, interest and ability, and
- Contribute to the general development of competence, confidence, positive social connections, and character by Academy participants.

The aim of the Academy is to develop the human resources that will be required to sustain and develop Jersey dairy businesses in the United States. This project is envisioned as a cooperative effort among all dairy industry stakeholders. Without exception, these stakeholders need qualified, interested young people for the continuation and success of their businesses.

Program Objectives

The program is designed around three broad objectives for participants:

- First, to learn why and how the Jersey breed has grown and prospered, and what the future holds for the Jersey business;
- Second, to meet leaders from the Jersey community and from across the support industry, to gain their unique insights about the dairy business with a specific focus on the Jersey cow; and
Third, to learn about the range of career opportunities that involve the Jersey breed and Jersey products, and begin the journey that will take them to success working in the Jersey dairy business.

The program is conducted every two years, with participants chosen from a national pool of applicants. Selection is based on merit, motivation and preparation for the program as reflected in experiences, accomplishments and goal statement of the applicants. All program costs, including round-trip transportation for participants, are paid by the Academy.

Eligibility

Applications are accepted from youth who will be seniors in high school the fall following an Academy class through students who are at least one year from completing a degree at an accredited vocational school, college or university.

Applications are accepted only from legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia.

A youth can participate in Jersey Youth Academy only one time.

Program Evaluation

Extensive evaluation of each Jersey Youth Academy was conducted before, during and after the program. Participants rated the overall quality of the program as outstanding (4.7 on 5-point scale). Participants agreed (4.9/5.0) with the statement, “I learned a lot in this program.” The consensus opinion is, “the experience turned out to be the opportunity of a lifetime.”

Financial Support

The Jersey Youth Academy is recognized by the International Revenue Service as a tax-exempt private educational foundation under section 501(c)(3). Contributors to this foundation are recognized on the Academy web site (http://academy.usjersey.com) and represent broad Jersey breeder and industry support. Administrative services are provided by the American Jersey Cattle Association.

Applications for Next Class

The fourth class will be held in 2015 (tentative dates, July 19-24). Applications will be available September 1, 2014 and must be received in the AJCA office by December 1. A maximum of 36 qualified youth will be selected.

Inaugural Class (2009)

California: Karessa Mann, Turlock; Colin Russell, Hilmar; Natalie Sanders, Hilmar; Lena Sweeney, Visalia.
Florida: Kelsey Burnham, Okeechobee.

Georgia: Ivy Roberts, Mount Berry.

Iowa: Amy Maxwell, Donahue.

Illinois: Kortney Hoerbert, Delavan.

Kentucky: Lauren Brittany Core, Salvisa.

Louisiana: Katherine Rashall, Ida.

Massachusetts: Rene Boardman, Sheffield.

Michigan: Sadie Green, Elsie.

Minnesota: Derek Dreier, Norwood Young America; Londa Johnson, LaCrescent; Stephanie Kasper, Owatonna.

North Carolina: Avery Lutz, Mocksville.


New York: Dorothea Baker, Wyoming; Cassandra Chittenden, Schodack Landing; Clark Egleston, Fultonville, Elena Ooms, Valatie.

Ohio: Kyle Schirm, West Salem.

Oregon: Jennifer Hansen, Canby; Kristin Hogan, Tillamook.

South Carolina: Amber Ettinger, Kinards.

Tennessee: Brad Barham, Calhoun; Tyler Boyd, Parrottsville; Daniel Fugate, Whitesburg.

Vermont: Claire Stanley, East Fairfield.

Wisconsin: Danielle Brown, Dodgeville; Jonathan Holewinski, Cecil; Kyle Natzke, Fond du Lac; Wade Kessenich, DeForest; Julie Orth, Lancaster; Abby Tauchen, Bonduel.

West Virginia: Rachel Rawn, Charles Town.

Class II (2011)

California: Kelli Carstensen, Petaluma; Jordan Dunn, Visalia; Rylin Lindahl, Visalia; Colin Russell, Hilmar; Natalie Sanders, Hilmar; and Theresa Sweeney, Visalia

Iowa: Kara Maxwell, Donahue

Maryland: Jessica Marie Sentelle, Jefferson

Massachusetts: Regina Grover, Bernardston; and Laura Mahoney, Plainville

Missouri: Tricia Jo Kirchdoerfer, Cape Girardeau; and Tyler Kirchdoerfer, Cape Girardeau

New York: Cassandra Chittenden, Schodack Landing; Katherine DeWitt, Accord; and Haley Ooms, Valatie

North Carolina: Steven Wetmore, Mt. Ulla

Ohio: Kira Andre, Wauseon; William D. Grammer, Sebring; and Erin Williams, McConnelsville

Oregon: Mariah Fjarlie, Tillamook; and Taryn Martin, Tillamook

Pennsylvania: Tucker Hardy, Belleville; Logan Karchner, Nescopeck; Jesse Kline, Chambersburg; Jaylene Lesher, Bernville; Amanda Mitcheltree, New Castle; Charlie Moyer, Roaring Branch; Maria Noble, Gillett; and Stacey Theobald, Waymart

Rhode Island: Alexandra LaPrise, Exeter

Tennessee: Tanner Barham, Calhoun; and Dylan Ellenburg, Morristown

Texas: Mitchell Gilpin, Hico

Vermont: Emily Wright, Bethel

Virginia: James S. (Trey) Huffard IV, Crockett
West Virginia: Mary Katherine Rawn, Charles Town
Wisconsin: Thomas Allen, Reedsburg; Sydney Endres, Lodi; Cassandra Krull, Lake Mills; and Charisse Orth, Stitzer

Class III (2013)

Arizona: Anneke Moss, Litchfield Park
California: Rylin Lindahl, Visalia; Amy McBirney, San Jose; Theresa Sweeney, Visalia; and Ashlan Wickstrom, Hilmar.
Georgia: James Holton, Dawsonville (Dawson County High School)
Kansas: Taylor Leach, Linwood
Louisiana: Morgan Richard, Elton
Massachusetts: Kimberly Kubosiak, Southampton
Minnesota: Jon Frenchick, Paynesville
Mississippi: Jessica Smith, Picayune
New Hampshire: Amy Gowell Drogue, Sullivan
New York: Emily Chittenden, Schodack Landing; Meagan Chittenden, Schodack Landing; and Casey Porter, Watertown.
North Carolina: Olivia Pearson, Lincolnton.
Ohio: Meagan Bolen, Fremont.
Oregon: Rebekah Gourley, Scio; Valery Silva, Beaver; and Rebecca Thomas, Cornelius.
Pennsylvania: Amber Gabel, Newport.
Texas: Gerret Boer, Dalhart; and Chase Koon, Emory.
Washington: Katie Hutchins, Outlook; Shannon Rodeffer, Snohomish; and Andrea Smaciarz, Raymond.
Wisconsin: Sean Brown, Dodgeville; Mitchell Endres, Lodi; Allison Foster, Portage; Cassandra Krull, Lake Mills; Jacob Leum, Viroqua; Miranda Randall, Soldiers Grove; Morgan Randall, Soldiers Grove; Janelle Remington, Juneau; and Kaitlyn Riley, Gays Mills.