

## **Annual Meeting of the New York Brown Swiss Association**

**Friday, January 16, 2009**

The annual meeting of the New York Brown Swiss Association was called to order at 3:15PM by President Sarah VanOrden. It was held during the All-Breeds Conventions at the Raddison Hotel in Corning, NY.

In attendance were Wendy Baker, Tammy Thomas, Jeff True, Stacia True, Kerri Bartlett, Jim Curtis, Sarah VanOrden, Rich Stephens, Michelle Meisner and Larry Hill.

The Secretary's report was read by Secretary Stacia True. Moved for approval as read by Stacia; Second by Tammy; Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer, Jeff True. Balance on hand in checking account as of 12/31/2008 was \$13,467.28. No bills were presented for payment. During discussion it was moved by Wendy that \$10,000 of the balance be moved by the new treasurer into a 12 month CD at the highest possible rate. Second by Stacia. Motion carried. Treasurer's report accepted. Moved by Jeff; Second by Kerri; Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

- Stacia said she will follow up on the report that 100,000 lb. cow class will be renamed the "Component Merit" class with 7,500 lbs combined minimum of fat and protein required.
- The ET Sale held at the All-Breeds Convention featured one Brown Swiss, a Turmoil from one of True Farm's herd, purchased by Kelly Driver-Haynes for \$4,100. Trues retained half interest. There was discussion that there is demand but hard to get consignors to commit. Discussion was held whether we should continue to hold sale at the All-Breed Convention. Felt it should probably stay there, but possibly to be moved to April sale. Moved by Sarah to table a decision until the September meeting at NY State Fair. Second: Tammy. Motion carried.
- The 2009 NY Spring Sale will be held at the Spring Carousel at the State Fairgrounds Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. The Brown Swiss show will be held Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup>. Rich Stephens reported he and Jerry Harkness are already making selections and are expecting about 15 consignments. Commission will be 15%, with 5% going to Rama and the remaining 10% to fitters, advertising, etc. Diana Curtis-Szalach did the catalog last year and is willing to do this year's. All agreed there needed to be a cut off to accept consignments to have time to do pedigrees. Because Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the ad in the March NY Holstein News, the board set a date of Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. Kerri moved we put an ad in the NY Holstein News; Jeff second. Motion carried. Rich and Jerry will take care of the ads. Wendy agreed to send out notification to all members to have consignments in by Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. Board decided to table discussion to have a Brown Swiss section in the New York Holstein News. Besides the ad in NY Holstein News, information on the sale will be placed on our website, on All-Breeds Access website, and on BrownCowTalk, and press

releases sent to Country Folks. Jim reported that all animals except 2 to 3 young calves will need to be fitted. He will talk to Scott & Kelly Haynes, sale co-chairmen, about combining with the Ayrshire sale to hire someone to do fitting. Rich and Jerry will make final decision if this plan is workable. Jim also reported that local FFA members will be feeding and keeping the animals clean as a community service project. It was mentioned that health papers need to be more closely checked for the Brown Swiss show; Stacia volunteered to help.

- Canton reports:
  - Capital District Canton (*Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Essex, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Ulster, Washington and Warren Counties*): Wendy reported that there are 22 paid regular and 14 paid Junior members for 2008. Goal for 2009 is continued growth. She gave a report that the first annual Canton Show, held last July 29<sup>th</sup> at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds was a great success, with 58 entries from 14 farms. Grand Champion was the 100,000 lb entry from member Rachel MacNeil, Boiling Brook Farm, Hoosick Falls, NY. The 2009 Show is tentatively scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds. Wendy thanked everyone for her opportunity to serve the last 2 years, and has placed her name in 2009 NYBSA elections for Secretary/Treasurer, and Tammy Thomas as 2009 Capital District Canton Director.
  - Central Canton (*Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Madison and Onondaga Counties*): Annie Reinhardt sent word that there will be a Central Canton Show on July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Cortland Co. Fairgrounds. Animals can be moved in on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Annie has again placed her name in nomination for 2009 as Central Canton Director.
  - Northern Canton (*Clinton, Franklin, Hamilton-north, Herkimer-north, Lewis, Jefferson, Oneida, Oswego and St. Lawrence Counties*): Allen Martin sent word that the Northern Canton is planning a Canton Show at the St. Lawrence Fair. More later as plans are developed. Allen has placed his name in nomination for 2009 as Northern Canton Director.
  - Western Canton (*Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates Counties*): Stacia reported that members in the Western Canton are hoping to set up a Canton Show at one of either the Monroe or Wyoming County Fairs. Stacia has placed her name in nomination for nomination as Western Canton Director for 2009.
  - Eastern Canton (*Delaware, Fulton, Hamilton-south, Herkimer-south, Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie and Sullivan Counties*): There is no Director from the Eastern Canton although Sarah reported that there is a regular, and well-attended Eastern Canton Show each year. The board asks anyone from the Eastern District interested in serving on the board to contact Sarah.
  - Southwestern Canton (*Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Steuben Counties*): There is no Director from the Southwestern Canton. The board asks

anyone from the Southwestern District interested in serving on the board to contact Sarah.

- Junior Membership Report: Michelle reported on behalf of Julie Meisner, State Youth Advisor, that there were no entries for the 2009 NY State Brown Swiss Ambassador. Anyone interested can still contact Julie. Bellringer Awards would be handed out at the breakfast on Saturday morning at the All-Breeds Convention. The junior Award Committee still had not met to solidify an award to recognize an outstanding Brown Swiss youth, to be given at the State Fair. It was recommended by the board that the committee meet and report back at the meeting in April.
- Merchandise: Sarah reported that shirts and hats have sold well at both events and through the website. She also said she is stepping down from being in charge of merchandise, and Annie Rienhardt has volunteered to take over.

#### New Business:

- The board worked on a proposed budget for 2009, leaving expenses at approximately 2008 levels.
- Stacia moved the Youth Awards Committee develop a concise, comprehensive plan for all Junior awards and a budget to go with it. Seconded by Michelle. Motion carried.
- The board decided not to hold a State picnic in 2009. The Capital District Canton hosted a State picnic at their show, and no one but local people attended. Decision was to concentrate on Canton activities this year.
- The board discussed there were possible changes in group classes at State Fair this year, eliminating three, and adding the premium money to the other classes.
- Jeff recommended additional fund-raising should be considered. Suggested contacting auctioneer handling DeMay's dispersal on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and sell food. Could be used as a Junior fund-raiser. True Farms offered to donate all beef for hamburgers. Wendebelle Farm offered to buy individual chip packages. Will contact Julie to see if this is possible.
- Website: Because webmaster Diana Curtis-Szalach has been working for the Ayrshire Association since May, she has not been able to update and maintain the site. The board offered their thanks to Diana for the job she had been able to do, and accepted the offer from Michelle Meisner who volunteered to take over as webmaster. The board also accepted an offer from Jessica Baker to act as Media Coordinator, who will work closely with both the secretary and webmaster, to promote the Brown Swiss breed and NYBSA.
- Membership: Wendy asked how 3 year option was doing. Some have taken advantage of it. She asked if we should consider a discount for using the 3 yr option, or if we should consider a higher price after a renewal cut-off date. The board moved and passed the decision that all new members received on October 1<sup>st</sup> of a year will receive the rest of the year and the following year for that one membership fee. The new secretary will catch up on membership renewals received, and will send all paid/missing members to Canton Directors for personal follow-up.

- Newsletters: Wendy said she will expand the current twice-annually newsletter to four times a year, using email for those who checked it as an option on their membership form. Hard copy newsletters will be mailed to those still wanting them for no additional charge. The board tabled the idea of charging a small fee for hard copy newsletters.
- Directory: Wendy had volunteered to prepare and compile the 2009 NYBSA Directory which is done every other year. The Board asked that copies be ready to be distributed at the NYS Spring Show and Sale in April. Advertising space is available in the booklet to defray cost of printing. Full page ads (5 ½" X 8") are available for \$25. Breeders should contact Wendy at (518) 860-8754. Wendy will contact advertisers from the 2007 directory.
- Election of Officers for 2009 was held with the following names placed in nomination: President: Sarah Van Orden; Vice President: Edward Telford; Secretary/Treasurer: Wendy Baker; Northern Canton: Allen Martin; Central Canton: Andrea Reinhardt; Capital District Canton: Tammy Thomas; Western Canton: Stacia True; Eastern Canton: None; Southwestern Canton: None; Director-at-Large: Diana Curtis-Szalach; Youth Advisor: Julie Meisner. As there were no other nominations, the secretary cast one ballot, and all officers were elected.
- The next NYBSA Board Meeting will be held Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the New York State Fairgrounds, immediately following the Brown Swiss Show at the Carousel (approximately 2-3 PM). All interested NYBSA members are invited to attend.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The 2009 NYBSA Annual Meeting ended at 5:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Wendy Baker

NYBSA Secretary/Treasurer