

## 2006 YOUTH AWARDS

### National Brown Swiss Youth Ambassador

**J**enna Smith of Martinsburg, Pennsylvania, has been selected as the 2007 National Brown Swiss Youth Ambassador at the National Convention in Syracuse, New York. The National Youth Ambassador represents the Brown Swiss breed at trade and cattle shows, as well as other events throughout the country. The other Youth Ambassador two finalists included Emily Lou Achen of Minnesota and Suzanne Perdue of Maryland.

**Jenna Smith** resides on her family's 400-cow Holstein and Brown Swiss operation which consists of a main dairy and two satellite farms where heifers are raised. Jenna's life with Brown Swiss cattle began at the 2000 World Dairy Expo where she says she fell in love with the breed during the Central National Show. Six months later, she purchased her first calf from the Dauberts at Victory Acres. This calf inspired her prefix, Peach Kist.

Jenna's second purchase was the calf that would put her show career on the fast track. Windsor Manor Brittany was bought from the Myers family in Maryland and earned National Bell Ringer honors for Jenna in 2003. Brittany has since won several more honors including winning Grand Champion of the junior show at both the Ohio and New York Spring Shows this year. Jenna has also earned success with another purchase from the Myers family, Windsor Manor Prem Betsy, who was first place at the Eastern National last fall.

Jenna is a sophomore at Cornell University and an active member of the student dairy club as well as Sigma Alpha, an agricultural sorority. She is an accomplished dairy judge, earning All-American honors as a top-25 finisher at the 2005 National 4-H contest.

Jenna has a savings account in which she deposits show premiums, birthday gifts, and other money. She has used this money to purchase additions to her growing herd. As she writes in her book, "I still don't have a car, but I have Brown Swiss!"



Youth Ambassador Finalists. L-R Krista Kasten, 2006 Youth Ambassador, Jenna Smith, 2007 Youth Ambassador, Suzanne Perdue, and Emily Achen.

2007 Youth Achievement Finalists L-R Krista Kasten, 2006 Youth Achievement Winner, Jenna Smith, 2007 Youth Achievement Winner, Emily Achen, and Michelle Meisner.

### National Youth Achievement Finalists

**Jenna Smith** of Martinsburg, Pennsylvania, was also named the Youth Achievement Winner at the National Convention in Syracuse, New York.

**Emily Achen** originally comes from a 100-cow registered Holstein farm in northeastern Iowa where she says she was "willingly raised in a barn." Emily is the second oldest of 11 children and will be a senior at Sauk Centre Senior High School in Minnesota this fall. Achen Family Dairy consists of 85 cows, 32 of which are Brown Swiss. Emily's dad is also managing partner for three large dairies totaling 6,000 cows. Emily plays an integral role in the home farm and has worked out an arrangement with

her parents to receive compensation for the animals she owns in the herd under her prefix, Mainstreet Swiss.

Emily is an active promoter of the dairy industry and has worked for the Midwest Dairy Association as a part of their "People behind the product" program. Last summer, she volunteered to work the association's 3-a-day booth at the Minnesota Vikings training complex. There, she tried out to be a junior broadcaster for the team and eventually was selected to interview players on the sideline, read halftime scores on air, and work on the team's gameday show.

Emily has been actively involved in the Minnesota State Junior Brown Swiss Association and currently serves as the state senior ambassador. Two years ago, Emily placed first in the National Brown Swiss Youth Olympics and was an exhibitor at the National Junior Heifer Show.

Emily knows that Brown Swiss cows compete well in dairy herds, including her own. She encourages us to "move towards the light...the Brown Swiss cow is leading the way with her outstanding milk quality, unmatched longevity, and many other profitable traits."

**Whitney Franks** is from Waynesboro, Georgia. Whitney is the daughter of James and Ginny Franks. Whitney lives on her family's 160-cow freestall dairy. She is an integral member of the Crows Nest team and is involved in many aspects of the herd's management.

Whitney is active on the tanbark trail and has earned many honors at all levels of competition, despite living 15 hours from the Eastern National and over 30 hours from World Dairy Expo. Whitney has placed first in both junior and senior showmanship at the Southeastern National in Louisville. She has shown several champions at the South Florida State Fair, the Florida State Fair, the Georgia National Fair, and has earned several Bell Ringers.

Whitney uses her travels across the country to investigate genetics and helps make many of the decisions in her farm's breeding program. She focuses on breeding for longevity in her cattle and admits that components aren't a major criteria since their milk is priced primarily on a fluid based system.

Whitney is currently attending the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, majoring in Dairy Science/Pre-Vet. In high school, she participated in many activities including varsity softball, student council, and Spanish club. She was a district youth achievement winner all the way back in 2001 and has represented Georgia at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest, National Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest, and the National 4-H Dairy Conference.

Whitney says that she has been fortunate to have lived on a farm and to be from loving parents who were willing to give her good calves from high quality pedigreed animals.

**Michelle Meisner** is from what she describes as "beautiful" Harpursville, New York. Michelle comes from a family that has been involved in dairy farming since 1906 in Germany. Today, they milk about 125 cows in a double-5 herringbone parlor. Michelle is an integral part of the team at Roll'n Hills Farm and is involved with milking, calf feeding, and maintaining records. She is also A.I.-trained and has learned how to do many herd health activities on the farm including taking blood samples and giving IVs.

Michelle has also been actively involved in showing since what she calls "the good ole cloverbud days." Her family actively shows at local shows as well as the New York State Fair where she exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion of the Youth Show. After her first trip to World Dairy Expo, Michelle said she made it her goal to breed an animal that could compete at the national level. Last year, she accomplished that goal with Roll'n Hills Compas Deevo. Deevo placed in top 6 open and top 2 of the youth show in the spring calf class at Eastern National, Southeastern National, including first junior at World Dairy Expo. For her success, Deevo was named Reserve National Bell Ringer and was nominated All-American.

Off the farm, Michelle is an active member of the Morrisville State Dairy Club and she will be in charge of the clipping crew at the club's 25th anniversary sale next August. She is the news reporter for the New York Brown Swiss Association and was a part of the planning committee for this convention. Michelle says that it is imperative in today's dairy industry to have animals that are profitable, functional, and long lasting. The big brown cow does just that.

## 2007 Scholarship Winners

### ***Brown Swiss Association \$1,000***

**Hannah Smith**, Clear Spring, Maryland. Attends Virginia Tech, majoring in Dairy Science. Hannah owns 11 Brown Swiss and she was very active in 4-H and FFA. The youth organizations she participated in included officer activities and volunteer participation. She showed cattle that qualified for the Bell Ringer program. As Maryland Brown Swiss Miss, she assisted at National and local shows.

Hannah's goal is to become a large animal veterinarian and to assist dairyman to focus on cow comfort, which would hopefully improve the farmer's financial status. She also plans to have a small herd of quality Brown Swiss. She believes the Brown Swiss cow is known for quality feet and legs, longevity, and generally calving ease. They also have quality body strength.

### ***New Generation Genetics \$500***

**Jenna Smith**, Martinsburg, Pennsylvania, attends Cornell University, majoring in animal science. Jenna owns 15 Brown Swiss and she was very active in 4-H and FFA. She participated in state and National shows and the state Brown Swiss organization. She was very active in local, state and National judging contests and the state and National Bell Ringer program.

Jenna's goal is to have a career in the dairy industry, working in A.I., embryo or breed organizations. She also intends to own a farm and quality cattle with her brother. They are a fifth-generation dairy-farm family. Her success, she believes, is due to participation in the Brown Swiss junior programs, particularly the Bell Ringer program.

### ***Pixie Knoll Scholarship provided by John and Connie Anderson of California \$500***

**Whitney Franks**, of Waynesboro, Georgia, attends the University of Georgia, with a dairy science/pre-vet medicine major. She owns 25 Brown Swiss with participation in 4-H for eight years. Brown Swiss activities include participation in the cheese yield contest, production contest, youth achievement and Bell Ringer program. She has shown at National shows for six years and other area state fairs and shows. Community activities include school and Christian athletics, along with local and state 4-H contests.

Her goals are to receive a dairy science degree with knowledge in processing milk products and possibly becoming a veterinarian, and with this background, to be an asset to her community. When participating in Brown Swiss activities and shows, Whitney believes that she has to acknowledge what is important in her life.

### ***Howard Voegeli Memorial Scholarship \$500***

**Ashley Sprengeler**, of Plato, Minnesota attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she is pursuing a degree in Dairy Science with an International option. She owns 7 Brown Swiss, having been a member of 4-H for ten years. Brown Swiss activities include state contest awards, Bell Ringer contest, cheese yield contest and working as a leadsperson in various sales. Community activities include high school activities, school sports, and church youth activities.

Ashley's career goal is certain to be in the dairy industry, with the possibility of improving dairy cattle genetics and also in the A.I. industry internationally. When Ashley was the Minnesota Ambassador, she learned to communicate better to others about the Brown Swiss cow. Also, she became more comfortable in public speaking and improved her overall communication skills.



2007 Scholarship Winners. L-R Ashley Sprengeler; Krista Kasten, 2006 Youth Achievement winner and National Ambassador; and Jenna Smith.