



## Iowa—The Land of Everything Jersey

Iowa—meaning “beautiful”—is the spot for the 2021 annual meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc. Iowa Jersey breeders are excited to welcome you to the annual event of the summer for Jersey breeders. It all begins on Wednesday, June 23, at the Isle Casino-Hotel Bettendorf, along the great Mississippi River.

As stated in the June 2007 *Jersey Journal*, Iowa has been quietly influential in our industry for many, many years. The National Dairy Cattle Congress started at Waterloo in 1910, which was where Joe P. Eves organized the first intercollegiate dairy cattle judging contest. Dean H. H. Kildee of Iowa State University led the effort to develop the Unified Dairy Cattle Score Card. Geneticist Jay L. Lush, at Iowa State from 1930-1966, turned animal breeding “from an art into a science.” His contributions are so important to the industry that the J.L. Lush Award in Animal Breeding, is one of the highest recognitions given by the American Dairy Science Association.

Iowa milk producers were among the first to ask when they were going to be paid for protein, and Mississippi Valley Milk Producers Association—now Swiss Valley Farms—was the first to do that, starting on August 1, 1973.

Iowa is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest milk producing state. As of May 2020, Iowa had 217,000 head of dairy cows. Their dairy industry produced 5.62 billion lbs. of milk in 2019. Each month, the average cow produced 2,012 lbs. of milk. Iowa produced more than 333 million lbs. of cheese in 2019, and ranked ninth in cheese production.

Iowa has produced nine Directors of the American Jersey Cattle Association, one AJCA president and one NAJ president—the same man, the late G. Joe Lyon—and the Jersey organizations’ Executive Secretary from 1985-1993, Maurice E. Core.

Lyon Jerseys LLC is the lone Master Breeder from the state, while G. Joe. Lyon was recognized with the Distinguished Service award. The late Ronald L. Horst,

Ph.D., received the Award of Meritorious Service from the organizations.

The state has boasted many accomplishments among their youth: two National Jersey Youth Achievement Winners; two National Jersey Queens; two National Jersey Youth Production winners; two Pot O’Gold Production Contest winners; and three youth have been chosen to attend Jersey Youth Academy.

### The Meetings and Elections

The 153<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the American Jersey Cattle Association will be held Friday, June 25. At the meeting, a president will be elected and membership will vote in one director from each of these districts:

- First District: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont;
- Third District: Pennsylvania;
- Fifth District: Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia; and
- Ninth District: Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

On Saturday, June 26, National All-Jersey Inc., will hold their annual meeting. Two Directors, each with a four-year term, will be elected—one from District 2 and one from District 3.

Biographies of the candidates for AJCA President and Directors and NAJ Directors are online at [www.USJerseyJournal.com](http://www.USJerseyJournal.com). Ballots were mailed the week of May 24 to all active members of the AJCA and all voting members of NAJ.

Members can submit votes electronically through an email link sent to each individual, in person at the Annual Meeting or by proxy.

Please exercise your privilege and accept your responsibility to vote when you receive your ballot and proxy in the coming weeks. Your voice is important to the future of our breed.

And remember to log on to JerseyAuctionLive on Friday, June 25, to watch and bid at the 64<sup>th</sup> National Heifer Sale.

