**National Jersey Queen Contest Application**

**National Jersey Queen Contest held in conjunction with The All American Jersey Shows & Sales**

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** The National Jersey Queen Contest is open to any female member of the American Jersey Cattle Association (Junior or Lifetime) who is *not younger than* 16 years of age and *not older than* 22 as of January 1, 2024.

Previous National Jersey Queens are not eligible.

**Return completed form no later than October 15, 2024.**

**ABSOLUTELY NO LATE ENTRIES OR FAXES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

IMPORTANT: APPLICATIONS WILL BE JUDGED FOR PRESENTATION.

**2024 National Jersey Queen Application**

**Name YOUR Birthdate**

HIGHLIGHT THIS LINE AND REPLACE WITH YOUR NAME REPLACE WITH YOUR BIRTHDATE

**PHONE NUMBER CELL PHONE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS**

REPLACE WITH PHONE NUMBER CELL PHONE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS

**Mailing Address**

HIGHLIGHT THIS LINE AND REPLACE WITH YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

**Will you be an exhibitor at the 2024 All American Junior Jersey Show?** HIGHLIGHT THIS TEXT AND ENTER ANSWER

**indicate the class(es) in which you have entries** (for INTERVIEW scheduling purposes)**:**

HIGHLIGHT THIS TEXT AND ENTER ANSWER

**CURRENT CLASS STATUS IN SCHOOL AND NAME OF SCHOOL YOU ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT:** HIGHLIGHT THIS TEXT AND ENTER ANSWER

**IF NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL, WHERE ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?** HIGHLIGHT THIS TEXT AND ENTER ANSWER

**Number of Registered Jerseys you currently own:** Cows \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HEIFERS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Have you ever participated in the:**

 **National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest** Yes No How many years?

 **National Jersey Youth Production Contest** Yes No How many years?

 **All American Junior JERSEY Show** Yes No How many years?

 **Pot O’Gold Sale (sponsored by the AJCA)** Yes No How many years?

 **JERSEY YOUTH ACADEMY** Yes No what year?

**Do you own dairy cattle of other breeds?**  Yes No Which breed(s)?

**Describe your local, state and/or national activities with animals OF OTHER BREEDS and your participation in other breed associations.**

HIGHLIGHT THIS TEXT AND ENTER ANSWER

**When (date, time) will you arrive in Louisville?** HIGHLIGHT THIS TEXT AND ENTER ANSWER

**Answer the following questions (minimum font size, 11 points).**

1. List the organizations (i.e., 4-H, FFA, state Jersey association, state Junior Jersey association, etc.) of which you are currently a member. For each, list office(s) held, as applicable.

2. Identify the highlights of your Jersey experiences (e.g., production awards, show winnings, achievement recognitions at state, regional, or national levels).

3. Have you participated in any demonstrations or public speaking events to promote Jerseys and/or the dairy industry? Please explain.

4. What are your plans and goals for the future?

5. Describe your platform *(as defined in Contest Rules, Contest Procedures section)*. Explain why you chose this platform and how you will advocate for it if selected as National Jersey Queen.

6. In 100 words or less, why do you want to serve as National Jersey Queen?

**TOTAL LENGTH OF YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION MAY NOT EXCEED FOUR (4) PAGES.**

**EMAIL a head-shoulders picture (JPG format, at least 1 Mb file size) to** **info@usjersey.com****.**

**Please include 2 letters of reference with your application.**

Return form to American Jersey Cattle Association

6486 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-2362 Email: info@usjersey.com

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2024, 12:00 MIDNIGHT EASTERN**

**(11:00 P.M CENTRAL, 10:00 P.M. MOUNTAIN, 9:00 P.M. PACIFIC).**

 **FAXES AND LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**2024 NATIONAL JERSEY QUEEN CONTEST**

**READ CAREFULLY.**

The 2024 National Jersey Queen Contest will be held Friday, November 8 through Sunday, November 10 in conjunction with The All American Jersey Shows and Sales in Louisville, Kentucky.

The last day that applications will be accepted is October 15, 2024—NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Eligibility**

The National Jersey Queen Contest is open to any female member of the American Jersey Cattle Association (Junior or Lifetime) who is not younger than 16 years of age and not older than 22 as of January 1, 2024. Previous National Jersey Queens are not eligible.

The National Jersey Queen and the alternates are expected to demonstrate current knowledge of the Jersey breed and the American dairy industry.

**Application**

Download the application from the USJersey website using this address: http://bit.do/QueenApplication.

Candidates must complete the official application to enter the contest. You must clearly indicate your involvement with the Jersey breed through personal activities and participation in state and national organizations (such as the state Jersey association, 4-H, FFA and so forth). If you are involved with more than one breed, you must show clearly that Jerseys are your priority.

Indicate (a) the day and time of arrival in Louisville and (b) which classes, if any, you have entered in the Junior Show. Include a color digital photo that is at least 3” wide and approximately 1 Mb in size.

Submit the complete application to the AJCA office no later than October 15, 2024, using email, U.S. Postal Service, or other courier service. Absolutely no faxes will be accepted.

The interview schedule will be sent to you no later than 10 days after the application deadline.

**Participation Requirements**

Every candidate for National Jersey Queen is required to participate in four functions.

* *Orientation Session and Written Test,* Friday, November 8, Expo Center grounds ringside at the start of the All American Junior Jersey Show – 8:00 a.m. orientation; 2:00 p.m. test
* *Interviews and The All American Junior Jersey Show,* Friday, November 8, Freedom Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center, 937 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209 (show starts at 9:00 a.m., following the orientation);
* *Youth Awards Ceremony,* Saturday, November 9, Expo Center grounds in West Hall B, 937 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209 (contest rehearsal at 8:30 a.m.); and
* *National Jersey Jug Futurity,* Sunday, November 10, Freedom Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center (2:00 p.m).

Report to ringside at 1:15 p.m. for instructions. Responsibilities are distributing show programs and entry forms for the Railbird Judging Contest, which raises money for the Maurice E. Core Jersey Youth Fund. The Futurity will conclude not later than 4:30 p.m.

Required functions for the top five finalists are:

* *All American Jersey Sale,* Saturday, November 9, West Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center (business/professional dress, report to sale clerking table by 3:00 p.m.);
* *The All American Jersey Heifer Show,* Sunday, November 10 (business/professional dress, at ringside no later than 8:00 a.m., show starts at 7:30 a.m.); and
* *National Jersey Jug Futurity,* Sunday, November 10, Freedom Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center (formal dress, you will be excused at 12:30 from the All American Jersey Heifer Show to change, introductions and crowning of the Queen at 2:00 p.m.).

Required functions for the National Jersey Queen and two alternates are:

* *National Jersey Jug Futurity,* Sunday, November 10, Freedom Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center (formal dress); and
* *All American Jersey Cow Show,* Monday, November 11, Freedom Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center (business/professional dress, report to ringside no later than 8:00 a.m., show begins at 7:30 a.m.)

The National Jersey Queen will also participate in the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings, World Dairy Expo, The All American Junior Jersey Show (2025) and The All American Jersey Heifer Show (2025). Financial support for these activities will be provided by the Charlene Nardone National Jersey Queen Fund and the youth activities budget of the American Jersey Cattle Association.

Attendance at other local or state events throughout the year is optional and must be coordinated by the Queen in advance with event organizers.

The National Jersey Queen is given Editor privileges to post on Facebook @USJerseyQueen, maintained exclusively for that purpose by the American Jersey Cattle Association.

**Contest Procedures**

There are two phases in the contest: *Preliminary* and *Final Selection*.

*Preliminary Phase.* The preliminary phase has four elements:

* **Application Form** (25 points). Using your application and responses to the essay questions, the judges will evaluate your qualifications and preparation for serving as National Jersey Queen.
* **Platform** (10 points). A platform is defined as an issue of special interest related to increasing the demand for Jersey cattle that you will advocate during your year of service as National Jersey Queen.

The platform is part of both the written application and interview. You will spend a lot of time with your platform (especially if you win, but even if you don’t), so you should select a topic about which you are knowledgeable and passionate.

Platform topics can vary widely. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, favorable characteristics of the Jersey, economic advantages of Jerseys in milk production, selling Jersey milk and/or milk products, Jerseys and developing responsibility in young people, and so on.

Your platform should be relevant to the goals and programs of the American Jersey Cattle Association. Pay attention to current issues affecting milk producers. Choose a platform that is applicable beyond your county or state. Avoid centering a platform around one event (like The All American Jersey Show).

*Have a 1-2 minute presentation prepared for the judges advocating for your defined platform.*

* **General Dairy Knowledge Test** (15 points). This quiz is given to all contestants during the Friday orientation session. In addition to general knowledge questions (similar to those used for Dairy Quiz Bowl), at least one-third will be specific to the Jersey breed and Association activities.
* **Interview** (50 points, covering background with Jerseys, general dairy knowledge, platform, and personal appearance). Each participant will meet with the judging panel for 20 minutes on Friday during the All American Junior Jersey Show. You must be on time for the interview. There are no make-up interviews if you miss your scheduled time.

*Final Selection Phase.* The final selection phase of the National Jersey Queen Contest is part of the Youth Awards Ceremony. It has two elements: (1) an introduction and (2) an extemporaneous question-and-answer (Q&A) phase. The rehearsal for this phase will be held in the banquet hall 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.

When this phase begins, each contestant is escorted to the stage to briefly introduce herself. The judges will consider this introduction in their determination of the contest finalists, which are announced after introductions are completed.

Only the finalists participate in the extemporaneous Q&A phase. The emcee asks a general warm-up question followed by a second question created by the judges that is identical for each finalist. This question will be from one of these general topic areas:

* Merits of the Jersey breed for U.S. milk producers, OR
* Advantages of Jersey milk and Jersey milk products to the U.S. consumer, OR
* The American Jersey Cattle Association and mission to “improve and promote the Jersey breed of cattle.”

The Youth Ceremony is concluded with announcement of the top five finalists.

The top five finalists will be asked to assist with passing slips at the All American Jersey Sale on Saturday afternoon and to help present the All American sashes at the All American Jersey Heifer Show on Sunday morning.

The five finalists and outgoing Queen will be asked to be at ringside for the start of the National Jersey Jug Futurity on Sunday afternoon. Short introductions to the crowd will be made and the Queen and two alternates will be named to preside over the show.

Evening dress is appropriate during the competition on Sunday. However, full-length formal dresses are not required and will be neither rewarded nor penalized in the judging.

On Monday morning the National Jersey Queen and two alternates will be asked to be at ringside for the start of the All American Jersey Cow Show to assist with award presentations for the show.

**Questions?** Contact Blake Granzow, Executive Assistant, at 614/322-4472, or by email (bgranzow@usjersey.com, with “2024 Queen Contest” in the subject line).

*August 2024*