

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 Revised November 15, 2016

Applications are accepted from Jersey youth who are currently juniors and seniors in high school or enrolled in an accredited two-year or four-year vocational school, college or university; and also those under the age of 22 who have completed a high school degree or equivalent and are currently employed in dairy herd management.

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 Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt private educational foundation under section 501(c)(3). Contributors to this foundation represent broad Jersey breeder and industry support. Administrative services are provided by the American Jersey Cattle Association.

Applications for Next Class

The fifth class will be held July 9-14, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio. Applications will be available September 1, 2016 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 Hampshire: Zachary Mason, North Stratford
Nevada: Ted Christoph, Fallon
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 Leshner, 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

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

Class IV (2015)

California: Regina Pozzi, Petaluma; Nicole Saunders, Hilmar; Rebecca Sanders, Hilmar.

Georgia: Matthew Holton, Dawsonville; Elizabeth Pereira, Snellville

Illinois: Jenna Preston, Taylor Ridge

Kentucky: Katlyn Vencill, Nicholasville

Massachusetts: Toni Jacque, Sunderland

Minnesota: Meghan Skiba, Cambridge

New York: Drew Hill, Cattaraugus

Oklahoma: Logan Courtney, Chouteau; Blake Koehn, Meno

Oregon: Austin Woods, Beaver

South Carolina: Tyler French, Newberry

Texas: Anneke Boer, Dalhart

Vermont: Megan Hill, Bristol

Washington: Emily Beebe, Monroe; Mandy Lagerwey, Bellingham

Wisconsin: Samantha Allen, Reedsburg; Austin Nauman, Norwalk; Julia Owens,
Frederic; Kalan Randall, Soldiers Grove