

## ABOUT THE USJERSEY ORGANIZATIONS

Jerseys are the fastest growing breed of dairy cattle in the United States today. Jersey and Jersey-cross cows make up approximately 15% of the U.S. milk cow herd and are found in one of every four licensed dairy operations. This is due to the higher protein and milkfat content of Jersey milk relative to the U.S. average, resulting in high demand from manufacturers of cheese, protein-standardized powders, butter and yogurt. Jersey cows have comparative advantages in efficiency of feed conversion, fertility and reproduction, longevity, and sustainable utilization of land, water and fossil fuel energy in milk production.

**The American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA)** was organized in 1868 and is the oldest dairy breed association in the United States. Its purposes are to improve and promote the breed of Jersey cattle in the United States and to maintain such records and activities as the Association deems necessary or conducive to the best interests of the breeders of Jersey cattle.

The AJCA has 2,107 active members (*May 2016*) and provides services to more than 5,000 Jersey dairy farmers each year. The membership elects a 12-person Board of Directors and President, whose dairy businesses range in size from 40 to 8,000 milking cows.

AJCA maintains and disseminates animal identification, milk production, body conformation and genetic evaluation information on behalf of all Jersey cattle owners and marketers of Jersey genetics. It also funds Jersey-specific research through an endowed Research Foundation and conducts extensive educational efforts through the publication of a monthly magazine, *Jersey Journal*, and other outreach and promotional activities. AJCA is a long-time member of the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, National Pedigree Livestock Council, and U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.

**National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ)** was formed in 1957 by the American Jersey Cattle Association to promote equity in milk pricing. The nutrition, and therefore the value, of milk resides in its components: butterfat, protein and other solids (lactose and minerals). Equitable milk pricing seeks to compensate producers for milk components in accordance with their use and value in consumer products.

For over 50 years, NAJ has advocated for not just Jersey producers, but all producers with above-average component milk. A national organization, today NAJ has 1,042 members who support equity in milk pricing and dairy policy. While a majority of these members are Jersey producers, approximately 25% of NAJ members own other breeds of dairy cows instead of or in addition to Jerseys.

NAJ carries out its mission through market development, milk price regulation, policy issues, research, industry relations and information and education. NAJ is a long-time associate member of both the National Milk Producers Federation and the International Dairy Foods Association.

The NAJ Board of Directors consists of 11 producers. Their dairy operations range in size from 40 to 8,000 cows. Two NAJ board members are producer-handlers bottling and marketing their own milk, and a third has ownership interest in a large, proprietary cheese company. NAJ owns three trademarks for use on 100% Jersey milk products to help our processing members further differentiate their products.

AJCA and NAJ members serve on the boards of many dairy industry organizations, marketing cooperatives and milk promotion associations.

Policy, programs, and services for both organizations, headquartered in Reynoldsburg, Ohio (suburb of Columbus) are carried out by a 36-person paid staff. For more information, contact Neal Smith, AJCA-NAJ Executive Secretary & Chief Executive Officer, at [nsmith@usjersey.com](mailto:nsmith@usjersey.com); and/or Erick Metzger, General Manager of National All-Jersey Inc., at [emetzger@usjersey.com](mailto:emetzger@usjersey.com).