

100 Years Of Guernsey Shows!

Since 1906 a National Champion has been named. Over this multitude of years, the award of National Grand Champion has gone coast to coast, border to boarder. There were no shows in 1915 due to the foot and mouth disease, and again no shows in 1932-1934 and 1942-1946. While this luxurious title has been awarded to many outstanding individuals, the list of owners appears to be a smaller list.

The pride of owning a cow that is selected as the best in the breed is quite an honor in its own right. But to have multiple winners is even more rewarding. The very first two national champion titles were presented to M.D. Cunningham, Kansasville, WI.

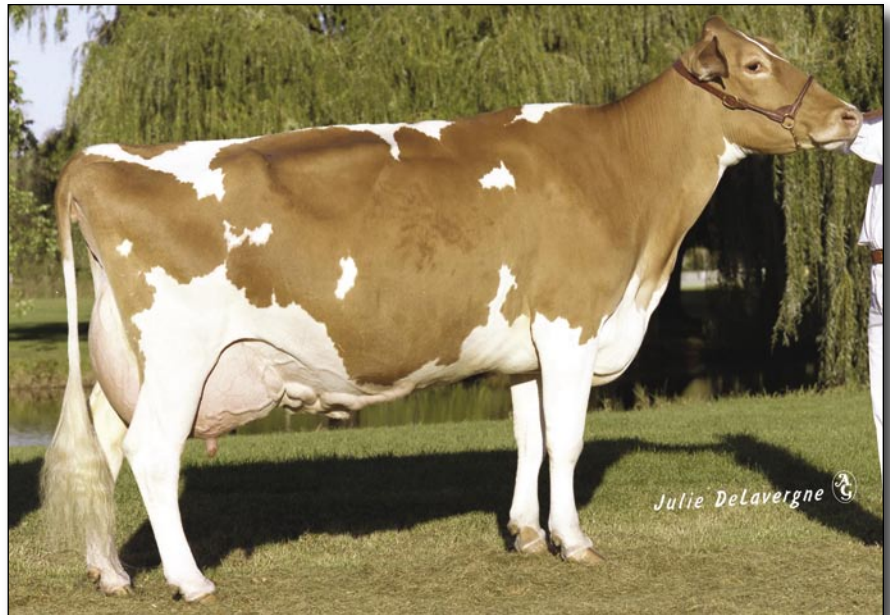
The Early Shows

These two special individuals, Gertrude Kelly, and Robiana's Standard were selected champion female and male in 1906 as champion for M.D. Cunningham. He returned in 1907 with Queen Sanative to take home his second champion female. But in 1910 Glencoe's Bopeep began her reign as a multiple National Champion!

Three back to back champion titles for W.W. Marsh, Waterloo, IA. This started a trend for this honored owner. As he not only is listed as the owner of this first triple crown winner, but he is also listed as the owner of the champion cow in 1913, 1914, 1916, 1917, 1919 and 1922. Adding to his laurels, he is the breeder of the National Champion in 1925. This cow, Admiration of the Prairie, is a granddaughter of his first champion in 1910.

Now lets flip to the other side of the coin. From this same owner comes no less than eight titles for National Champion male. Beginning in 1909, he won again in 1910, 1911, 1913, 1914, 1916, 1917, and 1918. One more time W.W. Marsh is listed as the breeder of the National Champion bull in 1925.

What makes this interesting is the 1925 National Champion bull, May Rose Cherub. He is sired by Cherubs' Prince. Cherub's Prince's dam is Imp. Princess



PENN-DEL VICUVIOUS GLENNA
Guernsey's first five time National Champion
Emily Branstetter, Kentucky

Bergere who was National Champion female for W.W. Marsh in 1916 and 1917.

Cherub's Prince hails from the same family on the top side of his pedigree as the 1913-1914 champion bull, Imp. Hayes Cherub 2d. This bull in turn sired Ladysmith's Cherub, who was National Champion male in 1916-1918.

Ladysmith's Cherub sired the National Champion male in 1921 and the National Champion female in 1922. This 1921 winner, Cherub's Ace of Shorewood is the sire of Shorewood Resolute, the National Champion male in 1924 and 1926.

Could it have been W.W. Marsh who set the tone for the Guernsey shows? Could he have created the desire to win multiple privileged titles? With his early success in the show ring, the path had been laid and history was written. Over the years this early trend of W.W. Marsh seems to reappear as such prominent names as Boulder Bridge Farm Company, Excelsior, MN continued this multiple winning streak.

This farm has three champion

females under their ownership. In 1930 they captured their first win with Moose Valley Minuet; 1936 with Hornblend's Beauty Raider and in 1938 with Pride of Pine View. They also claim ownership to three National Champion males. In 1931 it was Langwater Waldorf. Next came Valleywood Valiant Hero in 1940 and finally their 1947 winner, Argilla Beacon.

The 1940's & 1950's

The 1940's there began a commanding force in the show ring. McDonald Farms, Cortland, NY and Curtiss Candy Farms, Chicago, IL began their domination of the shows.

For McDonald farms, their first national champion male award came in 1948. They captured the same title in 1950-1951 and again in 1954, 1955, 1958 and 1959. Their first female champion had come years earlier in 1940 with Smuggler Farm Reward's Lass. It is interesting to note that McDonald farms won the coveted Premier Banner for 11 consecutive years in the late 1940's thru

1955.

Curtiss Candy Company, started their winnings in 1947 with Quail Roost Noble Primrose. They returned in 1948 and 1950 with Afton's Golden Marie. In 1951 they won the title with Adohr Eldor Pearlette. This same cow was Grand Champion in 1949, but for the previous owner, Adohr Milk Farms, Tarzana, CA. Curtiss Candy also bred and owned the National Champion male in 1952.

One must also mention Lakewood Farms, Mundelein, IL. Hagan Farms Merry Song was Grand Champion for them in 1952, 1953, and 1954, making her the second triple-crown winner. One more time in the 1950's a triple-crown winner had been selected. This time Senecaside Meryl was named National Champion female in 1957, 1958 and 1959 for Artherton W. Hobler, Princeton, NJ.

The Changing 1970's

With the 1970 show season the Guernsey association adopted an east and west coast national show concept. With this concept travels became more regionalized. But the quality of cattle didn't change.

Capturing a quartet of National Champion male titles from 1968 - 1971 was WoodAcres Nances Valiant. He was owned by Price-Black Farms, Inc. Arrey, NM. Yet another three time winner was emerging in the East. Lockshore Sultan Rebel won the male competitions from 1971-1973. He was owned by James and Alice Fish, Hickory Corners, MI. The 1970's also saw the end of the bull shows for the Guernsey breed. The last champion male was selected in 1975.

The national show concept again took a turn, with the inception of three national shows. In 1981 they added a fourth national show and to this day continue to use this procedure.

1980's to the Present

The 1980's saw the emergence of a new exhibitor of national champion cattle. John and Bonnie Ayers, Mechanicsburg, OH won their first national champion female title in 1981 with Keystone Big T Jennifer at the Eastern National show.

With this win, they became a powerhouse in the shows and continue that ability to exhibit the breed's best right through today. They have added champion banners from the Eastern National in 1986, 1988, 1990, 1991, 2002 and 2005. From the Central National



WEST LYNN TOM DEE Only National Champion with multiple National Champion offspring Clark and Joy Vilter, Wisconsin

they have captured the title in 1992 and 1997. They have won at the Southern National in 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1999, 2002 and 2003. With all these wins and some partners along the way, they have the distinct honor of being the leading exhibitor of National Champion females with a total of 16 head to date.

The Midwest flourished in the 1980's. Indiana brought home its share of champions including Chedco T H Maxine, who was named National Champion in 1983 at the Central and Eastern National show. She returned in 1985 to reclaim her title at the Eastern and Central National shows. Maxine is the breed's only four-time winner and is owned by D & D Alexander, Lynn, IN.

The Alexander brothers also can be credited with ownership of the three-time National Champion in 1984. Dari Favor Pauline was owned by the Alexander's and Joseph and Marilee Burdette, Boyds, MD.

Yet another prefix has come to the forefront in the winners circle - Sniders Homestead. The Gable family of Pennsylvania has been consistent campaigners for the title. They have taken home the title six times and have seen some of their sold cattle capture the title as well. Sniders Darnell Hilite is one such cow. Owned by Erin Yost, CA, this cow was champion at the western show in 2000 and 2002. Of course their most popular champion is Cedar Fringed Altann. Champion at Harrisburg & Madison in 2000. She collected her triple-crown award with her repeat win at Harrisburg in 2001.

Five Time Champions

Only two cows have earned the title of National Champion cow five times.

The first cow to earn five National

titles is Penn Dell Vicuvius Glenna. Raymond and Louise Witmer, Willow Street, PA exhibited her to National Champion honors in 1987 at the Eastern show. There judge Fowler Branstetter, KY purchased this cow for his daughter Emily, and exhibited her to a win in 1988 at the Central National show, and returned her in 1989 to win at the Central, Eastern, and Southern National shows.

1993 was the year that Westlynn Tom Dee captured her first National Champion title for her owners, Clark & Joy Vilter, Mark Rueth, and Randy Kortus. She returned to the center of the ring three more times to become National Champion cow at the Central National show in 1994,

1995, and 1996 respectfully. She also won at the Southern National show in 1996, giving her a fifth title.

More impressively, this cow is the only cow to be National Champion and have two daughters and two granddaughters that have been named National Champion. Four Winds Magicman Delight won in 2002 and 2003 at the Madison show. Via her full sister's daughter, Four Winds Destiny Child earned the title on National Champion cow in 2004 at Louisville, KY and in 2005 at Madison, WI.

The second National Champion daughter of Tom Dee is Four Winds Enhancer Diamond. She earned the title in 2000 at the Southern National show. The second granddaughter is Pine Drive Logic Hesse, who was selected as Grand Champion at the western show in 2004 for Becky Hogan, Oregon.

But that is not the only National Champions for the Vilter family of WI. In 2001 they captured the title with Four Winds Fayette Penny at the Central and Southern National shows. They also won at the Southern National in 1998 with Callumlea Magicman Eunice. Four Winds Farm has collected 12 titles to date, and is the leading breeder of National Champions with no less than seven cows earning the crown.

From 1906 through 2005 the conquest for the title has been passed around to all parts of the country and many different owners. Through it all, the passion and love of the show ring has remained the same. While the names and the owners change over time, the honor of owning the national champion remains the same. Regardless of what the next 100 years will bring, owning a cow that is selected as National Champion will always be an amazing accomplishment!