

AJCA Director Nominee

Joel Albright

Joel Albright, Willard, Ohio, has been nominated to serve as Director from the Fourth District of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA).

Albright owns and operates Albright Jerseys LLC with his wife, Mary Beth, and children, Lauren and Luke, and parents, Fred and Becky. The 600-cow Registered Jersey herd is enrolled on REAP, uses JerseyTags for permanent identification and JerseyMate for the top half of herd matings and is a contract advertiser with the *Jersey Journal*. The dairy is a member of White Eagle Cooperative.

Albright Jerseys has an actual 2018 lactation average of 19,941 lbs. milk, 892 lbs. fat and 713 lbs. protein, marks that rank third in the nation for milk and fourth for protein among herds with 300-349 cows. The dairy ranks #30 in the country for genetic merit, with a herd average JPI of +79 on 460 cows, and has an appraisal average of 84%, with 13 Excellents and 95 Very Goods.

Albright grew up on the family farm, which has been milking Jerseys since 1947. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in agriculture education in 2000 and earned a master's degree in human and community resource development three years later. He taught agricultural education at Crestview High School from 2001 to 2018 and then returned to the family dairy to farm full time.

The herd was expanded from 340 cows in 2012 to its present size of 600 cows by capitalizing on the Jersey breed's internal growth advantages. During the time, the Albrights nearly doubled production per cow as well by focusing on the basics of cow comfort, feed quality, reproduction and protocol consistency.

To manage the expansion, the Albrights undertook several facility upgrades, including construction of a new maternity and special needs area, flush system and pair of six-row free stall barns. Most recently, the Albrights completed a retro-fit of their barns to accommodate robotic milkers and constructed a new milk house. The herd has been milked by eight Lely A4 robotic milkers since March 2018, with a ninth robot installed in October.

Cows are fed a partial mixed ration prepared with a pair of twin-screw vertical mixers. The milking cow ration includes corn silage, wheatlage, bag haylage and high-moisture corn. Feed is pushed in front of the cows on an hourly basis by a Juno feed pusher.

The Albrights have placed several bulls in A.I., including the most recent, JX AJ Garnett Grover, GJPI +178, at ABS Global Inc. They have consigned animals to the National Heifer Sale, the Pot O'Gold Sale, the Ohio Spring Classic, the Ohio Fall Production Sale and the Buckeye Classic Sale. Half of the proceeds from the sale of their consignment to the 2017 Ohio Spring Classic were donated to help fund the annual meetings of the national Jersey organizations, hosted by Ohio in Canton in 2018.

Joel received the AJCA Young Jersey Breeder Award in 2016 and currently serves on the All American Sale Committee. He sat on the Ohio FFA Board of Trustees and chaired the organization's proficiency award program from 2015-2017. During his 17-year tenure as Crestview FFA advisor, the chapter had 94 state degree and 43 American degree recipients. Joel has also served FFA as assistant coordinator for career development events.

Albright Jerseys was a tour stop for the International Conference of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau held in conjunction with the AJCA-National All-Jersey Inc. Annual Meetings last summer and will host Jersey Youth Academy this year. The dairy will also be a virtual farm tour for World Dairy Expo this fall.