

***It is time to cast your ballot for this year's Brown Swiss Historical Society Awards. Two awards, Historical Master Breeder and Active Master Breeder, will be presented at the National Convention in July in Ohio. Mini-bios are included that you may become more familiar with the nominees. Deadline for voting is March 31!***

## 2017 Master Breeder Award Nominees

### Historical Breeders

**Roy Arnold (1921-2006) Arnola Farm, Lexington, North Carolina.** A dairy farmer all his life, Roy Arnold started with Brown Swiss in the 1960's. Arnold is best known as the breeder of one of the great brood cows of the breed - Arnola Peggy Priscilla, "5E", National Total Performance Winner in 1989 and 1991 and Superior Brood Cow. Her progeny, both male and female, dominated the shows and sales and Sire Summaries and have had an impact on breeding programs worldwide. He served six years as a National Director from District III.

**Jim Harkness (1912-1996) and Jerry Harkness (1942-2015) We-Gotta Farm, Marcellus, New York.** The first Brown Swiss were purchased by Jim's father in 1925, and Jim became a member of the first 4-H Dairy Club in New York State with a Brown Swiss calf. Jerry Harkness was the third generation Brown Swiss breeder. The original herd had to be sold when Jim's father died, but after finishing school in 1941, Jim started dairying and was able to purchase a descendant of his original 4-H calf which was Swissland Fi-etta. Among her famous descendants was We-Gotta Jetway Fancy, 3x All American, who had four All American daughters including Mort Tower Frisky. Jerry served as secretary-treasurer of the New York Association, National Director and Chairman of the National Type Committee.

**George G. Harris (1934-2012), Harris Hill Farm, New Milford, Connecticut.** The original Harris farm was in Wethersfield, CT - where George G.'s great-grandfather, George W., purchased a Brown Swiss, Tube Rose 24, and later imported two groups from Switzerland in 1882-83. His son, George M., continued until his death in 1956. George G. moved the herd and family to New Milford in 1958, continuing the use of the bull Mandarin of Laurel Ridge whose progeny put the herd on the map. Perennial favorites were Harris Hill Mandarin Mary "Ex" and Harris Hill Tina L "4E". Her son, Harris Hill Tom Jones, was a highly used Superior Sire. He also bred Harris Hill Laddie's Sorrel, dam of Top Acres Elegant Simon. George G. served as president of the New England Association. He later served as an Area Rep and Classifier for several years before becoming National Executive Secretary from 1987-1994.

**Don and Shirley Head (1955-2006), Head's Crest Dairy, Braman, Oklahoma.** Don and Shirley Head were two city kids that came to the Head family farm in 1954. This farm became known as Head's Crest Dairy. They bought their first registered Brown Swiss in 1955. They showed at many state and national shows, the first being at Tulsa State Fair in 1966. They had Grand Champion in 1983 with Cresta Verda J S Rachel owned with Larry Paaske. Rachel's sire, Bridge View Jubilant Sooner, was developed at Head's Crest and helped them earn the Premier Breeder and Exhibitor awards at many shows across the nation along with numerous All American nominations over the years. The cow family that the folks at Head's Crest were especially proud of was developed in partnership with Larry Paaske and was known as Cresta Verde Swiss. The foundation was the "3E-Elite" Welcome In Stretch daughter, Ideal Acres Stretchy Pepper. Pepper and her daughter, Head's Crest Paul Patriot, were the recipient of National Protein Awards. Patriot's daughter, Head's Crest T Providence became the dam of Johann Pete Rose ET.

Don was on the first Board of Directors for the Heart of America sale and for 25 years was President of the Oklahoma Brown Swiss Association while Shirley served as secretary. He served on the National Type Committee. Don judged shows in many foreign countries.

**Hull Bros., L.E. (Lewis) and Sterling E. Hull (1876-1923), Lake View, Painesville, Ohio.** The first Swiss were purchased by F.W. Hull at the 1893 Worlds Fair in Chicago, a bull and two cows. The two brothers took over ownership at the father's passing. They soon developed the herd into one of the premier herds of the early 1900's. Swiss Valley Girl 10th made a National Breed Record in 1929. Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor at the National Show in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1929. They had Grand Champion at the National Shows in 1916, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1923, 1929, 1930 with several different cows. Additionally Swiss Valley Girl the 7th was Grand Champion in 1917, 1921, 1922 and 1924. They were one of the earliest advertisers in the Brown Swiss Bulletin and consignors to many of the sales in the 20's and 30's. Sterling Hull passed away at the age of 47 in 1923, but Leland continued on with the herd for many years. L.E. served the Brown Swiss breed as a National Director and was Vice President from 1916-1924. Hull Bros. were contract advertisers and highly supportive of the Brown Swiss Bulletin in its early years.

**Judd's Bridge Farm, George DeVoe (1899 - 2000), New Milford, Connecticut.** George DeVoe first put together 19 properties for Rowe B. Metcalf to establish Judd's Bridge Farms - he then set about assembling a leading Brown Swiss herd. DeVoe managed Judd's Bridge farm from 1932 to 1948 and even before he purchased Jane of Vernon, Judd's Bridge animals were at the top of the show and production classes. Fifteen hundred people attended the Judd's Bridge Dispersal where Colonel Harry of J. B. set a new high of \$23,500, selling to a group of Ohio breeders. This son of Jane of Vernon sold with 60 of his daughters and two maternal sisters, Jane of Judd's Bridge and Chloe of J.B. DeVoe was a great promoter of the breed.

**Donald Meier (1921-2015), Arbor Rose Farm, Scappoose, Oregon.** Arbor Rose was a multi-generational Brown Swiss herd which was started in 1915 by Don's grandfather, John Meier, Sr. During Don's time, it was believed to be the largest herd of Swiss in the world with 600 head (275 milking cows). Most renown of the foundation sires of the pre-A.I. era at Arbor Rose was Royal MacArthur of Lee's Hill. He was a Jane's Royal of Vernon son. Showing began in 1939 (only in the Western area), testing on DHIR in 1940 and in 1967 and 1970 he won the Ira Inman Trophy (only one herd size). Most renown of the MacArthur daughters was Arbor Rose Mac Ruby. Another major herd sire was Arbor Rose Oregon Punch, a grandson of Arbor Rose Mac Ruby. Mac Ruby, was the 1961 Grand Champion at the National Show for Lee's Hill Farm and breed production champion (13-9 365d 30,361 4.5% 1354). National Show Grand Champions included Arbor Rose Punch Maxine, Arbor Rose Jesta Coke and Arbor Rose Stretchy Spicey.

**Rex Mort, Mort Dairy, Pierceton, Indiana.** Rex Mort took over his father's Brown Swiss herd in 1957 when he finished school and spent 50 years breeding 'his kind' of cow. He was famous for finding and buying cows that he developed into winners such as We-Gotta Fragment Fancy Twin whose daughter, Mort

Tower Frisky "E94", was a 3 time All American and the Total Performance Winner in 2002. He is also credited with breeding or owning 8 cows scoring 94 points and breeding the famous Mort Jade Starbuck bull who now has 31,840 daughters on test worldwide.

**Walhalla Farms, Rexford, New York.** Founded in 1900 by Frank Freemyer of Middleburg, NY, the Walhalla herd was started with animals a few generations removed from Imported stock. These animals Freemyer wisely developed into a herd that went on to win at the shows. He was first to put cows on ROP test (Freemyer was in charge of Association testing in 1910-11), developed Tom Phyllis, the first bull to have 6 daughters on the ROP list, and sold over 600 head to 26 states and 5 foreign countries before selling the herd and name to J. Frank Zoller in 1925. Zoller, an officer at GE, was determined to have a top herd and to achieve this he hired Harold Magnussen as Herd Manager and spent money to buy the best Brown Swiss that were offered. In 1930 the herd was moved to a new farm outside of Schenectady. Zoller brought in the bulls, Imported Jack of Walhalla and Blankus of Walhalla, from Mexico. When Zoller died in 1932, Mrs. Zoller continued the herd until it was dispersed in May of 1962. The name 'Walhalla' was found in most pedigrees of the Class Leaders and the Show Champions in this era.

**Welcome In Farms (John L. McKittrick and John W. McKittrick), Dublin, Ohio (1952-1963).** The first Brown Swiss were purchased in 1952 and the herd was dispersed with a record average \$2613 on 146 head. High seller to a syndicate was the bull, Welcome In Charmer at \$75,000. Shown extensively throughout the Midwest they were Premier Breeder and Exhibitor at the National Show in 1960, 1961, 1962 and had the Grand Champions, Mables Tamarind Violet (1962) and Orangeville Nell (1957). One of the most well known cows bred by them was Welcom in Charming Jane (daughter of Charmer) and dam of a breed favorite, Welcome In Stretch who appears in countless Brown Swiss pedigrees. Dr. John L. McKittrick and his son, John, wrote a column for Hoard's Dairyman for many years. They were both esteemed judges and judged national shows of all breeds.

### Active Breeders

**Armbruster Family, Red Brae Farm, Muscoda, Wisconsin.** The original Red Brae Farm became brown Swiss breeders in 1968 in Egale, Wisconsin. The farm moved to Muscoda in November 1993. The next generation of Steve, David and Eric Armbruster became the management group in 2005. Steve has been making the breeding decisions since the 1980's. Their sisters, Jill, Leanne and Beth, along with nieces and nephews assist in the operation and in the show ring. They milk 170 cows. Jills Faro Twinkle was Grand Champion at World Dairy Expo and Reserve All American Aged Cow in 1987. Jills Improver Trinket was high selling cow at \$12,000 in the 1988 National Sale in Illinois. Red Brae Patrick Zadeva was 2 time All American and the dam Red Brae Prelude Zeus. Another popular AI sire is Red Brae DAA Ace Joel. Jill served as Wisconsin state secretary for 14 years. Steve judged the Central National (WDE) in 2007 and many other shows.

**Allen Bassler, Old Mill Farm, Sarasota, Florida.** Allen was raised on his parents Sand Rock Brown Swiss Farm in Maryland. For years his Old Mill herd was located in Virginia, until a change in 2015 when he and his wife Tammy moved to Florida and a new endeavour. Old Mill E Snickerdoodle is no question the pinnacle of Allen's breeding program. Supreme Champion at Madison, multiple Grand Champions there and in Harris-

burg, she was All American eight times, including every milking class. She has proven to be a prolific producer passing on her outstanding genetics with 88 offspring, 41 daughters, 20 of them "Excellent". Old Mill P Delottie is another cow family developed by Allen. Popular AI sires include Old Mill WDE Supreme ET, Old Mill C Solution, Old Mill B Turmoil (all three Snickerdoodle sons) and Old Mill Tray Goliath. Allen served as chairman of the National Show Committee, Research Foundation Board and on the National Board of Directors for six years.

**Dean and Brenda Daubert, Victory Acres, Batavia, New York.** Victory Acres was founded on April 1, 1984. The herd began on a rented farm near Bernville, Pennsylvania. Five years later they purchased a farm near McElhattan, Pennsylvania and in 2006 moved to Perry, New York. The herd was dispersed in November of 2012, but they still own a few animals. Victory Acres Jubilat Emory \*TM and Victory Acres Simon Even ET \*TM were bred by Dean and Brenda. Their dam was Witlas Improver Emily, purchased by Dean as a foundation cow and developed at Victory Acres. They also developed the Wind Mill Mat Victoria family, maternal side of "Vigor". Dean served on the National Type Committee and was Pennsylvania State President for ten years.

**Wm. R (Ronnie), Dennis and Ronald Ray Daubert, Wind Mill Farm, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.** Ronnie began the Wind Mill Swiss herd in 1952. In 1996, sons Dennis and Ronald Ray took over the operation, but Ronnie still helps out. Third generation, Andrew, Dennis' son works on the farm and owns animals. Dauberts were breeders of Lyndale Convincer Elaine's dam, Wind Mill Talisman Ellen. A herd favorite was Wind Mill Joan T, former Honor Roll cow. At the Vine Valley Dispersal, Ronnie purchased Vine Valley Hattie and her dam and grandam. Many good cow families have come from that purchase. They also bought Lo-Vi Cook EM Camay ET, full sister to Snickerdoodle, and developed that cow family. Ronnie served on the National Brown Swiss board. Dennis has served two different terms as president of the Pennsylvania Association.

**Gordon, Kathy and Jason DeMay, Towpath Farm/Empire Farm, Palmyra, New York.** Gordon and Kathy DeMay began Towpath Farm in 1979. Gordon grew up on his parent's Empire Farm and farmed with them until their retirement and dispersal when he and Kathy purchased their own farm. In 2009 Gordon and Kathy had a sale selling most of their animals. Their son, Jason, returned to the home farm with his a herd. It is now operated as Towpath/Empire Farm, milking 70 head with as many heifers. Two cow families dominate the herd. In the 70's Gordon and Kathy were members of the partnership owning Vine Valley Paul LuAnn. The current herd includes a nine generation "Ex", Towpath Agenda Lark, from this family and over 20 milking cows. Also influencing today's herd are descendants of Top Acres EJ Whizzbang through her daughter, Top Acres Jetway Wish ET, and in turn her daughter, Towpath Emerald Wish ET. In the AI world, Towpath Telstar Aytola ET put his mark on the breed. His dam, Arnola Louie Jessie, a high lifetime producer. Gordon served as president for the New York Brown Swiss Association. On the national level he was on the board of directors for six years and served on the Type Committee.

**John and Wendy Korth, Triangle Acres, Freeport, Illinois.** John and Wendy Korth married in 1979 and began buying the herd and machinery from his father, Russel. Russel purchased his first Brown Swiss in 1942. Today they milk around 75 Swiss with an equal number of young stock and the farm is home to four generations of Korths. Triangle Acres Coll Polly, along with her numerous female and male descendants is the most well-known cow family carrying the Triangle Acres prefix. They've

landed high on PPR lists through the years. PHD, a son of Polly, was the #1 PTI bull in 2003. Another son, Payoff, was #2 on the 2004 list. Checking the proven bull list, Triangle Acres has 43 proven sires on the list.

**Ken Main and Peter Vail, Elite Dairy, Copake, New York.** Ken and Peter purchased their first Brown Swiss in 2003 at the Top Acres Sale, Top Acres Peggy Too. Select purchases since along with an intensive ET program have allowed them to build the herd to 65 milk cows and a 175 head total. Hill-N-Dale Co Swallow has produced ten "Excellent" daughters, nine Cutting Edge prefix, and multiple All American honors. Another high profile purchase was Dublin Hills Treats, national show grand champion. Forest Lawn Busy is another purchased cow whose been a show winner and foundation cow. Homebred cows making their mark include Cutting Edge B Gretchen ET (3 times All American, 2015 Reserve), and Cutting Edge T Delilah (unanimous All American, 2016). Cutting Edge bulls have entered the AI ranks the last few years. Premier Breeder and Exhibitor banners from New York State Fair and the national shows are accumulating at Elite. Their most recent highlight was when Eloc Wagar Kandid, a national show grand champion and All American, was named the breed's first 95 point cow.

**Dennis and Barb Mashek, Hilltop Acres, Calmar, Iowa.** Purchased in 1854, the home farm is one of the oldest homesteads west of the Mississippi owned by the same family. Brown Swiss, long a part of the operation, with the use of the IE program by Dennis's father, John, in the late 60's and 70's transitioned to a registered herd. Today Dennis, Barb and their sons, Josh and Tanner, are involved in the operation. Expansion in the last couple years has a milking herd of 350 head along with bulls and heifers and use of an extensive ET program. Hilltop Acres Jetway Dixi "2E92" and Hilltop Acres BL Jillete ET \*TM "2E92" are two most noteworthy cows bred by Dennis and Barb. Jillete has 78 registered offspring, her most well-known Hilltop Acres T Jolt ET. Dixi's sons include Hilltop Acres PR Dominate and PT Dalton ET. Other popular AI sires are Ali Jackson, Driver and Dynasty. Over 200 Hilltop Acres bulls have been proven. Through the last two decades Hilltop Acres cows have had many cows on the high index list. Dennis served as Iowa state president and serves as co-chair of the Iowa State Sale. In 2002 Dennis and Barb received the Brown Swiss Association's Young Breeder Award.

**Ron and Renee Michalovich, RNR Swiss, Lakeville, Ohio.** Ron and Renee Michalovich are first generation Brown Swiss breeders, neither growing up on a dairy farm. They began their Brown Swiss career in 1979 when they bought two registered Brown Swiss heifers with their wedding money and RNR was established. The herd continued to grow and in 1987 they moved to their current farm. Their son, Kevin, and his wife, Kari, are actively involved in the operation. Michalovichs have bred two "Ex94" point cows, RNR Prelude Dusty and RNR Payoff Brooke. Brooke is the dam of the popular AI sire, RNR Payoff Brookings. Their first homebred All American, RNR Formula Peanut, has several All American nominee descendants. In 1995 Ron and Renee received the National Young Breeder Award. Ron served two terms as a National Director representing District II.

**Les and Jo Olson, Olson Dairy, Spring Valley, Minnesota.** Les and Jo were married in 1979 and bought their first two Brown Swiss heifers shortly after. In 1981 they purchased their current farm. They continued to purchase heifers and make extensive use of the Brown Swiss upgrade program. Soon all of their children were involved showing and raising the Swiss. Les and Jo's son, Aaron, and his son Brody, came home to farm full time with them in 2013. In 2000, bred and owned IE Olsons

Thane Jane became the first Brown Swiss in history to make over 50,000 lbs of milk in one 365 day lactation. That year she won the JP Eves Award. Several years later her granddaughter Jessa also won the JP Eves Award. In 2009, Olson dairy was home (bred and owned) to 9 of the top 70 PPR cows in the United States. The show string includes 16 All American nominations, 4 Honorable Mention and 2 Reserve All Americans. They have sent 16 bulls to 7 different studs. The top 2 PPR genomic tested bulls in 2009 in the US were bred at Olson dairy. Two of the top 10 All Time Lifetime Production Brown Swiss cows are from Olson Dairy.

**Alan Rinehart, R-Hart Farm, Wapakoneta, Ohio.** Alan was raised on the family Brown Swiss farm. In 1979 he and his brother, Bruce, took over from his father. In 1990 Alan and his wife, Randi, took over sole ownership and operation of the herd. R-Hart Farm is best known for their development of cow families, most notably the Gentle Breeze Mat Christine family - which placed many plus proven bulls in A.I. and had widespread positive influence over the breed. Christine's daughter, Christian, is most familiar to many as a bull mother. Sons include Denmark, Eagle and Ace. Another of Christine's daughters, Clar, was the dam of R Hart BC Collection. Alan served as Ohio State President.

**Dennis Smith, Woodsboro, Maryland.** Dennis was born a 4th generation dairy farmer and continues today on the home farm. Growing up he milked between 50-70 Holsteins. In 1989 through select purchases at various sales, they slowly began to switch over to registered Brown Swiss. Currently, Dennis and his daughter, Aimee, take care of the herd and his wife, Robin, is in charge of bookkeeping. They are milking around 50 Swiss with a total of 100-120 head. By far their most recognized animal from the farm is Dublin-Hills Treats 3E94. She was the high seller at the NY Convention Sale and sold to Elite Dairy. Treats went on to be the Grand Champion at WDE, the Royal and Harrisburg. Dublin-Hills Sasha "3E93" is also quickly becoming an elite brood cow of the breed; she is from the famous Snowstorm family. Dublin-Hills Pineapple 3E93, also sold to Iroquois Acres, was Supreme Champion of the Junior Show at WDE and a Unanimous All-American cow. Dennis was Vice President of the state association for many years.

**Sunshine Genetics, Dan Hornickel and Chris Keim, Whitewater, Wisconsin.** Chris and Dan started the nucleus of their small select herd in 1976. In 1983 the herd came to the location at the farm outside of Whitewater where they are located today. As veterinarians, their main focus has been on using their expertise with technology available to develop ET offspring for other people. Families developed in their small herd along with their partners include the Mort Matt Tammy family (foundation of the Twilite family) and the Top Acres Present family. They have served on national committees and on the Wisconsin State Brown Swiss board.

**Rick Thompson, Random Luck, Darlington, Wisconsin.** Rick (RT) began his herd at his present location in 2002. The mixed milking herd has 20-25 Brown Swiss. RT made his acquaintance with Brown Swiss while employed at Sunshine Genetics and developed his love of the breed. His first foundation cow, Sun-Made Jetway Taps, was purchased at one of their sales. She has 48 daughters, 16 of them scored "Excellent". Her descendants have been popular purchases at sales and done well for others. Random Luck KB Phoebe "2E93" has proven to be a sound foundation cow. He's been Premier Breeder and Exhibitor at the Wisconsin State Fair over ten years and Premier Breeder at national shows. RT has been president of the Wisconsin Brown Swiss Association and is a member of the World Dairy Expo Show Committee.