

Jersey Cattle Breeders Society of Kenya cont.



The Jersey Cattle Society of Kenya
P O Box 24222 Nairobi 00502



Chairman Julius Mutea 0722 892686
Vice Chairman Teurie van Helden

The Jersey Cattle Society of Kenya was founded in 1936 and has been serving small-holder dairy farmers ever since. The Society's current Chairman is Julius Mutea, who keeps a small herd of Jerseys on his zero-grazing unit near Ngong. Our most recent focuses of interest have been on Fodder Crops and Biogas Production.

This year we have an impressive 73 entries in the Jersey Classes for the Livestock Breeders Show, from seven exhibitors. We are proud that many judges in previous years have said that Kenyan Jerseys would compete favourably in shows anywhere in the world.

Jersey cows produce milk which is higher in both fat and protein content than other breeds. One focus of the Society in recent years has therefore been to lobby for the inclusion in official milk records of both these factors, emphasising that simply recording milk volume without reference to solids is meaningless.

We are hoping that this year the Jersey Production Classes will be judged on the combined yields of not just fat, but also, for the first time ever in Kenya, and most importantly, **PROTEIN**.

Milk with a high protein percentage is sought after globally for its superior cheese yields, and hence the increasing popularity of Jerseys world-wide. In Africa where protein can be unaffordable for many, Jersey milk is an ideal high-protein food source.

The highest ever recorded fat yield has recently

been reported from Canada by Grand Bell Prince Sabrina, who has just produced, in her third lactation, (305 days) 12,138 kilos of milk at 6.4% fat (782 kilos) & 3.5% protein (428 kilos). She is in the Granclare Jersey Herd owned by the family of Grant Butcher, who judged here in 1990.

Jersey breeders in Kenya aim for big lactations but we have a long way to go. Let us at least make a start by being able to record what we do produce in terms of fat and protein, as is done internationally; maybe from there we can aspire to these stratospheric figures.

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