

Jersey Cattle Society of Kenya

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.

We are proud that many judges in previous years have said that Kenyan Jerseys would compete favourably in shows anywhere in the world. The Jersey judge at the 2009 Brookside Livestock Breeders Show & Sale said "With Jersey cattle winning all the Interbreed classes and competitions against all the other dairy breeds, this convinces me that the Jersey should indeed be the breed of choice for all small, medium and large scale farmers in Kenya. The Jersey breed is the only dairy breed around the world that is increasing in numbers, so surely the rest of the world cannot be wrong!"

Jersey cows produce milk which is higher in both fat and protein content than other breeds.

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

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.

Advantages of the Jersey

>Jerseys are easy to handle due to their small size and docile temperament.

>Early maturing - first calving at only 2 years of age.

>Easy calving - Jerseys calve quickly and easily. Calving problems are rare.

>Calf Mortality - easy calving leads to stronger, healthier calves.

Jersey Milk -

>30% more protein - averages 4% protein

> 40% more butterfat - over 5% butterfat

>35% more calories - Jersey milk is better for you and your family

Good Processing Qualities -

>Jersey milk has a higher

percent of kappa casein, the protein required for cheese making.

>Yoghurt - because of a high protein count, Jersey milk is the preferred milk of yoghurt makers.

>The high butterfat percentage of Jersey milk, makes for far more butter.

Economical - of all breeds, the Jersey is the most efficient converter of feed into milk solids i.e. protein and butterfat.

Productive - weight for weight, Jersey out produce all other breeds, not only for milk solids but also for total milk volume.

Low Maintenance Jerseys need less feed for maintenance than the larger breeds. More cows can be kept per acre.

Better in drought - low feed requirements make the Jersey better able to withstand drought conditions.

Better in the rains - light weight (300 - 350kgs) causes less damage to wet pastures than heavier breeds.



Winner of the Interbreed production class at the Brookside Livestock Breeders Show 2009.