There's a wealth of information in the registration name of an animal recorded by the American Jersey Cattle Association. More was added during the first week of February.

The AJCA registration name has three parts. The core is the name selected by the First Owner. Typically that includes the breeder's prefix, the short name of the sire, and finally a unique name that traditionally references the cow family (e.g., the "Belles") but could be as simple as the tattoo or herd number (e.g., A364).

The other two parts—**name suffixes and prefixes**—are determined by rules made by the Board of Directors of the American Jersey Cattle Association.

The name suffixes were adopted first. These were P or PP to identify polled animals; followed by ET for animals produced through embryo transfer, with clone and split-embryo animals labeled ETN and ETS; and LL and RVC, labeling declared carriers of the genetic abnormalities Limber Legs and Rectovaginal Constriction, respectively.

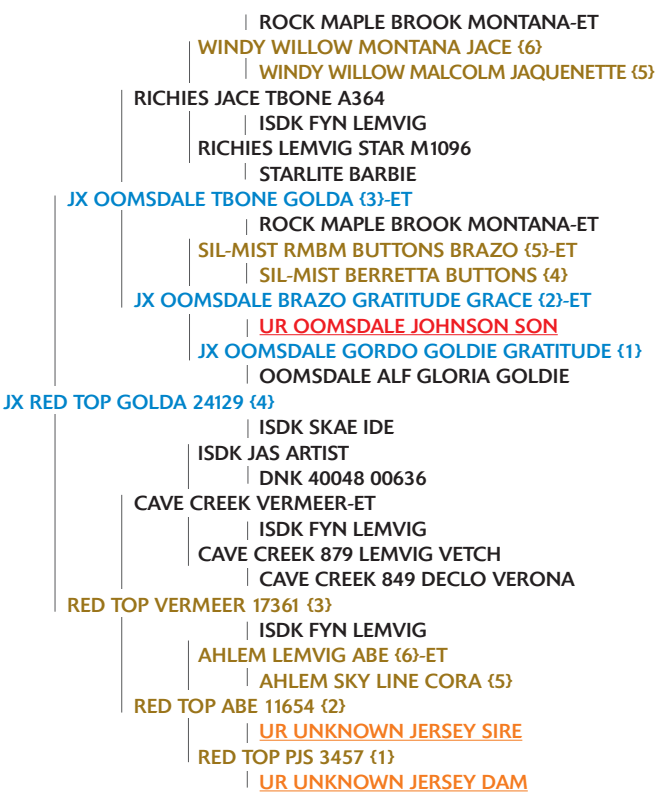
Name prefixes were introduced in 1975 to track progress towards Herd Register status through Genetic Recovery, a program for identifying Jersey females that had missing or incomplete pedigree records. The prefixes told you what step a female was at. Starting with the Original Animal that had no known, recorded parents (OA prefix), by using a Registered Jersey™ sire, offspring progressed to PR (Provisional Register) and then GR (Genetic Recovery) status. Offspring of GRs entered the Herd Register without a registration name prefix indicating they came through Genetic Recovery.

About 20 years ago, reacting to the increase in Jersey semen sales for breeding non-Jersey females, the AJCA Board of Directors began studying how to track those genetics and in 1999 implemented Jersey Expansion identification. The J1 prefix identified females known to be part-Jersey and part another breed. The female offspring of a J1 and a Registered Jersey™ bull qualified for the OA prefix.

The essential thing communicated by these prefixes was the number of generations of AJCA registered Jerseys in a pedigree. That was the genesis of the Generation Count recording system implemented in May 2016.

With one number, the Generation Count suffix indicates the depth of known and recorded ancestry in a Jersey pedigree. When an animal's name includes a suffix with a number in braces, just **behind the count of {1} in the pedigree, there is an unknown Jersey animal *or* there's an animal that is not Jersey.**

Generation Count is simple. It also tracks more generations than did Genetic Recovery or Jersey Expansion. The Generation Count suffix is carried in the registration name for six (6) generations. Animals that have seven (7) or more unbroken generations of recorded Jersey ancestors have Herd Register status, so do not have a Generation Count suffix.



Five-generation pedigree of female recorded at Generation Count {4} with JX prefix. AJCA Herd Register animals are in black print. The non-Jersey ancestor is identified in red, with Jersey-cross descendants highlighted in blue. Unknown Jersey ancestors in the five generations are shown in orange print. Gold print identifies descendants of unknown Jersey ancestors that carry a Generation Count by AJCA rules.

Generation Count suffixes replaced the prefixes of Genetic Recovery and Jersey Expansion in May of 2016. References in ads or documents to animals labeled OA, PR, GR or J1 up through J6 *(used towards the end of the program)* are obsolete.

There are now just two name prefixes used by AJCA rules: UR for unregistered, and a new one implemented on February 4. That is the **JX prefix**, for Jersey Cross.

When you see the JX prefix in a name, you know that the animal has at least one **ancestor of another breed within six (6) generations.** After six generations, the JX prefix is dropped. That is the point at which, based on recorded ancestry, the animal should have inherited more than 99% of its genetic make-up through the Jersey breed.

Just as Generation Count makes it simple to assess depth of Jersey pedigree, the JX prefix makes it simple to differentiate a pedigree that includes an animal of another breed from one that has an unknown Jersey. To illustrate, the essential difference between the parents of:

JARS OF CLAY NOAH 1715 2661 {1}
JX JARS OF CLAY LENNOX 1211 2671 {1}

is that *sire or dam* of the second is **not** Jersey.

Going a step further, study the example at left. 24129 has a Generation Count of 4, meaning her pedigree has at most four unbroken generations of recorded Jersey ancestors. On the maternal side, she descends from unknown Jerseys. Paternally, the JX prefix points you to the non-Jersey ancestor, UR Oomsdale Johnson Son.

Keep in mind that the JX prefix was implemented on February 4, 2017. It takes time for updates to work their way through A.I. and the dairy records system. For current information, refer to USJersey's web services: infoJersey, Green Book Online and BullsEye.

You might also find a new infoJersey application helpful as you consider future matings. From the Tools menu, select *Determine Animal Registry Status.* Enter sire and dam ID information, then the sex of the calf to obtain its AJCA registry status (Herd Register or Generation Count) and find out if the JX prefix applies.

Having a JX prefix does not impact eligibility for national sales (National Heifer Sale, Pot O'Gold Sale, All American Sale) or AJCA-designated regional and national shows. The only eligibility requirement related to registry status is that animals must have a Generation Count 4 or greater *(Board of Directors, March 12, 2016).*