



Executive Secretary
David Kendall

THOUGHTS

From The Secretary

Leadership comes in many forms. In the Purebred Dairy Cattle industry and the Brown Swiss breed leadership is mainly and rightly thought of as those who are responsible for breeding and developing cattle that make a significant contribution to the success of the breed. There are other forms of leadership however. One prime example of an individual who embodied the very essence of a visionary leader for Brown Swiss was Dr. Lee Majeskie. Lee was not afraid to face the challenges squarely and address the issues head on that the breed faces. Further Lee was not afraid to take an unpopular position if he thought it was in the best interest of the future of the breed.

A prime example of Lee's fearless pursuit of integrity was seen when he judged in California in 2005. Over the microphone, and I must stress not with a Brown Swiss animal, Lee said that exhibitor need not bring a class winner in for the Championship if "she had all that hair left on her topline". I was at the Western National in Sacramento on Saturday when we learned of Lee's passing. The shock was palpable across the barn. Lee's statement in defense of show ethics came quickly back to many minds; along with his logical placings, erudite reasons and classy demeanor in the ring.

In the area of ethics, Lee was at the forefront. Lee was part of the Brown Swiss Board when the decision was made to initiate the requirement of Ultra-Sounding for a show to qualify as a National show. Lee was also very interested in the efforts to cure the over-age heifer syndrome, end the manipulation of pictures and, of course, eliminating the stature-elevating, top-line fixing extra-hair complex.

Dr. Majeskie knew that the above afflictions did nothing to promote or improve the breed; all they did was mask the true appearance of an individual animal leading to misunderstanding of their genetic transmitting potential. Dr. Majeskie understood that to create progress, and for the Brown Swiss cow to remain competitive, new and proven genetic tools need to be utilized. To that end, Lee served with distinction on the BSCBA Genetics Committee and took a keen interest and was involved in development of the current Score Card.

Another topic that Lee paid great attention to was the development of end products from Brown Swiss milk. From the time he began to serve on the Board, Lee was interested in the cheese project. Lee was instrumental in the name change, label design, product expansion and marketing issues. Last year Lee helped us to get a grant from USDA that we have used to develop business models for the cheese. Lee was also interested in butter, yogurt, and other products that Brown Swiss milk excels in making. Lee's ultimate objectives in these programs were to increase the demand for Brown Swiss milk, increase the demand for registered Brown Swiss cows, and increase the value of our great cow.

The number of topics that Lee took the lead on or supported those out in front is much wider than this of course. Examples include Lee's interracial involvement in developing the first Brown Swiss Association young sire program, the program that in the late 1990s would be the financial engine that allowed BSCBA to continue to function. Lee was instrumental in the development and acceptance of the Brown Swiss ID program and was at the forefront

of many of the youth programs; including the nation-wide respected Maryland Lease program, which is the basis for the BSCBA program.

In addition, Dr. Majeskie was a great ambassador for Brown Swiss not only in the US but abroad as well. Lee's passing is a sharp pain around the world. However, two countries in which Lee left a very large footprint, Mexico and Australia, the loss is felt even more acutely. In Mexico, Lee had judged and classified many times on behalf of BSCBA. The respect and affection that Lee had gained in Mexico was deep and wide. The same in Australia where, in addition to judging a number of competitions, Lee in conjunction with Judy had also developed a partnership to create and send US Brown Swiss embryos down under.

It was in the last few years as that project in addition to a partnership with Gene Lager in I & M Associates (Judy being the voting member) that the serious, focused Lee took a back seat. It was great fun to see the enthusiasm and joy bubble out of Lee as he contemplated cattle to purchase and matings to make. At sales, Lee became very much the wide-eyed youngster who seemed to hardly be able to believe that he had the chance to purchase, breed, and develop such a wonderful creature as the Brown Swiss cow. With that joy in his soul, if God had granted him the time, I am sure that Lee would have become a leader in Brown Swiss in the traditional sense as well.

Dr. J. Lee Majeskie was a true leader of and a true believer in the Brown Swiss cow. As I write these notes, it simply has not become real that not only I, but the many other friends this gregarious, charming and caring man has left behind will not be able to hear his voice, listen to his wisdom, and smile at his humor ever again. For me, I hold the gleam in his eye the last time I saw him in Lima, Ohio, the light of belief and delight in the future Brown Swiss cow, as a touchstone to hold on to. To Judy, Matt, Troy, Nicole, Cassidy, Joyce, Randy and the rest of Lee's family, from the family of the Brown Swiss cow, know that you are in our thoughts and prayers...Dave

SMA Carrier Identified

In keeping with the Brown Swiss Association policy of notifying breeders of genetic abnormality carriers, it has been determined that **Hilltop Acres Z Jingo (M)** 68103338 is a carrier of the recessive gene known as SMA (Spinal Muscle Atrophy).

To be identified as a carrier of the SMA gene, an animal must have at least two offspring that have been determined to be SMA and these offspring must be DNA typed to identify parentage, tested at a 90% confidence level or higher as being a carrier with the DNA test, or tested positive with the new SMA marker test.

To help identify abnormality carriers, breeders are asked to contact the Brown Swiss Association to report abnormal animals in their herd.