



# The New England Newsletter

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A publication of The New England States Holstein Association, Inc.  
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## New England Convention Report By Melissa Greenbacker

Despite the rainy weather outside, members attending the New England States Annual Convention on October 24, 2009 kept comfortable inside the New England Center in Durham, NH. Following a breakfast buffet, Lee Solonen welcomed the group to New Hampshire. A silent auction took place to support the junior activities. Juniors met throughout the day to compete in quiz bowl, public speaking, and interviews.

Holstein USA Director -At-Large Gordie Cook led a discussion on Holstein's proposal for milk price stabilization. Gordie chairs Holstein's Legislative Affairs Committee and was instrumental in creating the proposal. Rather than marketing all that dairy farmers produce, he challenged them to produce what they can market, at a reasonable price. A supply management program should produce a stable supply of milk at a profitable level. Gordie asked for a show of hands from those present whether they would support supply management. Most were supportive, even though some questions arose, such as what would be in the fine print and who would run the program at what costs. The proposal has evolved in response to these type of questions from groups around the country. Gordie asked members to sign on in support of the proposal, which can be done from Holstein USA's website. He also urged members to contact their legislative leaders in Congress as well.

The group then moved into the next room for the Annual Meeting. The group heard committee reports and approved the FY 2010 budget. Several resolutions were passed. Betsy Bullard and Arnie

Nieminen were thanked for their service to the association as their terms of president and treasurer were complete. Resolutions supporting Holstein USA's Dairy Price Stabilization Program and the National Dairy Animal Well-Being Initiative also passed. The new slate of officers was approved: President, Chris Hannan;



Officers L-R: Vice Pres Chris Kimball, Assistant Treas Jim Strout, Sec Melissa Greenbacker, Pres Chris Hannan, Immediate Past President Betsy Bullard, Missing from photo Treas Doreen Morris

Vice President, Chris Kimball; Secretary, Melissa Greenbacker; Treasurer, Doreen Morris; and Assistant Treasurer, Jim Strout. It was suggested that an annual New England sale be held in conjunction with Eastern States before the Holstein show. A sale committee will be appointed to look into it.

Members then gathered for an awards luncheon buffet. Peter Waterman presented the group with the Phoenix Award from the city of Portland, Maine. This award honors the National Convention, hosted by the New England States Holstein Association, as the event with the largest economic impact for that city during 2005. Junior Awards were handed out. Aryn Martin is the Jr. DJM. Juniors will be sending a group out the 2010 National Convention to represent New England in the national junior events. New President Chris Hannan presented Betsy Bullard with the outgoing president's pin. The New England

Master Breeder for 2009 was awarded to Bill Putnam, whose wife Cindy accepted the award on his behalf.

The group heard a fascinating report from UNH professor Drew Conway on his experiences in Namibia, Africa while on sabbatical. He is a Fulbright scholar supported by the US government as part of an aid project to farmers in Namibia and has been involved for 14 years. The country is very divided, with the black controlled northern section of the country facing many challenges with animal health. The animals there are very thin and disease runs rampant. Milk quality is a serious issue. The white controlled southern part of Namibia is has beautiful farms and well grown out cattle. Drew taught northern students from Namibia Polytechnic University animal raising skills, including how to vaccinate, deworm, and treat diseases.

Thanks to the New Hampshire committee for their hard work in organizing a successful convention!

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### Bill Putnam 2009 NE Master Breeder Award Presented by Lee Salonen

When I was asked to present the 2009 Master Breeder Award, I was happy to do so as I have know Bill for well over 30 years and have always enjoyed his company. Unfortunately, Bill is not with us today due to a previous commitment. No matter how the family tried to get him here, he would not back out of his commitment. Bill is the fourth generation to run the family farm and there is a fifth generation helping out. The family milks about 50 registered Holstein cows and raises replacements. Bill has always encouraged his children to participate

in as many youth programs as possible. He himself came up through the ranks of 4H and FFA, and I am told, earned the degree of American Farmer, which is the highest degree the FFA awards on a national level. Bill is involved in his community and has served as a volunteer fireman for over 25 years. Even though he has faced some challenges, I have never seen him without a smile and quite often a story to tell. It is my pleasure to present the 2009 Master Breeder Award to Bill Putnam. As Bill is not here today, I will ask his wife Cindy to accept the award on his behalf, which will be a water-color painting of his favorite cow. Even if Bill were here, I would have asked Cindy to come to the podium as she plays a very important part in their operation.

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### **Important Resolutions Adopted at New England Convention**

1. WHEREAS: The members of the New England States Holstein Association share concerns about the volatility of milk prices and lack of opportunity to get a fair return on their investment, BE IT REOLVED: that the New England Holstein States Holstein Association go on record in support of Holstein USA's Dairy Price Stability Program. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that members be urged to contact their Congress people and ask them to aggressively pursue a solution which matches Holstein USA's plan.

2. WHEREAS: the welfare of their animals is a primary concern of the members of the New England States Holstein Association, BE IT RESOLVED: that they go on record in support of the National Dairy Animal Well Being Initiative.

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### **Junior Convention Report By Aryn Martin**

This year's convention in Durham, New Hampshire brought a great turnout of juniors. The weekend's

activities began bright and early Friday morning with a farm tour at Stuart Farm in Stratham, NH. Next stop was Ath-Mor Holsteins where visitors completed a self guided tour and were treated to a delicious barbecue lunch followed by ice cream. After the meal, the juniors had the opportunity to listen to the panel discussion on genomics. The last stop was the University of New Hampshire Dairy Facility in Durham. The Dairy Bowl competition began Friday night, with each contestant completing the Dairy Bowl exam. The annual junior meeting began later in the evening. Old business included a report on the 2009 National Holstein Convention, a report on the Calf Summit at Cowtown, and a Breeding School report. New Business included a discussion of the Junior Activities at the 2010 National Holstein Convention in Minnesota, possible activities or trips for the coming year, and the election of officers.



New England Junior Officers L-R: Aryn Martin, Michaela Davis, Heather Hunt, Jared Birch

The 2009-2010 New England Holstein Junior officers are President-Michaela Davis of Maine, Vice President- Heather Hunt of Massachusetts, Secretary- Aryn Martin of Maine, and Treasurer- Jared Birch of Vermont. The junior activities continued Saturday morning, first with a breakfast buffet, then the day's competitions. In the Public Speaking Contest, Alex Patch and Kirsten Beaudry competed. In the Junior Division, Maddy Beaudry competed. In the Dairy Bowl Competition, several Junior and Senior teams participated.

The day's results were revealed at the luncheon banquet. In the Public Speaking Contest Senior division, Kirsten Beaudry placed first, and Alex Patch second. In the Junior division, Maddy Beaudry received first. The 2010 Dairy Jeopardy contestants are Junior- Maddy Beaudry, Intermediate- Heath Page, and Senior- Jimmy Hunt. The 2010 Dairy Bowl teams were named as well. The



Sr Quiz Bowl Competitors L-R : Heather Hunt, Jared Birch, Jasper Page, Trevor Beaudry, Kirsten Beaudry, Alex Patch

Senior Team consists of Trevor Beaudry, Kirsten Beaudry, Jared Birch and Alex Patch with 1st alternate Jasper Page and 2nd alternate Heather Hunt. The Junior Team is Aryn Martin, Sarrah Simpson, Lottie Page, and Brittany Moon with



Jr Quiz Bowl Competitors L-R: Heather Taft, Aryn Martin, Sarrah Simpson, Lottie Page, Brittany Moon

Heather Taft and Ashlie Hardy as the alternates. Aryn Martin will be representing New England this year in the YDJM contest. Also awarded at the banquet were three Junior Star Breeder Awards and one Breeder of an Excellent Cow award to Ashley Martin. This year's convention was a great success; the juniors stayed busy and had fun!