



# Foundation *Flyer*

*Honoring the legacy, and ensuring the longevity, of the Ayrshire breed*

www.usayrshire.com

Fall 2014

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### *U.S. Ayrshire Breeders Foundation Board Appointments*

Bruce Nelson, *CHAIRMAN*, Tony, WI  
 Sharon Tentinger, *TREASURER*, Remsen, IA  
 John Rodgers, Belleville, PA  
 John Dalton, Hartland, WI  
 Doug Fenton, Winchester, OH

### *U.S. Ayrshire Breeders Foundation Contact Information*

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **ABA NATIONAL MEETING**

June 2015  
 Lake Raystown, Pennsylvania

## *Welcome From The Chairman*

# Future Looks Bright For Ayrshire Breeders

I am excited to personally welcome you to the first edition of the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders Foundation newsletter, the *Foundation Flyer*.

This newsletter, and the Foundation itself, is the culmination of many people coming together to share and promote a common interest—growing the Ayrshire breed for the benefit of all of us.

While the Foundation supports the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders Association, funds we raise are not used for their day-to-day operations.



Rather, funds we raise go toward the advancement of the Ayrshire breed through:

- Education
- Research
- Awareness

### **Why the need for a foundation?**

The U.S. Ayrshire Breeders Association does a wonderful job of promoting the Ayrshire breed and supporting those who own, milk, show, and breed Ayrshires. Collectively, it was determined that the Foundation was needed to compliment these efforts through fund raising for research and additional educational programs for youth.

### **Our Brief History**

A Committee was chosen to begin building awareness of our mission and to start fund raising efforts. The Foundation is a 501(c)3

non-profit. The positive response we've received so far reinforces that there is a need for the Foundation.

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to making this possible and we're excited to build on this momentum as we continue to grow. This year, the Foundation awarded our first grant (read more about this on page 2).

### **Why Support the Foundation?**

For many of us, breeding Ayrshires is in our blood. The tradition has been passed down from generation to generation and some of us hope to one day pass it along to our children.

The breed is a beautiful, strong and profitable animal that we believe can be developed even further through genetics and scientific research.

However, in the big picture, Ayrshires are a relatively small breed. We believe with more research and promotion, and investments of time

and money, that they can become one of the most influential breeds in the industry.

### **Investing in the future**

A gift to the Foundation is an investment in all of our futures. What we learn through research will help the young breeders of today to carry on our traditions and continue to fulfill our mission. Encouraging youth to get involved with the breed is a top priority.

Now is an exciting time for those who are passionate about the Ayrshire breed. I hope you'll join me in promoting the breed and supporting our future.

*Bruce Nelson  
 Chairman*

# Foundation Awards \$2,250 Grant

This June the Foundation was excited to award its first ever research grant to Adam Oswalt of Select Sires in Plain City, OH. Adam received the grant at the breed's annual meeting on June 27, 2014 in Peoria, IL.



"This \$2,250 grant is the beginning of the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders Foundation making good on its mission of working for the enhancement

of the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders Association, its cattle, its membership and its youth," explains Foundation Committee Treasurer, Sharon Tentinger. "Needless to say it is an exciting day, and only the first of many."

Adam's project focuses on increasing genomic prediction reliability. The goal

is to increase the Ayrshire genotype and phenotype reference population to boost reliability of young animal genomic evaluations, and potentially refine or discover detrimental breed haplotypes.

Genomic research, especially on older animals, will be a critical factor in the future success of the Ayrshire breed. This is one of the main reasons that the

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*"The Foundation will open many doors to the future and exciting new genetic pathways for the Ayrshire breed."*

- Tom Gillette  
Owner of Kler-Vu Farm

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Foundation was formed. The Association does not have the funds or the resources to award research grants. Many other breeds have Foundations and it was time for the Ayrshires to have one of their own.

Gold Charter Member, Tom Gillette,

owner of Kler-Vu Farm says, "The Foundation will open many doors to the future and exciting new genetic pathways for the Ayrshire breed."

Adam's genomic tests will be conducted on 50-50 registered Ayrshire cows with two or more milking daughters using the GP2 genomic profiler chip. The requirements for the cows participating are:

- Registered in the ABA herd book
- Sired by A.I. bull from the U.S. or Canada
- DHI monthly records for no less than two complete lactations
- Type classified
- Minimum of two milking daughters also on DHI test and preferably A.I. sired.

Stay tuned to future issues of the *Foundation Flyer* to learn about the results of Adam's research.

## Giving That Grows: Grants Support Critical Research

Each year the Foundation accepts and reviews proposals for research to advance knowledge about the Ayrshire breed, or solve a current problem facing breeders.

Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria of merit, competence and relevance. Genomic testing of animals is a current research priority.

Proposals are accepted between January 1<sup>st</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> and should be submitted to the secretary of the Foundation Committee.

The Committee then holds a meeting to review all proposals. Applicants are invited to attend the meeting and may also present their proposal via PowerPoint.

As reported above, this year the Foundation awarded \$2,250. As we raise more funds, we will be able to raise the

amount that we have available to award for research grants.

All of the funds we raise go into the Foundation's investment account. At the end of the year we determine the earnings.



Five percent of the earnings will be used to award grants.

As an example if the account earned

10%, 5% of that will go toward a grant and the remaining 5% will be re-invested back into the account.

If we have a slower year and the account only earns 3%, then that 3% will be used for a grant. By doing this we can continually grow the principal balance and increase the funds available for grants. This will sustain the account for many years to come.

Submit grant proposals  
between

January 1<sup>st</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>

For applications and details visit  
[www.usayrshire.com/foundation](http://www.usayrshire.com/foundation)

### OUR MISSION

To be a valued resource in the enhancement of the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders' Association, its cattle, its membership, and its youth.

# Committing To The Future Of The Ayrshire Breed

A special “Thank You” to all of our charter members listed below that generously donated to the U.S. Ayrshires Breeders Foundation prior to December 2013.

These individuals, businesses and organizations believe in the Ayrshire breed as much as we do. With their contributions, they are truly making a commitment to the future of the Ayrshire breed.

## **Why give to the foundation?**

Funds raised will allow us to build upon the important work we have already started in the advancement of Ayrshires—education, genetics research and raising awareness.

We are developing programs designed to educate individuals, organizations,

businesses, breeders, and potential donors, about the excellent attributes that the Ayrshire breed possesses.

Youth education in particular is a high priority. Our future and the future

*“With a treasury of endowment money, some very worthwhile projects and opportunities for youth can be developed in the quest for the Ayrshire breed.”*

- Dick Witter, President, Taurus Inc.  
PEARL Charter Member

of the Ayrshire breed depends on the young breeders of today continuing our traditions.



The U.S. Ayrshire Breeders’ Foundation was formed for the benefit of all who have a vested interest in the growth and continued advancement of the Ayrshire breed.

If you have a financial interest in Ayrshires, and perhaps like many of us, you have a special place in your heart for these cattle, we hope you’ll join us in ensuring Ayrshires will be the breed of choice for many generations to come.

A gift to the Foundation is indeed an investment in the future.

## Thank You To Our Charter Members

### **PEARL \$5,000 - \$9,999**

Wisconsin ABA Club  
Taurus Inc. - Dick Witter

### **DIAMOND \$2,000 - \$4,999**

Bruce Nelson  
Plum Bottom Ayrshires - John Rodgers and Audrey Gay Rodgers  
Iowa ABA Club  
Darryl and Theresa Keehner  
Ohio ABA Club  
Emerald Farms - Fenton and Jodrey Families

### **GOLD \$1,000 - \$1,999**

James McConnell  
Susan Edwards  
Tom Gillette  
Yarrabee Cows  
Double A Farm - Doug Murray  
Linda Hansen  
Glengarry Farms

### **BRONZE \$500 - \$999**

Maryland ABA Club  
Rhode Island ABA Club

John Dalton  
Ten-Ayr Dairy - Tentinger Family  
Edwin Whitehead  
David and Ann Patrick  
New York ABA Club  
ABA board members (Stone Syndicate)  
Darren and Eric Otte  
Sunny Acres Farm - Evans Family  
Genex Cooperative, Inc.  
Keehner Family Memorial  
Select Sires  
Lynn Lee  
Gene and Shirley Newell

### **SUPPORTER \$100 - \$499**

Donna Mertz  
Arthur and Muriel Gaddis  
Palmyra Farms - Mary Creek  
ABA Youth Committee  
Steve McDonald  
Dale and Pattie Maulfair  
Joan Mackie - Hope  
Scott/Ardrossan Memorial  
Kazakhstan Ayrshires - Hisa Akhmatov  
Heide Farm - William P Hayes

Barrens View Farm - Baumgardner Family  
Steve and Mary Woodis  
PA ABA Club  
John Ennis  
MN ABA Club  
James Patsos  
Sam, Deb and Ryan Stewart  
Tyler and Danielle Zimmer Family

### **FRIEND \$10 - \$99**

Semex USA  
Richard Kempkes  
Shawn and Karen Hernley  
Glen Foerd Conservation  
Scott Russell Family  
Duane Rader Family  
Arlene Crosser  
Terry and Becky Payne  
Mary Scott Remer  
Gene and Judy Rathjen  
Midwest Ayrshire Club  
Blake Bieber  
Dave Koss  
Doug Fairbanks

## FOUNDATION FEATURE

# Keeping It In The Family: Past, Present and Future

*John Rodgers, and daughter Audrey Gay, committed to Ayrshires for 60 years and continuing*

John Reed Rodgers has been passionate about promoting and breeding Ayrshires since 1951. John's Uncle Reed influenced him early in his life as he taught John about cows and horses.

John has written a book detailing his life with Ayrshires, *An Ayrshire Adventure, Sixty-three Years And Continuing*. In 2012 he was inducted into the PA Ayrshire Hall of Fame. The award was proudly presented to him by his daughter, Audrey Gay.

Audrey Gay inherited a love of Ayrshires from her father and today she runs a farm camp for 8-14 year-old city girls. The camp is called Hameau Farm For Girls.

In the 1980s John's Plum Bottom herd was moved to Hameau Farm For Girls where they remain today. They continue to show well and produce quality milk.

### The Past

In the early days as John's herd grew, so did his family and he began to make a living breeding and milking Ayrshires.

"Those were interesting days. Our family was beginning to grow and as I look back they were very satisfying times," John says. "It was hard work, the learning curve for me was straight up."

John learned eagerly from other farmers and breeders around him. He worked to refine his techniques and maximize his resources. His farm was named Plum Bottom and was located in Belleville, PA.

Some of his early cattle were direct from Scotland including Logan Mains Ina 2nd and Logan Mains Favorite 2nd.

As John's interest in Ayrshires deepened, he was voted secretary of the PA State Association and started holding field days at Plum Bottom farm, a tradition learned from his Uncle Reed.

Throughout the years John found himself in various business ventures, but he was always drawn back to Ayrshires.

He took a trip to Scotland with his wife and mother to learn more about his own roots as well as the roots of Ayrshires. While there he had the idea to exchange U.K. Ayrshires semen with those in the United States.



John Rodgers and his daughter Audrey Gay Rodgers with Plum Bottom Lennon Antoinette and her daughter Plum Bottom Pluto Athena

## *JRR's Simple Points*

- Know the cow
- Know the families
- Pay attention to persistence
- 5 generations
- Check the numbers
- Learn from others
- Follow your gut

John Rodgers, *An Ayrshire Adventure, Sixty-three Years and Continuing*

Through this effort Ardrossan E.V. Kate's Trident was discovered. Trident went on to become the bull known around the world. Interestingly, prior to John coming along, Trident was almost sent to the butcher because he was being unruly!

John continued to travel and promote the Ayrshire breed. He moved up in the ranks of the Ayrshire Association, eventually becoming President.

John eventually stopped dairy farming and turned his focus to raising Ayrshires specifically to sell for breeding. This program was called "Raised to Graze." He says the best part about the program was that it brought together people from different places who all had one thing in common—Ayrshires.

### The Future

Today, John consults with his daughter to develop the families that have proven to produce outstanding Ayrshires. He also currently serves on the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders Foundation Committee.

John believes that as everyone works together through the Association and the Foundation, the future is looking bright for the Ayrshire breed.

"My current involvement with the U.S. Ayrshire Breeder Foundation I strongly believe has the great potential of developing an outreach for young people to get a grasp on our Ayrshire breed," says John.

### Hameau Farm For Girls

At Hameau Farm For Girls campers stay for two weeks. They learn about the farm routine and shared responsibilities, while enjoying great meals and making new friends, of the two and four-legged variety.

They attribute their success to a combination of laughter, intrigue, creativity and physical exertion. The camp promises to send everyone home happy, perhaps a bit dirty, and tired.

To learn more visit [www.hameaufarm.com](http://www.hameaufarm.com).



## We want to hear from you!

The *Foundation Flyer* is your newsletter. If you have a story for our Foundation Feature section, or news that you'd like us to share, please contact Becky Payne at (614) 335-0020 or email [bpayne@usayrshire.com](mailto:bpayne@usayrshire.com).