



Leadership of the Jersey Breed

“Good leaders have vision and inspire others to help them turn vision into reality. Great leaders have vision, share vision, and inspire others to create their own.” ~ Roy Bennett

The American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc., are membership organizations. Through the company’s history, we have been blessed with outstanding leadership. For that tradition to continue, willing and qualified candidates are needed to serve on the Boards.

The people you elect to serve on the Board of Directors have the responsibility to provide equal and fair representation of all members as they make decisions about the AJCA’s policies and services.

The AJCA has just completed the 11th consecutive year of more than 100,000 registrations and the sixth high in history with 122,092 recorded. These represent 4,559 different owners.

In 2022, new records were set once again for production at 20,447 lbs. milk, 1,005 lbs fat and 765 lbs. protein. Projections out to 2030 show the breed will reach nearly 5.0% fat and 3.9% protein in just seven more years. Continued growth, due to the forward thinking of our leadership.

In addition, a record 165,099 cows were enrolled in the REAP program, within a record number of herds at 1,001.

Nearly 800,000 males and females in the Jersey breed have now been genomic tested. The exponential growth in this program over the past decade shows that faith in the genomic program is important to our breeders.

For the past 10 years, more than 100,000 cows have been evaluated each year by the type traits appraisal team. Last year more than 1,600 herds were involved.

And, these numbers reflect just a few portions of the business that we encompass.

Leadership does matter.

Representing all members, the Board of Directors establishes the policies respective to the AJCA’s mission and purpose:

To improve and promote the breed of Jersey cattle and to maintain such records and activities as the Association deems necessary or conducive to the best interests of the breeders of Jersey cattle;

To promote the increased production and

sale of Jersey milk and products, and to promote Jersey cattle and the interests of breeders of Jersey cattle.

And thus, the Board of Directors ensures quality, cost-effective programs and services are delivered. They determine charges for services, supervise the use of funds and accumulate assets to support future investments, research and growth.

Board members should be prepared to acknowledge four questions in the continuing quest for breed progress and growth:

Do our policies, programs and services encourage and support the development of a more efficient Jersey cow?

Are we improving her fast enough so that commercial milk producers continue to regard the Jersey cow as the profitable choice for their businesses?

Do our marketing programs increase the value of and demand for Jersey products: milk, cattle and genetics?

Are we progressive minded enough to achieve our goal of changing the color of the dairy industry?

In the Board room, the organization is looking for Directors willing to draw upon and share their personal and professional expertise. Directors asking penetrating questions and expecting good answers. Directors willing to listen, analyze and evaluate, then speak sincerely. Directors, even in disagreement, committed to having an objective conversation in service of Jersey breed improvement, better markets for our products, and Jersey breed growth.

At the 2023 AJCA Annual Meeting on June 24 in Wisconsin, a President will be elected, as well as four Directors from these districts:

- Second District: New York and New Jersey;
- Seventh District: Illinois, Indiana Kentucky, Michigan, and Tennessee;
- Eighth District: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota; and
- Eleventh District: Arizona, California (except Merced County), Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah.

To those eligible, willing and qualified to stand for the 2023 elections, consider answering the call to leadership. Contact the Executive Secretary for a nominating petition today.

Nominations for AJCA are due by April 20.

