

# 2002 Youth Achievement Winners



## **National Youth Achievement Winner**

*Angela Laffranchini*

## **National Youth Achievement Winner**

**A**ngela Laffranchini from Ripon, California, is this year's National Youth Achievement Winner. As most will remember from last year, she was awarded one of the National Youth Scholarships. She is using that scholarship money to attend Modesto Junior College.

Angela owns 10 Brown Swiss cows, 11 yearlings and 12 calves, with one of them being enrolled in the IE program.

When talking about increasing her herd's production, Angela says, "In my opinion, there are three major factors that play a role in the production of dairy cattle, and all are equally important. First is feed — what you feed your cows is an important factor for increasing production in any herd. This could include consulting with a nutritionist to get the most effective feed for your herd. My cows are fed alfalfa hay with a TDN average of 50-55 percent. They are also fed a variety of commodities for a mixer, and fed grain in the milk parlor.

Second, the environment is essential to a content herd. On the farm, my cows have access to freestalls, which are scraped daily, as well as the lanes to the parlor, and there are many water troughs throughout the area.

Third is genetics. I would mate my cows to the top sires of the breed for milk, fat and protein. If I concentrate on breeding to sires with higher production instead of physical appearance, then definitely my rolling herd average will rise."

In her breeding program, Angela has used Banker, Collection and Ensign. Banker's heifers have exhibited a lot of type and make great show-calves.

She used Collection to improve her herd's stature and dairy character. He works well on the cows that have good mammary systems.

Ensign is her udder bull. She used him on cows that needed improvements in the overall structure of the udder. She feels he gives a wider, more level and extremely high udder.

Classification is very important to her, because she is able to identify where she

needs to improve her cows. Angela says that the mammary system is the most important classification breakdown, and Dairy Form and Feet and Legs are two other important areas as well.

She has been involved with showing and showmanship for over a decade. Starting at the San Joaquin County Fair in 1992, this led to showing at the Western National Show.

Through various organizations, she has also been a part of demonstrations, judging contests and public speaking contests.

Angela is a junior member of the California Brown Swiss Association and one of the programs offered that she has excelled in is the Bell Ringer program. Since 1993, she has had 13 state Bell Ringers, two reserve state Bell Ringers and, this year, two reserve national Bell Ringers and one winning national Bell Ringer.

Other activities that she has participated in as a California Brown Swiss Youth are the National Youth Scholarship Program, National Youth Ambassador Program, Youth Achievement contest, Cheese Yield Contest and National Youth Production Contest. She has also been instrumental in her state association by sitting on several yearly planning committees and starting and maintaining a newsletter for the youth association. This year, she is involved with planning youth events for the 2003 National Convention in Modesto, California.

Other activities outside of the association that she has participated in are FHA, FFA, 4-H, Ripon High Travel Club, Girls League, MJC Young Farmers and MJC Dairy Club.

She has had success showing, breeding, raising and selling her Brown Swiss and feels the breed is heading in the right direction. In her area of California, she has seen tremendous growth and continues to see more and more breeders adding Brown Swiss to their herds. "With the high protein content that these beautiful bovines have to offer," says Angela. "there is no doubt, in my mind, that herds will soon grow, and the breed will become more appreciated by ALL dairymen."

## **District II Youth Achievement Winner**

**J**ared Daubert of McElhatten, Pennsylvania, is this year's District II achievement winner, and is following in the footsteps of his siblings, Jeremy Daubert, 1996 National Youth Achievement Winner, and Lauren Daubert, 2000 National Youth Achievement Winner.

Jared's herd consists of 11 cows, five yearlings and five calves with a RHA of 20,546M 830F 697P. He has a classification average of 86.6 with seven of his herd members being homebred. In his herd, he uses Ace, Even

Special, Big Time and TD.

To Jared, feed is a vital component of his operation. He feels, "These feeds are responsible for the nutrients needed to produce large amounts of high-quality milk."

Jared likes to use young sires in his breeding program, and says, "... they often prove to be the most up-to-date and promising genetics available. We also use a few proven sires which have proven themselves and are a cross on the cow that will improve traits."

Using young sires also assists in tapping into new bloodlines and cow families. This helps to reduce inbreeding and helps to raise the bar on component production.

High production cows are fed a ration that gives them more energy. The dry cows, heifers and "pre-fresh" cows also get separate rations fortified to fit their needs.

Jared has been showing since 1999 at his county, district, state and Eastern National Shows. Two of his animals have been state Bell Ringers in 1999 and 2001. Even before competing in these Brown Swiss shows, he competed in showmanship contests at his District, County, State and National levels.

He has been an active participant at national conventions and even helped the sale crew when the convention was held in Pennsylvania. He has been involved with other organizations outside the Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association such as 4-H and its judging team, FFA and wrestling.

Jared thinks the Brown Swiss market is opening even more and wants to continue to work with cows. His goal is to breed a Brown Swiss good enough to show at Madison and possibly even get nominated All-American.

## **District V Youth Achievement Winner**

**J**ennifer Pillsbury from Watertown, Wisconsin, has had a herd of Brown Swiss for seven years. It consists of three cows, one yearling and one open heifer, with a RHA of 22,014M 707F 688P.

Basic conformation and improved management is a goal for her. "I feel feet and legs and stature are important traits that are needed in strengthening my herd."

She uses Banker, Jetway (M) and Ossido in her breeding program. In choosing these animals, she looks at each animal individually, and according to their strengths and weaknesses, she picks a bull that will be compatible.

Jennifer works with a nutritionist and veterinarian on a monthly basis to keep her animals in the kind of condition conducive to winning at shows.

She has been showing since 1996 and has participated in her Canton, State Fair, State Show and Central National Shows. With this participation, she has had three Bell Ringers.



**District II Youth  
Achievement Winner**  
*Jared Daubert*

In her community, Jennifer has won the judging contest two years in a row at the Area Animal Science Days. She has been a member of 4-H for seven years, in school sports for three years and FFA for two years.

Participation in association programs gives her national recognition and a great start for merchandising. Advertising in the *Bulletin* and showing are other ways she markets her Swiss.

She feels the "Big Brown Cow" is a breed on the rise! Her goal is to win a National Bell Ringer award with one of her animals and add to her herd.

**District VIII Youth  
Achievement Winner**

**A**be Cobb II of Perkins, Oklahoma, is this year's district winner. He owns seven cows, seven yearlings and three calves.

In Abe's breeding program, 15 percent of his cows are mated to young sires and it's 100 percent A.I. He uses Dalton, Pronto, Champion, Adidas and Campo. He hopes these bulls will increase his milk, fat and protein, as well as his udder traits. The bulls need to increase his production levels, because higher production and components is what pays the bills.

He has started a crossbreeding program which he is excited about. He was reading about the Black Diamond program and thinks that it will be a worthwhile program with an enormous appeal. "I think this is a great idea and will catch on fast," says Abe. "We are using that term [Black Diamond] around here already. The more people who crossbreed with Swiss, the more people will become involved in the breed. That can't help but be good for all of us!"

Abe has been showing for eight years. He has not just settled for his junior livestock show, county fair and state fair, he has shown in five other states. He was recognized in 2000, by winning the Fall Heifer Calf Oklahoma State Bell Ringer.

Over the years, he has donated his time to help others in the industry. For nine years, he has assisted Norm Magnussen in the ring at the Heart of America Sale, furnished cattle



**District V Youth  
Achievement Winner**  
*Jennifer Pillsbury*

for eight field days, served as vice president for the Oklahoma Jr. Brown Swiss Association, assisted juniors with fitting, furnished milk cows for Governor Frank Keating's "Septemberfest" and donated to the silent auction at the Heart of America Sale. He was recognized for his hard work and donations by being named "Mr. Junior Dairyman".

While not spending time in the dairy industry, he plays baseball and football, is on the student council, in FFA, National Honor Society and has won numerous awards for his scholastic achievement.

When thinking about where the breed is heading, he feels it is going in the right direction. One of the reasons for the success is component pricing. According to Abe, "In our part of the country, many 'black and white' breeders are breeding their cows to Brown Swiss to get cows with more strength, high components, less mastitis and cows that are easier to work with."

**District IX Youth  
Achievement Winner**

**L**aura Silva of Modesto, California, is this year's district winner. She currently has nine yearlings and three calves. One of her yearlings is enrolled in the IE program. Her RHA is 22,413M 813F 727P. Most of her Brown Swiss are purchased, but one of them is a homebred 2-year-old.

In her herd, she has used Mascot and Eagle because of their high PTI and Net Merit, and Dominate and President because of their values on type. When choosing bulls, she

chooses from the top of the PTI list, because as she says, "I believe, to increase present production, genetics are the key. Because no matter how great a feeding program is, you need to have the genetics to really increase production. You can see this in some pedigrees."

She works with a nutritionist on her feeding program which consists of a 52 percent TDN Alfalfa and commodities mix. The calves are fed grain, hay and milk the first three months. At weaning, she dehornes and at five months they are vaccinated for Brucellosis and given an eight-way vaccine. At 14 months, they are bred artificially, unless they are show calves that need to be bred at a better time for showing. She uses the on-line registration available at [www.brownswissusa.com](http://www.brownswissusa.com) and is on the PTPR program offered by the association.

She has been showing Brown Swiss since 1997 and has participated at the county, State and National level. She has had four California State Bell Ringers and one National Reserve Bell Ringer with her Jr. 3-Year-Old.

Throughout her junior years, she has participated in showmanship seven times at the county level and went on five of those times to the state level. She competed nine times in a judging contest, winning three of those, and moving on twice to the state level. She participated in demonstrations at the county and state levels six times, and has participated in eight county and two state public speaking contests.

She has shown at the World Dairy Expo twice, is vice president of the California youth association, attended several national conventions, been on several California Brown Swiss Youth committees, the planning committee for this year's national convention and participated in the National Youth Production contests. Aside from participating in the junior association, she is also a part of FFA, county fair barn yard nursery, 4-H, band, Jr. Holstein, softball and is an Aide in K-1 classes.

In the future, she wants to increase her herd using high type sires and would like to have a cow she can merchandise from. And, the dream of many, she would like to breed a quality Brown Swiss to exhibit at Madison.



**District VIII Youth  
Achievement Winner**  
*Abe Cobb II*



**District IX Youth  
Achievement Winner**  
*Laura Silva*