

JUNE

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Lasts...

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Chittendens named Distinguished Breeder

THE Paul Chittenden Family, Dutch Hollow Farm LLC, Scho-dack Landing, N.Y., will be honored as the 42nd recipient of the Distinguished Cattle Breeder Award by National Dairy Shrine. This is the dairy industry's highest honor bestowed to a dairy cattle breeder.

"These folks are truly breeders," stated Richard Smith, Jersey Sire Analyst, ABS Global, Inc. "They appreciate, enjoy and take into account the history of the Jersey breed. The Chittenden family has an astute interest in the breed and seizes each generation as an opportunity for improvement."

Dutch Hollow Farm LLC is not just a farm that has bred outstanding Jerseys. It's a family with a passion for Jerseys and the dairy industry, an ability to breed outstanding cattle, and a desire to provide them with the best care and management to express their potential.

Dutch Hollow Farm is owned by brothers Brian, Alan and Nathan Chittenden and their parents, Paul and Melanie. The third generation of the Chittenden family also lends a hand with the business. Each of the generations currently on the farm have been recognized at the national level for their ability to breed outstanding production-driven cows.

The Dutch Hollow herd consists of 668 registered Jerseys on DHI test and just under 500 replacement heifers. But the dairy's impact on the breed most likely comes from the 90-plus bulls bred by the farm that have entered A.I. service over the past four decades and a handful of young progeny-test bulls earning their first proofs now.

Dutch Hollow Farm has continued the legacy of quality polled genetics established at Paul's home farm, Fair Weather Farm, New Lebanon, N.Y. The breeding philosophy that Paul brought to Dutch Hollow Farm when he set out on his own in 1976 still holds true today. "A cow was put on this earth for one reason — to produce milk. She doesn't have to be ugly to do it, and it is better if she is born without horns."

Of the five Dutch Hollow-bred bulls on the current list of active A.I. Jersey bulls, more than half are naturally polled. One of their

bulls, Dutch Hollow Lexicon, ranks among the top 10 of the breed for GJPI after the April 2014 genetic summaries. The most heavily-used, naturally-polled bull bred by the Chittendens was Dutch Hollow Berretta Choice-P. He has over 2,300 daughters on record and more than 100 registered sons to date.

Though the polled gene is something the Chittendens strive to include in their pedigrees whenever possible, profitability is the primary focus of the breeding program.

Each of the past 14 years, Dutch Hollow Farm has ranked among the top 25 herds in the nation for various measures of production among similar-sized herds. The 2013 AJCA lactation average of 20,846 M, 1,011 F and 719 P on 592 lactations ranks the herd ninth for milk among herds with 300 to 749 cows. Over the past dozen years, 293 members of the milking string produced Honor Roll records and 98 made Hall of Fame records.

Breeding cows that last is another hallmark of the breeding program at Dutch Hollow Farm. The Chittendens have bred 152 Excellent cows and 214 cows with lifetime credits in excess of 100,000 pounds milk and five with more than 200,000 pounds milk lifetime.

One might say the ability to breed quality cattle is in the blood at Dutch Hollow Farm as both the patriarch and matriarch grew up on distinguished registered Jersey farms. Paul was raised on Fair Weather Farm and is the son of the late Jane and Stanley Chittenden, recipient of the Master Breeder Award in 1983. Melanie, the daughter of the late Louis M. Fish Jr., was also raised with registered Jerseys. Her family bred cattle using the LF prefix.

Paul received the AJCA Distinguished Service Award in 2010 for his years of service to the national Jersey organizations, and the farm was recognized in 2012 as AJCA Master Breeders. In June 2014, Alan was elected to the AJCA Board of Directors — the third generation of the family to serve in this capacity. Both his father and grandfather also have served as president of the AJCA. Paul and Melanie received the Young Jersey Breeder Award in 1979. Alan, Donna, Brian and Beth earned the recognition in 2000. **|||**



THE CHITTENDEN FAMILY has a long history in the Jersey breed. Shown above (L to R): Paul, Nathan, Alan, Brian and Melanie Chittenden.

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