

2006 YOUNG BREEDER AWARD

The 2006 Young Breeder Award recipient is Katrina Olson of Spring Valley, Minnesota.

Nominees for this award must be 40 years of age or less as of January 1, 2007, have been an active member of the Association for at least five years, and nominated by a state officer or an active member.

At the 2007 National Convention in Syracuse, New York, Katrina was honored with this award. Katrina got her start in the Brown Swiss breed in 1993 with Arhurst Cherry. Now she owns 9 cows and 5 heifer and over 70 in partnership with the family farm, Olson Dairy. They have a rolling herd average with 259 cows (Holstein & Brown Swiss) of 27,580m 1,082f 881p. They have been testing since 1979 and classifying since 1993.

A major factor in Olson's herd was the purchase of Blessing Jetway Meagan at the World Premier Sale in 1997. Meagan is the foundation for the ever popular "M" family at the farm. Meagan was carrying Mitzy, the #1 PPR cow, when she was purchased. Mitzy was bred to Brinks which resulted in Olsons Brinks Melody 'E90'. Melody now has several sons in various AI organizations. Another cow that Katrina bred was CIE Thane Jolts Laurel, her first homebred All-American nomination in 2005. In 2000, Katrina and Olson Dairy were honored with the first cow to break the 50,000m barrier in one lactation. This cow was IE Olsons Thane Jane.

Katrina was twice her county's dairy princess. In 1997, she was the FFA State Champion for dairy judging. In 2000, Katrina was named the National Youth Ambassador. In 2001, she was named an All-American for dairy judging at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She also placed first that year at the World Dairy Expo contest in the Red & White breed. In 2004, she was the co-coach for the Colorado State judging team. She was also the Youth chair of the 2004 National Convention when it was held in Minnesota.

Katrina is currently enrolled at Virginia Tech University where she is studying for her PhD in Animal Genetics. There, she is currently the Secretary and Treasurer of the Dairy, Animal, & Poultry Science Graduate Student Assembly. Katrina's future goals include completing her PhD in 2008, teaching at the college level, and doing research. Katrina hopes to keep the progress she has made in the genetics at the farm going.



Katrina Olson accepting the Young Breeder Award from Brown Swiss Association President Charles Voelker.