

2005 Young Breeder Award

Dan & Melody Siegert

The 2005 Young Breeder Award recipients are Dan & Melody Siegert.

Nominees for this award must be 40 years of age or less as of January 1, 2006, have been and active member of the Association for at least five years, and nominated by a state officer or active member.

At the 2006 National Convention in Dubuque, Iowa, Dan & Melody were honored with this award. They own and operate Siegert's Swiss Farm in Peosta, Iowa. They have three children, Mallory, age 4; Jayden, age 3; and Carson, age 1. They farm 200 acres consisting of alfalfa and corn. Siegert's have a 256 head freestall barn with a double 12 herringbone parlor. Dan is the third generation to run the newly located farm. Bill Siegert, Dan's dad, bought him a Brown Swiss calf at the local sale barn in 1982 as a 4-H project. Thus, the beginning of Siegert's Swiss Farm.

The Siegert's currently employ seven full and part-time employees. They switched from two time a day to three times a day milking in November 2005. At the current time they are milking 280 cows. The herd consists of 185 register Brown Swiss and 135 Holstein/Brown Swiss crossbreds and Holsteins. The March 2006 rolling herd average for crossbreds is: 21,098M 3.7 778F 3.2 673P. The May 2006 Brown Swiss rolling herd average is: 18,666M 4.1 760F 3.4



Dan & Melody Siegert are the 2005 recipient of the Young Breeder Award. They are pictured here with the retiring Director of District 6, Larry Kruse.

640P. The Siegert's have been testing since 1989 and classifying in 1995. In regard to their rolling herd average, the Siegert's have received the 2005 State Award for rolling herd average. They were 10% over

the state average.

They currently have 100 head of young-stock. Dan's parents, Bill & Janet, still play a very important part at the dairy. They raised the heifers from 4 months old until about 2 weeks before calving.

The Siegert's have developed several great cow families such as Lollipop, "E90", and Jalen, "E91", both with 30,000 milk. Other notable cows include Siegert's Denmark Jolly, "2E92 92MS", with a record of 5-10 365d 30,560m 4.6 1420f 3.6 1112p and Siegert's Peerless Whisper "2E92 92MS", with a record of 5-07 365d 21,660m 4.3 1377f 3.9 1239p.

The Siegert's are part of the Progressive Brown Swiss Sire Program. They currently have two bulls in the program, Siegerts Sunmade Jason ET and Siegerts Jalen Sea Jackpot. Jason was the 2005 Honorable Mention Junior Yearling Bull.

Dan & Melody enjoy showing at the local, state and national shows. They have had the honor of Iowa State Fair Grand Champion, twice with Brown Swiss and once with Jersey.

Dan & Melody host a number of farm tour each year. They were also committee members for the 2006 National Convention Sale. They are also program donors in the Iowa Share-A-Heifer program.

Congratulations, Dan & Melody!