

2005 National Youth Awards

National Brown Swiss Youth Ambassador

Krista Kasten, Richfield, WI, has been selected as the 2006-2007 National Brown Swiss Youth Ambassador at the National Convention in Dubuque, IA. The National Youth Ambassador represents the Brown Swiss breed at trade and cattle shows, as well as other events throughout the country.

The three other finalists included Catherine Perdue, MD, Andrea Rienhardt, NY and Hannah Smith, MD.



Krista Kasten
2006 Youth Ambassador &
Youth Achievement Winner

Whether you are from the Midwest, East Coast, West Coast, or down South; you have something to be proud of, which is being a member of the Brown Swiss family. Our leaders have us headed in the right direction and there is a bright future for everyone in the breed.

My name is Krista Kasten and I am truly honored to be serving as the 2006 National Brown Swiss Youth Ambassador. I was born and raised on Kommodore Farms in Richfield, Wis., with my parents, Terry and Judy Kasten, and older sister Kara. Throughout my life I have been very involved in many Brown Swiss youth programs including state and national Bell Ringers, production and cheese yield, and most recently was named the National Youth Achievement winner. On the state level, I served on the Wisconsin Junior Board and as Wisconsin Brown Swiss Queen. And of course, I still enjoy showing at local, state and national shows.

While in the ambassador position it is my goal to meet youth nationwide and get them involved in the many programs the association has to offer. The Brown Swiss breed has played a major role in my life and now is my chance to help others, the way many breeders have helped me.

I also plan to work with the non-agriculture sector to educate them on the many benefits of the Brown Swiss breed and the dairy industry. If there are any events I could assist with, please feel free to contact me at krista.kasten@uwrf.edu or (414) 531-6609. I look forward to an exciting year of working with you all!

National Youth Achievement Winner

The highest honor a Brown Swiss Youth can receive is the National Youth Achievement Award. This year, the award went to Krista Kasten of Richfield, WI.

Jared Daubert is one of three other semi-finalists for the Youth Achievement award.



Jared Daubert
Youth Achievement Finalist

Jared is from McElhattan, PA, and comes from a long history of breeding Brown Swiss cows at Victory Acres Farm. His parents, Dean & Brenda Daubert, own this farm. Jared received his first Brown Swiss calf on his first birthday. Since then, he has come to own over 20 head with most of them being bred and owned. To date, he has bred five Excellent cows, with four of them producing over 30,000M. One of those Excellents, Victory Acres Ensign Beth, is a Superior Brood Cow. Another cow recently became a 3rd generation bred and owned Excellent for Jared. His cattle have earned him National Youth Production and Cheese Yield Awards as well as several Pennsylvania State Bell Ringers. He was also the Runner-up in last year's Youth Achievement award.

Jared will be a junior this fall at Penn State University, where he majors in Animal Sciences. On campus, he is involved in the Dairy Science club, where he is the membership chair, Block and Bridle Club, Wrestling Club and Earth House (an agricultural interest dorm at Penn State). Jared maintains a high GPA and has earned several Dean's List honors. He was also a member of the Penn State dairy judging team, competing at the NAILE competition in 2005 where he was the 2nd High Overall Individual, 6th in oral reasons, and was the high individual in the Brown Swiss. He was also a member of the High Team for Oral Reasons and 2nd High Team Overall. His future goals are to increase his herd's rolling herd average and to improve on the overall type of his cattle.

The second of the three other finalist is Heidi Heller. She is the daughter of Jack and Ginger Heller from Lakeshore Farm. She owns eight head of Brown Swiss. Heidi received her Wisconsin State FFA Degree last year. She was also a finalist in last year's Youth Achievement contest.

Heidi has completed her second of two years in the University of Wisconsin-Madison



Heidi Heller
Youth Achievement Finalist

return home and continue to build on the farm's breeding program as well as modernize record keeping.

Shannon Muenzenberger is the daughter of Randy and Barb Muenzenberger, and from Coon Valley, Wisconsin. Muenzenberger's own and operate Bo Valley Swiss.

Shannon is a 2006 graduate of Cashton High School and will be attending the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a



Shannon Muenzenberger
Youth Achievement Finalist

double major in Dairy Science and Agricultural Marketing & Communications. She is a 12-year member in the 4-H Organization and a 5-year member of the National FFA Organization and held highest offices in both. During her 4 years of high school she was active on the Football & Basketball Cheerleading squads, Cashton High School Forensics Team, and the National Honor Society. Outside of school, Shannon was also active and held numerous positions in the La Crosse County Youth Leaders Association and served as a La Crosse County 4-H Ambassador.

Shannon has been showing Brown Swiss since she was 5 years old, starting with mini showmanship at the Canton 3 show in Wisconsin. Now, she currently owns 22 Registered Brown Swiss (9 milking cows, 2 bred heifers, and 11 calves and yearlings) and her herd is still growing. To merchandise her herd, she has sold animals as 4-H projects to younger members giving them a chance at establishing their own herd in the future.

Farm and Industry Short Course. At college, Heidi participates in Collegiate FFA, the dairy judging team, the Little Badger program, and the school yearbook. Her future plans are to

New prize for Youth Achievement winner

Dr. Kenny Joe Manion, Scottsville, Ky., has agreed to award a \$1,000 scholarship to the winner of the National Youth Achievement Contest, the highest honor a Brown Swiss youth can earn. Dr. Manion is making the gift on behalf of the Manion family and in honor of his parents, Brown Swiss breeders Rudolph and Lavenious Manion.

"My goal is to not only promote juniors and Brown Swiss activities, but also to encourage youth to maintain a strong interest in academics and preparing for their future" Dr. Manion said. "In my mind, the two go hand in hand. If you take steps academically in support of your future, it will help allow you to remain involved with the Brown Swiss breed."

Brown Swiss cattle have been a part of Dr. Manion's entire life, first with his family's Lazy Acres Farm and now his partnership with John and Bonnie Ayars known as New View Swiss. His most successful affiliation to date was with Wayne Sliker of Top Acres. Manion and Sliker captured Premier Exhibitor banners at World Dairy Expo four times, exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion in 1998, and were the owners of several cows that were named National Total Performance winner.

The National Youth Achievement contest recognizes the most outstanding Brown Swiss youth in the country. The process includes an extensive application as well as an interview. Four finalists are chosen and a winner announced at the National Brown Swiss Convention each summer. This year's winner was Krista Kasten from Richfield, Wis. Krista is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls majoring in marketing and communications with an agricultural emphasis. She also has minors in dairy science and agricultural business management.

Junior members of the National Brown Swiss Association were honored for their achievements at the Annual Meeting on July 13, 2006 in Dubuque, Iowa.

Scholarship Winners

Kara Kasten of Richfield, WI received the \$1,000 scholarship, sponsored by the National Brown Swiss Youth fund and New Generation Genetics. Currently, she attends University of Wisconsin / Madison, majoring in Dairy Science and Agricultural Journalism. She owns 7 Brown Swiss and has participated in 4-H for 10 years. She has participated in state and national Brown Swiss associations, and she was the Wisconsin Queen. Her animals have won state and national bell ringer awards. College activities include National Agri-Marketing Association, Badger Dairy club, Association of Women in Agriculture, and Agriculture Business Club, and being officers and committee chairperson in those organizations. Kara's

career goal is to work with the promotion or marketing of the agriculture industry.

Sarah Bailey of New Milford, CT, received a \$500 scholarship sponsored by the National Brown Swiss Youth Fun and New Generation Genetics. She currently owns 6 Brown Swiss and has been a 4-H member for 10 years. She will begin attending Cornell University in the fall of 2006. Sarah is a member of the National Honor society, a hospital volunteer and president of the Litchfield County 4-H fair association. She plans to get a degree in accounting to obtain a career in an agriculture company. Sarah states "By showing Brown Swiss I have had the opportunity to build life skills such as hard work, honesty, and dedication."

The recipient of the \$500 Pixie Knoll Scholarship is Kayla Alberti, of Modesto, CA. She is currently enrolled in Modesto Junior College in Agriculture & Environmental Sciences and Technical Education. She owns 11 Brown Swiss and has been a FFA member 4 years and in 4-H for 10 years. She has participated in the cheese yield, youth production, youth achievement programs of the Association. Currently is an active member of the California Brown Swiss youth group. Kayla states "The national and California associations have helped me be responsible, on task, and organized. Also by being in the association and participating in the activities, it taught me how to work well with others and to be considerate of others views on things."

The recipient of the \$500 Howard Voegeli Scholarship is Michelle Meisner of Harpursville, NY. Recently, Michelle attended Broome Community College while completing high school. She plans to attend State University of New York- Cobleskill majoring in Agribusiness and Animal/Dairy Science. She owns 3 Brown Swiss and has been a 12 year 4-H member. Her New York State Association participation has included being news reporter and on the youth committee. Michelle is a member of the national honor society and she has won several 4-H awards. She believes that being in Agri-Business, Applied Economics, and Animal Science in college will provide her the tools for a career in the dairy industry.

Junior Olympics

The second annual Brown Swiss Youth Olympics were held at the National Convention. There were 4 skill areas in the competition. Youth could compete as an individual or a 4-person team, formed at Convention. The 4 skill areas were Dairy Jeopardy, Genetics, Feeds and Nutrition and Judging and Linear Evaluation. The awards were sponsored by Sunshine Genetics, Whitewater, WI.

Winning the overall Junior division was Rachel Nelson of Minnesota. The team with the most points was made up of Logan Worden, Katie Adams, Amanda Franck & Joey Adams. Emily Achen, Minnesota, was the overall winner in the Senior division. She was also a member of the winning team, that also included Katie Steinlage, Brandon Franck & Jacob Worden.

Congratulations to all those Juniors who participated in the Olympics!



Winning the overall competition of the Junior Olympics for the Junior Division was Rachel Nelson (left). Emily Achen, was the winner of the Senior division.