

2003 YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT WINNERS

National Youth Achievement Winner

This year's National Youth Achievement Winner is Katie Voelker from Perryville, Missouri, who has been raising Brown Swiss for 10 years. During this decade, she has established a herd of 33 registered Brown Swiss cows, 14 yearlings and four calves. Out of 10 cows classified last November, seven were bred by her and four of those classified are "Excellent". The herd's milk, fat and protein average about 16,234M, 620F and 555P.

Katie has been showing animals at the county state and national levels for about as long as she's owned Swiss. This year, she had her Fall Heifer Calf, Sr. 2-Year-Old and Jr. 3-Year-Old making Missouri State Bell Ringers, with her Jr. 3-Year-Old, "Fergie" winning the National title. Her Jr. 3-Year-Old and Produce of Dam were nominated All-American. In the past, she has shown six Missouri State Bell Ringers. By the way, all of her All-American nominees and Bell Ringers have been homebred.

Katie has also been active in showmanship for seven years; judging for seven years and participated in the Missouri Dairy Camp Showmanship Demonstration contest this year. She also received the 2003 Missouri State Fair Scholarship. She has participated in quiz bowl for four years, where she was a winner in 1999.

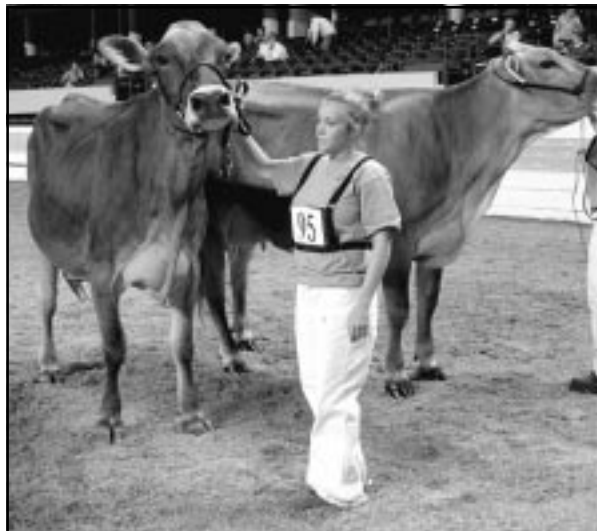
Some other activities she has participated in have been the Elsie Cow Contest where she placed fourth in the nation with her cow, "Jessie".

As a junior member in the association, she has received the District VI Youth Achievement Award in 2001 and the Production awards in 1999, 2000 and 2002! Since 1994, she has attended every National Convention and even donated a heifer to the sale in 2000. She's been a constant figure at the Missouri State Picnic for the past six years, and for

just as long, she has participated in the Missouri Dairy Association Supreme Award with her Brown Swiss. She has won the award for 5 years at the Southeast Missouri District Fair, twice at the Perry County 4-H Fair and once at the East Perry Fair.

Katie has promoted her Swiss at these shows and sales, as well as in the *Bulletin*. She believes that the Bell Ringer program has benefitted her the most. It has given her goals to achieve, such as breeding cows with tremendous production that also look good in the show ring.

While evaluating her herd and seeing what direction she should take, she looks at the animal's paternal side. Here, she feels that



Katie Voelker - National Youth Achievement Winner

the blood lines are very important, and recommends using young sires. They have the ability to produce long-lasting, high component milk cows. In her herd, she has used Collection, Jolt, PHD, Dominate and Pronto. She selected these bulls based on their high PTAT, NMS, PTAM and their breeding. A high quality, balanced diet is the key, Katie says, to increase production. She feeds her Swiss a diet of corn silage, whole cottonseed byproduct and high moisture haylage. Management on the farm consists of producing high quality forages and mixing byproducts to minimize feed costs.

A veterinarian comes monthly to check for pregnancies and to give vaccinations.

Another way to breed top-notch Swiss is to constantly re-evaluate them. Reflecting on her award-winning herd, she noticed that her mammary systems have improved, but she says that her cattle could use a little work on their strength, set to their rear legs, dairy character and foreudder attachment.

Outside of the dairy industry, Katie is a member of the National Honor Society and has been active in 4-H for 11

years and FFA for four years, where she served as Chapter Secretary, Vice President and President. She has been active in her cheerleading squad where she's served as captain. Just recently, she has even found out what it feels like to be on the top of a human pyramid when it comes tumbling down — but she's okay.

District III Youth Achievement Winner

As well-known youth, Dylan Fry, is this year's Youth Achievement Winner from District III. He has only been working with registered Brown Swiss for about eight years, but during that time, he has won many awards with his top-quality Swiss. He has shown at the county, state and national levels where he has stood in the winner's circle at the Eastern and Central National Shows.

While talking about his show winnings, those have added up to Sr. 2-Year-Old, Fall Heifer Calf, Jr. 3-Year-Old, 4-Year-Old, Fall Yearling, Winter Heifer Calf and 5-Year-Old State and National Bell Ringers! This is not counting all of his All-American winnings and nominations.

Since 1997, Dylan has been honing his showing skills participating in showmanship. He has also been active in judging competitions at the district, state, national and international levels. At last year's Mid-Atlantic Calf Sale, his grandfather,

Edwin Fry, donated a tremendous pedigreed calf, with the proceeds from that sale going toward Dylan's judging team's trip to a judging contest in Western Europe. At this international contest, Dylan was a member of the team that won!

As a junior member of the Maryland and national Brown Swiss Associations, he has participated in the National Cheese Yield and Youth Production contests; the Maryland Brown Swiss Association meetings; many of the national conventions and even went on a



Dylan Fry



Katie won her showmanship class at the Southeast National Jr. Show. Executive Secretary David Kendall (left) and National Youth Coordinator Joe Miller (right) presented her with her awards.



Dylan Fry has his Brown Swiss at Fair Hill Farm in Chestertown, Maryland.

dairy farm tour in Switzerland. He is also this year's recipient of the Brown Swiss Youth Scholarship.

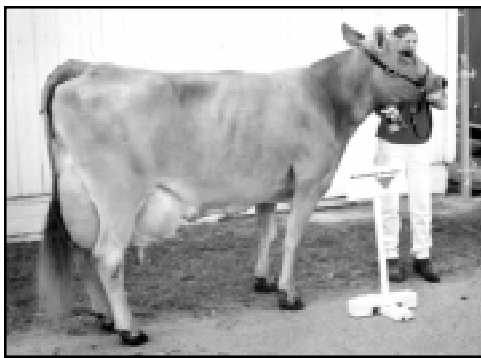
The BSA Youth Achievement Program has been a benefit to Dylan, because it has encouraged his overall knowledge of the breed and industry. The program motivated him to set goals and plan for his future.

Dylan graduated at the top of his high school class in 2002, and is currently attending Cornell University in New York. At Cornell, he is involved in the Cornell Dairy Science Club, Block and Bridle and Alpha Gamma Rho. He is also active in various community services.

Dylan's Brown Swiss herd is on Fair Hill Farm, which is owned by his grandfather. There, they have registered Brown Swiss and Holsteins. His actual herd of Brown Swiss consists of 12 registered cows, six yearlings and eight calves.

On average, his Swiss produce 24,513M, 963F and 801P. Dylan has seen tremendous growth and he wants to continue to work with his Swiss. He has also seen an overall improvement in type. His herd is developing into one with greater strength and depth of pedigree. Even though Dylan has made a lot of improvements with the Swiss, he still feels he could improve in these areas as well as with their production index.

He feels that the greatest influence on cattle is how they are managed. He uses all his managerial skills to enable his herd to reach their full potential for production. He sees strength, feet and legs and udder cleft and support as three of the most important



Jessica Pillsbury showed one of her Swiss at her local show.

traits his herd needs to focus on in order to reach their potential.

Dylan focuses on overall type, udder composite, strength of cow families and overall PTI in his herd. To achieve these, he uses Conquest because of his high potential for udder composite, PTI and fertility; Jolt for his high PTI, strong stature and the type he yields; Jetway (M) for his type and consistency; and Anthem because he has such potential as a young sire. He sees a strong and progressive genetic program as a necessary foundation for any herd. Because, without these "founding

father" traits, the Swiss in his herd will not last long, produce well or be of any benefit to anyone.

Dylan promotes his herd by consigning to sales, selling animals privately, showing and advertising regularly in the *Brown Swiss Bulletin* and calendar (March 2004).

In the future, he wants to maintain a herd average of 25,000M or more, a classification average in the high "Very Good" range and have a successful bull taken into A.I. He also wants to develop more All-Americans, the Grand Champion of the Central National Show and own and manage his own herd of Brown Swiss.

He sees the future opening up for Swiss. As their popularity and value increases, many herds, not necessarily all-Brown Swiss herds, will be more accepting of the "Big Brown Cow". They are already in the running with Holsteins, but their longevity and increased production and components has given them the potential to surpass Holsteins.

District V Youth Achievement Winner

Jessica Pillsbury from Whitewater, Wisconsin, is the winner from this district. She grew up on a Holstein dairy and has been raising Brown Swiss for five years.

While working with her Brown Swiss, she has been showing in her canton since 1998 and in 2002, she had an Honorable Mention Sr. 2-Year-Old State Bell Ringer.

She has also participated in showmanship contests and was 9th overall in the judging competition at her area Animal Science Days. As a junior member, she has been active in her canton, state and national meetings. Along with her other junior activities, she has participated in various junior outings over the years. She really enjoys the Cheese Yield and Production contests. These contests focus less on how the cow looks one day in the ring and more on her ability to produce well.

Outside of her Brown Swiss activities, Jessica has been active in 4-H for six years where she served as club secretary and received an award in rec-



Jessica Pillsbury

ognition of her time spent with the record book. She's also involved in FFA, High School Dance Team and the Junior Holstein Club.

Her Brown Swiss herd consists of two cows and one calf. Jessica feels that stature, due to the emphasis in the show ring, and feet and legs, which are important to having cows that can hold up under production and last a while in the herd, are two important linear traits to watch. She is pleased with her herd's improvement in these areas.

Jessica is averaging 20,513M, 720F and 626P in her herd. In order to keep this production going and to be able to compete in the showing, she needs to have a sound breeding program. In the past, she has used Banker, President, Ransom and Ossidio. She chose these four bulls because they are high in Type with a high Net Merit. She says that the right bull, and the proper diet, are key factors in increased production.

With her small herd of Swiss, she has learned to become an effective manager. Jessica has studied her Swiss and made compatible matings, keeps up-to-date on which bulls are up and coming, works with her local A.I. technician and works with a nutritionist to keep her herd healthy and producing. She promotes her herd at meetings and shows.

Jessica has taken great pleasure in owning Brown Swiss and sees the breed growing. She believes they are going to be an asset to most dairymen in the future. Her goal is to increase her herd using high type sires. She would also like to eventually show her herd at the World Dairy Expo and earn the titles of All-American and National Bell Ringer!

Junior Members!

Plan to attend the National Convention in Rochester, MN!

July 14-17, 2004

The older youth will enjoy a day of go karting, a water slide park and a pizza and movie outing in the evening!