



## Leadership Matters. Make Your Vote Count

“Successful leaders see the opportunities in every difficulty rather than the difficulty in every opportunity.”  
— Reed Markham

Leadership is not simply about decision-making—it’s about vision, trust, and the power of representation. For members of the USJersey organizations, leadership begins with you. As stewards of the Jersey breed and stakeholders in its future, your most vital tool for influence is your vote.

The annual elections of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ) are not just formalities. They are a call to action. These elections determine who will serve as the voice of the membership, guiding the organizations with policies that affect every aspect of our work—from breed development to milk marketing, from research to growth initiatives.

This year’s pivotal event, the 157th Annual Meeting of the AJCA, will take place on Saturday, June 28, 2025, at the Embassy Suites/UK Coldstream in Lexington, Kentucky. Members will elect a President and one Director from each of the following districts:

- *First District:* Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.
- *Second District:* Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming
- *Third District:* Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

On Thursday, June 27, 2025, National All-Jersey Inc. will convene at the same venue. Members will elect two directors—one from District 2 and one from District 3.

The foundation of these elections is the

principle of one member, one vote. It ensures that each voice has equal weight and that leadership reflects the collective will of our diverse and dedicated membership. But to uphold this principle, your participation is essential.

Through their work, elected board members:

- Establish and uphold policies that align with AJCA and NAJ missions.
- Oversee service delivery and maintain financial stewardship.
- Champion programs that boost Jersey milk production, promote genetics, and expand market reach.

As they fulfill these responsibilities, board members must continually revisit four essential questions:

1. Do our policies, programs and services encourage and support the development of a more efficient Jersey cow?
2. Are we moving quickly enough to remain relevant to commercial milk producers?
3. Are our marketing efforts increasing the value of and demand for Jersey products: milk, cattle and genetics?
4. Are we bold and forward-thinking enough to reshape the color of the dairy industry?

These questions are more than a strategic checklist—they are a compass for our breed’s future.

Voting in person at the Annual Meeting is encouraged, but all members should also vote by proxy, a process made easier by mail and email ballots distributed in May.

Whether attending or not, voting by proxy improves efficiency and ensures your voice is counted.

Your vote is more than a duty—it’s a declaration of commitment to progress, to the Jersey legacy, and to the values we share. The future of our breed depends not just on cows and data, but on people like you—active, informed, and engaged.

When your ballot arrives, cast your vote. Let your voice be heard.

