COGENT

UK Jerseys

Jersey Q

January - April 2012

www.ukjerseys.com

2012 is a year where high profile events like the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics can lift the spirits of the nation. Similarly, we look forward to raising the impact and influence of the Jersey breed, both here at home, and abroad.

'A market for milk' and **'breeding cattle fit for purpose'** remains the two themes that the Society's board continues to focus the majority of its efforts on.

The milk market is clearly the priority. Without knowing and understanding what milk processors want, when and where, how can we improve the breed to fulfil these needs?

Equally, making a success of these two principle areas lays the foundation for the future of our Youth activities – our other area of focus beyond breeders and industry. This does not make our Youth work less important. However, to help our gifted and enthusiastic youngsters cultivate their own futures, we must offer them an enticing and exciting prospect. Nothing will do this more than a breed in demand, with a bright future for its product and a dynamic development programme.

This edition of the Q carries features which build on all the points above.

The Cogent / UKJ semen catalogue contains a number of new additions and features. It most certainly has something for everyone. The stud ranks extremely highly in the DairyCo breeding+ traits:

• PTAT	rankings	1 to 5
• Butterfat kg		1 to 5
• PIN		1 to 4
• Legs & Feet		1 to 4
• Mammary		1 to 3
• Butterfat %		1 & 3 to 7
• Fertility Index		1 & 3
• Protein %		1 & 3

On pages 30 & 31 we introduce our marketing exclusive with the **Rapid Bay** stud in Canada. World renowned for its consistent showring success, the impact of Rapid Bay sires was well demonstrated at the 2011 All-Breeds All-Britain Calf Show.

The catalogue also addresses a challenge thrown-up for the breed. JH1 (Jersey Haplotype 1) is a genetic recessive discovered in the genomic research programme in the USA. Haplotypes are found in all breeds and most bring positive benefits, although we join several breeds in now having to take account of a factor which was previously unknown. In the USA 23 per cent of Jerseys carry JHI which can result in failure to conceive in one-in-four instances of matings where both parents are carriers.

The Cogent Breeding team have been most helpful in helping us put this in to perspective, as they have previous experience of managing recessive breeding defects with other breeds.

As a major plank of our move to breed JH1 out of the population, this catalogue does not include any sires tested as a carrier. All our leading bulls – Allstar, Impuls, Legacy, Maximus, Kyros, May, Governor have been tested Free.

JH1C should be the marker used by the industry to identify carrier bulls. You may still choose to use such sires in your breeding programme, but ask first. Equally, AI rather than natural service will put you ahead of the game.

Roger Trewhella
Field Services Manager

Visions next generation

Potterwalls Juno Glamour 2 EX94 3E

Alderston Impuls Flower EX94 3E

Fourcrosses Bomber Bambi EX92

POTTERSWALLS STARBUCK

Starbuck is a very masculine individual, displaying tremendous maturity and development for his age. He is the result of a complementary mating of Potterswalls Juno Glamour 2 ET EX 94 3E and the consistently, high ranked index sire, Sunset Canyon Anthems Allstar JH1F. Glamour was Interbreed Champion at the Royal Ulster in May 2011 and has just completed a 4th lactation of 8,678kgs at 5.06BF and 3.97%P. She is an exceptionally long bodied cow, displaying tremendous width through the chest, rump and rear udder. Allstar is a top production sire with fantastic fat and protein improvement. Starbuck should breed big, dairy framed cows with good production, snug fore udders and high, wide rear udders.

SEMEN AVAILABLE SPRING.

ALDERSTON ZUMA McTAVISH

McTavish is a very compact, correctly made bull. He is also the result of a complementary mating for Alderston Impuls Flower with Danish DJ Zuma. Impuls Flower is one of the first UK Impuls daughters and to date is the highest classified at EX94 3E. From four generations of plus milk bulls, she is a phenomenal production cow with two records well over 10,000kgs. She is a medium sized cow with beautiful open rib, tremendous body depth and real quality udder. DJ Zuma JH1F improves production and milk quality; he is also one of the best scc improvers in the breed. McTavish should breed medium size cows with good milk fat and protein, reduce cell counts and increase the PLI value.

SEMEN AVAILABLE EARLY SUMMER.

FOURCROSSES ONTIME STAG

Stag is a very stylish correct refined individual. His pedigree is a nice combination of production, type and quality throughout. His great grand dam was imported from Denmark. She was a good production cow with fantastic fat and protein. This was then repeated with her Zic daughter. The next generation was the outcross to WF Brook Bomber JH1F which produced Fourcrosses Bomber Bambi. With a maximum score for her mammary, this young cow has graced many UK show rings. Stag's sire Lencrest On Time JH1C is a very complete packaged bull with positive production, good milk quality, fantastic feet and legs and good udders. Stag should breed the middle of the road type of cow, with respectable production, desirable conformation and really good udders.

SEMEN AVAILABLE MID SUMMER.

The 2011 Cogent Tour to the USA

By Mathew Pye, Igenity Jersey Youth Travel Award winner

What a great trip! Twelve of us arrived in San Francisco early evening, tired but excited about what we were going to see and learn over the next 12 days.

US herd differences

The first day took us to Brentwood Farms owned by Bob and Pam Bignami and their family. Bob Bignami is President of AJCA and gave us an insight into the BW Herd. First we saw the well-managed youngstock before looking around the herd of 1,400 milkers. This was the first US herd that I had seen and the size of the farm was mind blowing. It was interesting to see how the systems were different to the ones in the UK. The cows were bedded on recycled muck from the flood washout system. The Bignami family generously treated us to lunch and dinner and we learnt a lot more from them, as well as leaving with a mind full of cows.

Next day we travelled south to the Napa Valley and Sonoma. This was the first test for the Sat Navs! They soon had the two cars going different directions so this part is what the 'young' car saw. Driving through the valley we saw a lot of grape vines and when we arrived in Sonoma nearly every shop in the town had stocks of wine.

It was strange driving to the next place, Hilmar Cheese Factory, as it was Halloween and the locals were dressed up for it. On the guided tour around the plant we were given the history of the factory. It was built in 1984 by 12 local Jersey farmers, with the idea to get a better milk price. Currently there are 230 farms supplying the company, with 27 per cent of the milk being Jersey. The site had a shop and café that were both nice and busy.

The farm for the day was Clauss Dairy. This was one of three family farms run as a group with 5,000 cows in total. The herds were owned by the Clauss and Russell families, with herd prefixes; Clauss, Sun West and Yosemite. All of the feed was stored at one farm and was then taken to the other farms as needed. The farmers sent their youngstock to a heifer-rearing ranch in Texas, as there is a shortage of water in California and farms are limited to so many cows per acre. Mr Dick Clauss described the canal system of water supply, cropping and feeding.

The next day took us to the smallest herd we were going to see. This was D & E Jerseys, owned by Don and Elsa Sherman and is home to 650 milkers. Unfortunately we didn't see much as the wind was blowing the dust off the fields, but we did see some deep bodied cows and great youngstock. We had lunch with a discussion group of retired Jersey breeders.

Ahlem Farm Partnership is owned by Bill and Carolyn Ahlem and Sabino Ahlem Herrera. They milk 3,000 cows, sending calves at a day old to a calf ranch where they were reared till four months before returning to the farm. This was a very modern farm and it was good to see that a large number of cows can be managed in one herd.

The following day we had a rest from cows and visited the Yosemite National Park. This was a great day with a lot of trees, waterfalls, wildlife and granite cliff faces looking down onto wide-open meadows.

Our last day of Californian farms, and a lot of cows, saw us take in Wickstrom Jersey Farms owned by Duane, Scott and Michael Wickstrom. They were milking 2,000 on this farm as well as having another unit with 500 cows. This was a really nice herd and a well organised system with maximised cow comfort in the calving yard, as they used the outer shell of rice as bedding.

Next, Hilmar Jerseys, owned by the Chuck Ahlem family milking 4,600 cows. They were trying to cut down on staff and had invested in a robotic arm to pre- spray the teats on entering the rotary parlour. The cows were well looked after and in order to get the cows back in calf as soon as possible, they were jabbed to bring them in heat so they could blind AI them.

Our final visit was to Androgenics AI owned by Mike Miller. It was interesting to see how an AI Stud worked, and to see how they handle the semen before putting it into straws and then freezing. I have never been to one before.

We then travelled to San Francisco where we spent the next day doing

a bit of sight-seeing. I really enjoyed myself, even being a non-city person.

Louisville

On to Louisville where we spent our last three days. We arrived late afternoon, dropped our bags at the hotel and went to the Louisville Show. After a walk round the stands, we went to the 'Pot of Gold' sale, where bidders had to be under 25 years of age.

That night some of us went to The American Jersey Cattle Association Junior Banquet where the youth awards were presented and the Jersey Queen Competition result was announced.

Next morning there was an early start to have a good look around the show. I was wearing my UK Jerseys Youth top, which seemed to attract the attention of the exhibitors and they would stop what they were doing to talk to me. They were just as interested in what we were doing in the UK as much as we were interested to talk to them.

Later on that day the first cows entered the ring in the Jersey Jug Futurity. This is a class for three-year-olds that were entered first as calves and re-entered as a yearling and again as a two-year-old and finally as three-year-olds. All the entry money is used as prize money, the winner receiving more than $1,000 and the entire entry receives a share of the proceeds. There were 44 cows in this class and this was where the National Jersey Queen started her work by handing out the awards. In the evening it was time for another sale, the All American Jersey Sale. There was a good atmosphere and plenty of big bids.

Our last day was the big show day, over 500 Jerseys going out – what a sight! There were nearly 40 cows or heifers in every class, sometimes more. I couldn't get over this sight as I have never seen more than 13 in one class. The cows looked really well, with especially good udders, legs and feet, and a great emphasis on dairyness and clean bone.

This trip was a great experience for me and I would to thank the organisers, sponsors, and Mum and Dad for giving me the opportunity to enter the competition and for letting me have time off to go.

Finally I would like to thank all the new friends I made and would encourage anybody to enter the competition.

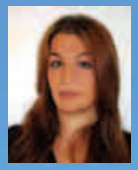
The Young Ones: Julie Bland, Matthew Pye, Chris Beer, Maria Brown and Tom Skinner.

Mechanical teat washing is one means of reducing labour costs in a large Californian herd.

Sabino Ahlem Herrera talks about the management of 3,000 cows in one herd

The Jersey Queen competition is one of several Youth activities at the Louisville Show. Most different is the 'Pot of Gold' sale where bidders must be under 25 years old

The use of Jersey milk for cheese making in the USA



By Julie Bland

A research programme has been put in place at the University of Reading UK, to understand the physico-chemical differences between Jersey and "black and white" milk supply. Commercial application of the research will be verified through commercial cheese making. The three-year programme is in association with UK Jerseys, Alvis Brothers cheese maker, the Dartington Cattle Breeding Trust, the Royal Bath & West of England Society and the Pocock Memorial Trust. The aim of the programme is to determine what impact the inclusion of Jersey milk has in cheese making and cheese quality. As the Ph.D student undertaking this research, I travelled with the Cogent Jersey Breeders tour to the USA.

Hilmar Cheese Company produces 863 tons of cheese per day, using 7.1 million litres of milk from 230 herds, making it the largest single cheese site in the world. It was founded in 1984 by 12 Jersey breeders in Hilmar, California and now has a second facility in Dalhart, Texas.

Hilmar Cheese Company uses a blend of Jersey and Holstein milk. The percentage of Jersey milk depends on the cheese plant. 20 per cent of the milk at Hilmar plant is from Jerseys, and 60 per cent at Dalhart.

The proportion of Jersey milk is dependent on what farmers supply to the company. The blending is done mainly during collection or in the storage tank, mixed herd or cross breeding not being the norm. In California a large number of farmers stock Holsteins, even though a number of incentives push an increasing number to Jersey cows. These include:

- **A higher premium for milk due to a superior protein and fat content.**
- **The greater true protein content of Jersey milk is also subject to a premium in the Hilmar Cheese Company contract.**
- **Using Jerseys also made it easier to be awarded the Environmental Quality Assurance Certification, demanded by Hilmar Cheese Company, as Jersey cows have a lower carbon footprint than Holsteins.**

As Hilmar Cheese Company standardises its milk, it believes they would not find a significant advantage by achieving a set proportion from farms. This would also be difficult to implement. Standardising total supply, has little impact on cheese-making, except for the amount of colorant which is

Average herd size visited was over 3,300 cows which is bigger than the 700 average for all Hilmar suppliers.

adapted to the more yellow milk of Jersey cows.

Hilmar found that the advantage of using Jersey milk was a higher yield, a lower somatic cell count and lower lactose per protein content.

They also found that using Jersey milk decreased the profitability of the dry whey sold by Hilmar Ingredients, a separate division of Hilmar Cheese Company. The decrease is due to the price of Jersey dry whey being the same as Holstein dry but with higher protein content.

Hilmar Cheese Company is well aware of the advances in cheese making research, especially regarding milk components leading to higher yield and better cheese quality. They are convinced that those findings could help to decrease cheese-making variability, their main problem. However, applying the experimental findings to commercial cheese making is difficult.

Hilmar Jersey farmers

During the tour, I visited several farms selling their milk to Hilmar, some of them being the original founders of the business. The average herd size was 3,313 milking cows. However the average herd size supplying the two facilities is 700 milking cows. The farms I visited were not representative of the average USA farm.

Agriculture in California is characterised by high land availability and the low price and diversity of feed because of the number of by-products available (biscuit, cotton seed, almond…). However, water is in short supply. Compared with the EU, the USA has fewer restrictions on medicine use and welfare and environmental requirements are reduced. However, the farmers I met found that welfare was important, enabling higher production. They also took into consideration their environmental impact being subject to the Environmental Quality Assurance Qualification required by the Hilmar Cheese Company.

The table below shows the difference in average milk yield in the UK and the USA since 2000. The difference is important and can be partly explained by the use of Bovine Growth Hormone plus a good mating program. Genomic testing of herds is now widespread in the USA and enables better mating and selection, plus efficient use of feed. Milk quantity and composition stay constant through the year.

	Jersey	2000	2004	2006	2008
Milk	UK	5,048	5,454	5,562	5,673
	USA	7,728	8,043	8,236	8,313
Fat%	UK	5.45	5.39	5.44	5.39
	USA	4.60	4.60	4.61	4.58
Protein%	UK	3.90	3.84	3.82	3.87
	USA	3.58	3.57	3.58	3.58

Butterfat- The UK produces milk with a higher fat content. However the total weight of fat per cow is lower than in the USA. It is also interesting to see that although milk quality variability is much less in the USA due to more stable rations, the fat percentage has still varied.

Protein- In this case the differences are smaller but the UK still produces milk with a higher percentage.

The USA has been able to increase the quantity of milk, fat and protein produced.

Artisan cheese maker

The tour also took us to Sonoma, where I had the opportunity to meet Sheana Davis, host of the Sonoma

Valley Cheese Conference which annually showcases leaders in artisan cheese making, retail and distribution. Sheana has been involved in supporting artisan and farm cheese for 20 years.

She explains it by the ease of rearing Jerseys, even on small holdings, and their milk suitability for artisan cheese making.

There exists a real consumer demand for Jersey cheese in the USA. Consumers see Jersey cheese as having more taste and also being more traditional. It is also linked to higher welfare and lower environmental impact and is often used in organic systems.

American Jersey Cattle Association

The other highlight of this tour was to learn more about the American Jersey Cattle Association. Having attended the Jersey Youth Banquet during the Louisville North American International Livestock Exhibition, I was able to witness the dynamism of this association and the importance they give to the next generation. Pushing future Jersey breeders to obtain a higher education seems an important aim of the Association.

In summary

Using Jersey milk is profitable for cheese-makers. More research is needed to understand the impact physico-chemical properties of the milk blend has on cheese making and cheese quality. A better understanding could help reduce variability and optimise cheese production.

Jersey farmers have a role to play in improving cheese making by producing milk that is better suited to this purpose.

It is important to improve the Jersey breed in the UK. Studying the US system could offer useful indications on the method to use.

The consumer view of the Jersey product needs to be examined in the UK to see if similar demands to the USA exist.

Jersey herds are linked to higher welfare and lower environmental impact in the USA

CLASSIFICATION

Improving the functional performance of a herd

Roger Trewhella reports on a routine Classification visit to the Four-crosses herd of the Wright family in Staffordshire where he met Michael Parkinson, who was recently appointed Head of Classification Services at Holstein UK. It provided the ideal backdrop, with perfect examples to demonstrate the service's benefits.

Easy management

'The one that you never notice', is quite often the response given when farmers are asked what type of cow they want more of in their herd. With herd sizes ever increasing, and labour reducing, the emphasis on breeding trouble free, long lasting and productive cows has never been as important. The type Classification service provides an impartial assessment of the conformation of cows in the herd, so that consistency and breeding objectives can be achieved.

A good example of 'the one you never notice;' Classified EX93 and eight calves under her belt.

Classification makes sense: Common sense

Before each animal is given a final score out of 97, nineteen different traits are studied to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each animal. These traits fall into four composite groups:-

- Body Conformation- ensuring ideal rump structure, overall balance and capacity
- Dairy Strength- ensuring sustained levels of high production and fertility
- Legs and Feet- ensuring ease of locomotion at whilst housed and/or at pasture
- Mammary- ensuring longevity of milk production

When combined the results can help make better informed breeding decisions, and exploit genetics to increase herd value.

What happens on-farm?

Visits are as hassle free as possible for the farmer. The animals being put forward for inspection should be in their 'working clothes,' not clipped, washed, halter led or full of milk. All that is required is for each animal to be individually inspected on concrete.

Michael Parkinson, Head of Classification, marks out for stature scoring. A concrete surface to assess the cows locomotion on and with space to see each cow individually, is all that is needed for a classification session.

Classify all heifers in a herd

It is essential that all herds using the Classification service must submit their entire heifer crop to the system. It is the only way to achieve meaningful bull proof, all sires can produce one or two good daughters, but it is the percentage of poor ones that sort out the good bulls from the bad!

Not only does it distort bull proofs but it also gives a false in herd comparison and, therefore, comparison with national average.

Heifers need to be youthful

There is a fine line between youthfulness and frailty. Age of calving can clearly play a part in that, and this is taken into account in classification.

Increasingly Jersey heifers are being calved younger. This is good as it reduces capital tided-up in less productive stock: and it will have wider implications in the future as high youngstock numbers relative to the milking herd will impose a bigger carbon footprint penalty per litre of milk sold. And while Jerseys are aggressive feeders, the pressures on an immature animal to grow, produce milk and conceive again should not be underestimated. Increasingly, more herds are setting-up heifer groups, and the extra attention given to these developing animals pays dividends in the long run. At Fourcrosses, heifers are straw yarded for the first three months of lactation. It is made more manageable as no heifers calve from April to June inclusive, and more than two-thirds of the herd calves in the August to November months.

The extra attention given in the first three months of lactation pays dividends in helping youthful heifers mature in to cows with a long productive life.

Breeding for the optimum

Michael Parkinson is of the view that breeders should focus their attention on breeding the type of animal that works in their system. This can be done by identifying the linear on the those animals that do the job in the herd, then use the linear on the bull proofs to correctively mate those that need improving. This may in some cases will mean using bulls with linears that are not all to the right of the bar chart.

Jersey breeders, like all others, must recognise that the influence of consumers and milk purchasers on our industry has never been greater than it is today. Losing sight of what is commercially acceptable will do long term damage to the prospects of the breed.

Stature

Tall cows may draw the eye in the first instant, but if the cow is not in balance it will not score highly for body conformation or dairy strength. It is important that cows have the balance and strength to survive in modern systems.
This does not means a tall balanced animal cannot score high.

A heifer scored 9 for stature, achieving a final score of Good Plus 84 at Fourcrosses.

Currently UK Jerseys require that an animal must score 5 or above to become Excellent. This is above breed average and will have the effect of making Jersey cows taller, over time.

Within UK Jerseys this is one of the debates which need to be regularly revisited.

Teat size and placement

This is another area of on-going discussion among breeders, especially with the increasing interest in robotic milking. Teat length does not appear to be as significant as thickness; the latter influencing speed of milking, which is key to the economics of a robot.

Placement, too, is more important in robotic milking systems where there needs to be adequate width.

Taking this too far can result in stretching the clusters, leading to airing.

Stature is a topic regularly reviewed by Jersey breeders. Too small and output can be compromised, setting the breed development target too high and it can drive the breed ever bigger. The two examples below show the extremes and the annual Classifiers' Workshop provides the opportunity for UK Jerseys Board members to review the optimum.

The well grown heifer (left in picture above) scored a maximum of 9 for Stature and overall was rated as GP84.
The mature cow (Right in picture, right) was limited to an overall VG89 as she is only 3 for stature.

Fourcrosses summary
Thirty five heifers, from nine different sires, and twenty nine cows were classified at the visit. Two heifers were awarded VG, two cows first-time Excellent, and six cows multi-Excellent.

The Herd Summary report is always an interesting way to confirm the thoughts which niggle in the back of one's mind throughout a Classification exercise. Picking-up on some at Fourcrosses, the comparison with national average was:-

In summary, classification increases breeding awareness in the herd

- Breeding objectives can be identified, allowing more informed decisions.
- Interest and enthusiasm of stockmen can be heightened as goals can be set and progress monitored.
- Certain traits can be selected to help build the type of cow that will suit the system.

Trait	Fourcrosses	National Average
Stature	5.89 tall	5.6
Rump angle	4.09 high	4.3
Foot angle	3.86 low	4.8
Front teat place	3.4 wide	4.5
Rear teat place	4.54 wide	5.4
Teats side view	7.2 wide	6.2

Isobel and Matthew Wright

holstein UK

UK Jerseys

The importance of breeding cows of good conformation has never been greater.

Modern production systems impose stringent demands on the dairy cow

- **To produce high quantities of good quality milk**
- **To do so over a long and trouble-free lifetime**
- **Milk buyers and the general public too find conformation defects increasingly unacceptable**
- **Dairy farmers themselves are aware that it is the cows of better type that produce milk with ease**
- **Comfort, without ill health, lactation after lactation**

For further information on the Classification service, please contact Jackie on: 01923 695211

Ladies of the Loire

By David Handbrook

The European Jersey Forum's meeting in France

With some 3,250 recorded cows in 2010, a 19 per cent increase on the previous year, there is obvious interest in the Jersey breed in France and, in offering to host the 2011 European Jersey Forum meeting, Jersiaise France, the hosting breed society, were keen to show both delegates and travelling partners alike just how our breed is gaining fans across their country.

France has 530 dairy producers with at least one Jersey in their herd and 6200 first inseminations to a Jersey bull, as recorded by Jersiaise France, Jersey cow numbers are destined to increase further yet. On top of which the encouraging national average production, 5815 Kgs (Mature Equivalent) at 5.58per cent butterfat and 4.03 per cent protein, indicates the cattle themselves appear more than capable of holding their own in a country where there is a very strong allegiance to traditional and regional breeds, whether for dairy or beef production.

The EJF meetings, held at the Exposition Centre in the town of Chemillé, coincided with the regional Jersey Show and, as two years previous when I last attended, the enthusiasm of the owners, most of whom are young, is palpable.

Forum Meeting

The meetings were very well attended and covered a number of areas relevant to all Jersey breed herd owners alike. Peter Larson (Viking Genetics, Denmark) gave a presentation on the emerging facts associated with the recently identified Jersey Haplotype 1; and gave general observations on the reliability of genomic evaluations within the Jersey breed. It was noted that genomic reliabilities for Jerseys are only between 20-40per cent for many traits, and that this may account for Viking Genetics' experience showing the use of genomically tested Jersey bulls has not been as high as might be expected. It is therefore important to increase the size of the reference population, especially within Europe once full access to the technology is obtained.

Jim Dickinson (Longley Farm, UK) followed with a presentation on how his business uses the qualities of the Jersey breed not only in product formulation, but also recognising how important the use of the term 'Jersey' is to marketing, and what it means to the consumer. Jim reiterated how imperative it is that the marketing term 'Jersey' means completely a Jersey breed product, as defined by the respective breed societies and not the processors or supermarkets. Discussions took advantage of Jim's vast experience in processing Jersey milk, covering areas such as protection of the naturally occurring larger fat globules in Jersey milk.

FOIRE-EXPO

Judging of the Herd Group class

As for the cattle show itself it is not often that judging is carried out to a background of resonating pop music, whilst the judge is encouraged to choose his class winners and champions to an increasing crescendo of applause from the crowd. Judge, Anders Levring (Denmark), did a great job but I wouldn't like to think what might have happened if the crowd disagreed with his decisions!

The Champion and Reserve were a dam and daughter combination from EARL Hyson Voillot. The Jas Bungy sired champion came from the 4-5th lactation cow class, whilst her senior heifer-in-milk daughter by DJ Look pushed her for the top award. There were many quality animals in the class line-ups and the majority were sired by Danish bulls with a smattering of North American blood throughout, though a number of homebred French farm bulls appeared in the pedigrees of the older animals present. Jersey Island Genetics Ltd sponsored a new prize for the highest lifetime production animal exhibited which was won by a Fyn Lemvig daughter exhibited by Jersiaise France president Jean-Laurent Jubin.

Herd visits

In a long weekend of highlights the next day's visits to three herds continued to show the Jersey cow is more than at home in France.

The Gaborit family's 100 cow herd, whose milk contributes to that supplied to their processing factory, which is also at the farm

The final of the three visits, to the home of Bernard Gaborit and family, explained why this is especially so in this region. Many herds in the area supply organic milk to the Gaborits' factory, which processes primarily Jersey, but also some goat milk, into high quality cheeses and desserts that are sold through delicatessens across France. An extensive tour of the factory showed the full extent of the product range which appeared not only creative and inventive in its promotion and packaging, but obviously of the highest quality. Driven by a desire to be the best Bernard has, with his family, also developed since 1979 a great herd of 100 milking cows, and a similar number of youngstock, kept on 105 ha of organic land. Herd production stands at 5,300 Kg, 5.30 and 3.8 per cent butterfat and protein, respectively, scc averages 250,000; and with all the animals Classified to a final score average of 84.8, type is an important part of breeding policy too.

The other two herd visits also had more than their share of Jersey good news story to tell too.

With the first Jerseys arriving back in 1957 Daniel and Josette Pineau family have been long-time supporters of the breed, and their 100-cow herd has developed well over the years, now in partnership with Jean-Laurent Jubin who is President of Jeriaise France. Current production average of 6,649 Kg at 5.79 and 4.06 per cent, the herd achieved an income of 436 euros per 1,000 litres sold. Using predominantly Danish sires this herd too had an average Classifications score just shy of VG, at 84.3 with 55 to 61 per cent of the herd having VG scoring udders and frames.

I had already seen the third herd visited in 2009, and witnessed the 'in progress' expansion plans of Pierre-Yves and Aline Leger coming to fruition. Pierre-Yves had previously worked for the Gaborit family but had set out farming with his wife in 2006 milking 29 Normandy and 29 Jersey cows, within 24 months they were milking solely Jerseys.

In 2009 they exhibited the Champion Jersey at Chemillé and this year, even though they did not reach the highest accolades, it was easy to see exactly where their breeding plan was taking them, and the type of cow they wanted to milk. Today they milk 80 cows and carry another 50 young-stock on their 71ha of organic land.

Whilst good Jerseys must always be the highlight of any Jersey breeders trip, the evening visit to the truly spectacular Puy du Fou cannot go without mention, neither can the fantastic hospitality of the French Jersey fraternity. If you ever find yourself travelling through Maine-Anjou; having had enough of wine tasting, visit the Gaborit factory and try something different, made from the Ladies of the Loire.

Future looks bright for Jersey youth

By Izzy Whittaker

For as long as I can remember showing cattle has been my biggest passion, so when I was given the opportunity to help mentor and judge members of UK Jerseys Youth – I jumped at the chance with both feet.

The Jersey breed has rapidly progressed in recent years both in production and type and I was bowled over by the quality and enthusiasm of young breeders, particularly amongst the youngest members.

The event was held over a scorching three-day weekend, running from Friday 19th- Sunday 21st August. Kindly held by Michael and Bev Clear in Surrey, their top-class 120-cow herd is milked through two Fullwood Merlin 225 robotic milking machines in a new wooden, state-of-the-art facility and provided the perfect setting for this educative event.

After a hectic journey down with motorway closures and a confused SatNav, I arrived to an immediate start at the Clear family's Pierrepont herd.

Behind the scenes, competitors are put into groups and given approximately 10 animals ranging from four-month old calves to milking cows and have to work in teams to manage them over the weekend and get them ready for the show ring.

Here, group cohesion is key to picking up points for awards and ensuring that every animal is turned out to their best.

On Saturday, youngsters can compete in clipping and washing competitions, which on arrival was my first judgment task with the guidance of pro-Jersey showman, Frank Poskitt, and long-time Jersey enthusiast, Ollie Dain. Competitors were individually assessed for preparation, technique, skill and overall finish.

After the judging was completed for the day, I provided a showmanship demonstration and gave competitors an incite for what I would be looking for. Many enthusiastic questions ensued and I was looking forward to classes the following day.

Sunday's judging did not disappoint. My first challenge, with co-judge Chris Freeman from World Wide Sires UK, was to assess competitors for overall presentation of both their animal and themselves. It was extremely tight right through the classes and Chris and I found it tough placing candidates who were all immaculately turned out.

My second job of the day and last of the weekend was to judge the showmanship, an event that I have been competing in since the age of three. Having competed and shown cattle in various countries, I have seen a wide range of showmen and it was refreshing to see UK Jerseys young breeders with such drive and enthusiasm. The rest of the dairying world better look out if these youngsters keep going in the right direction!

I can only hope that the members of Jerseys Youth picked up some tips from me and that they found a piece of advice to take home and use in the future. The UK Jerseys Youth Weekend is unique and is the only event to my knowledge that educates young people on the whole process of showing cattle from halter breaking, right through to bagging udders for the show ring.

To conclude, I would like to thank sincerely the UK Jerseys Society for giving me the opportunity to judge this forward-thinking event. Special thanks as well to Nick Dain and all those involved in making the event a great success. As I said earlier, I think the UK Jerseys Society has a great future ahead with such talented youngsters and I can only hope that this weekend continues for many years to come.

Table Toppers

Matthew and Coral Senior have seen their Quickbrew herd rocket to the top of the Kingshay Farming Trust's league tables for both Jersey & Guernsey and Organic herds since moving to Eastfield Farm, near Crewkerne in Somerset in 2009.

2011 Doubled performance

2011 has seen milk per cow per day double as the calving pattern has been tightened and grazing management improved. Pasture re-seeding is through a rotation of swift for early winter grazing, followed by an arable silage crop to provide a better balance in the conserved forage, and then including chicory with the grass seed mixture for summer drought resistance. Each element plays a part in helping the herd hit 63 per cent of its output from forage; at 2,438 litres per cow, this easily exceeds the Kingshay Jersey & Guernsey average of 1,940 litres per cow. Such production from forage

Matthew and Coral Senior with their in-calf heifers. All yougstock are routinely weighed to make sure that two-year calving is achieved as the tight calving period is for no more than 11 weeks

means the cows need to walk up to 1.5 miles to graze; easily achieved according to Coral as Jerseys are great walkers!

All this has put the family on a better footing with their milk buyer, Longman Cheese Sales Ltd, who wants year-round supply. 2011 performance means that the herd will be sufficiently productive to milk through the winter. In 2010 the herd was dried-off on December 20th.

Flirting with autumn calving

To make sure that they could continue meeting the Longman's requirement for year-round supply, Matthew and Coral did flirt with the idea of introducing an autumn calving group. In the end it was not the financial budget which made them decide against it, rather the fact that they would need to calve at least 30 per cent of the herd in a September to November block to make any noticeable impression on milkflow.

Simple factors such as retaining designated culls in-milk longer can add to the daily sales during the winter months.

Cross-breeding for half the herd

The Quickbrew Jersey prefix was established during the Seniors' previous share-farming enterprise at Brew Farm, Sennen, West Cornwall. Spring 2012 will see the first Friesian-cross heifers calving. These will all be born out of cows, with heifers continuing to be bred to Jersey. With 40 per cent of matings being to heifers, the Seniors are confident that half the herd will remain Jersey. Their rationale for cross-breeding is to increase milk yield in the cross-cows by ten per cent, and to improve value of bull calves. Herd size is set to increase from its current 250 to 290 in spring 2012.

Target production is 3,900 litres per head from the Jersey heifers at 5.2 per cent butterfat and 3.8 per cent protein, and the cross-cows yielding 4,200 litres at similar milk qualities.

All cows are inseminated for seven weeks with bulls then sweeping-up for an additional four weeks. Heifers are bred to natural service for ease of management.

With such a tight calving period, making sure replacement heifers are calved between 22 and 26 months old is essential. To avoid any unnoticed slippage, youngstock are weighed as routine with target growth rates increasing from 0.55 to 0.65kg per day as they age. This will get them to an average of 425kg at calving.

Chicory gives added drought resistance in young leys. The Quickbrew herd achieves 63 per cent of its production from forage alone, putting it to the top of the margin per litre tables for both Jersey & Guernsey and Organic herds in the Kingshay League Tables.

Quickbrew v Kingshays J&G and spring average performance

Herd	Cows	l / cow	Yield from for	Conc / cow	kg / l	MOPF / L
Quickbrew	248	3799	2438	770	.21	26.15
J&G (34 herds)	170	5557	1940	1899	.34	20.89
Organic (29)	184	6751	3189	1725	.26	23.37

National Dairy Show Successes

Bluegrass Heritages Lovely Lady EX93
Bred by Mr & Mrs BA Daw,
Owned by AJ Wilson

Triple Tops - Bluegrass Heritages Lovely Lady completed a hat-trick of Interbreed Championship successes by claiming the **Welsh Dairy Show** title on the back of equal success at the **National All Breeds Show** and the **Bath & West Dairy Show**. A truly remarkable six weeks for all associated with Lovely Lady.

Trecanda Vindication Lily VG 87
Bred by AR & CM Hurd
Owned by S & S Murray (Farms) Ltd

AgriScot Jersey Champion Cow
S & S Murray (Farms) Ltd.

Trecanda Vindication Lily

Clydevalley Governors Flora VG 88
Bred and Owned by The Hunter Family

The 2011 AgriScot SuperHeifer Champion was won by a Jersey for the first time in the show's history.

Clydevalley Governor Flora took this Award.

Clandeboye Jazz Evita VG 88
Bred and Owned by Clandeboye Estates (Lady Dufferin)

Clandeboye Jazz Evita
Royal Ulster Winter Fair Champion 2011