



# Brown Swiss and Ayrshire National Convention

**Wednesday, June 25 - Friday, June 27**  
**Embassy Suites, East Peoria, Illinois**  
 (All events except tours and golf outing  
 will be held at the Embassy Suites)

## Convention Tours

### Peoria Loop Tour

The shopping and sightseeing tour will provide an opportunity for a leisurely, on-your-own day. The bus will leave the hotel lobby at 9:00 am and return to pick up or drop off, every hour, making a loop of the three stops. Feel free to stop or ride until the last pick up of the day. The ride back to the hotel will be along Grandview Drive, dubbed by Teddy Roosevelt as the "world's most beautiful drive." The bluff is lined with mansions built during the early 1900's overlooking the Illinois River Valley.

Meals are on your own.

#### 1) Downtown Peoria

**Caterpillar Visitors Center** - Spend an hour or an afternoon at the Caterpillar Visitors Center where you can experience Caterpillar on a self-guided journey at your own pace. You will find interactive displays and exhibits sure to engage and entertain visitors of all ages.

[www.caterpillar.com/visitors-center](http://www.caterpillar.com/visitors-center)

**Peoria Riverfront Museum** - The museum is a one-of-a-kind experience that lets you take a peek into the past of Peoria. See how humans have changed the Illinois River, catch a movie on the giant screen, or gaze into the stars and watch a laser light show at the planetarium. The museum is also home to an expansive collection of fine art and folk art.

[www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org](http://www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org)



**Riverfront Museum**

#### 2) Glen Oak Park

Peoria Zoo is open all year long and home to more than 100 species of animals from around the world, including several which are endangered. The zoo is located in beautiful Glen Oak Park, located in the heart of the city, preserving ancient trees with plenty of playground

areas. [www.peoriazoo.org](http://www.peoriazoo.org)

**Luthy Botanical Gardens** - A gorgeous spot which features five acres of landscaped gardens and a tropical conservatory.

[www.peoriaparks.org/luthy-botanicalgarden](http://www.peoriaparks.org/luthy-botanicalgarden)

#### 3) Peoria Heights

**Shopping** - Stroll the quaint streets of Peoria Heights and discover the unique businesses and speciality shops lining the historically beautiful downtown area. Clothing, fun accessories, wine, gourmet food, custom-made jewelry, gifts or fine art. Restaurants and a park are also available or view the river valley from the top of the Tower.

*The River Valley and Mackinaw Winery Tour will also depart from the hotel at 9:00. The first stop will be River Valley Dairy. The group will then travel to the Mackinaw Winery for lunch followed by wine tasting.*

### River Valley Dairy

Owned by the Gregg Sauder family and located near Tremont, Illinois, the feature of this stop will be the robotics used on the dairy. There will also be a chance to take a look at one of the nation's special Jersey herds.

A trip to a Wisconsin sale in 2004 and the purchase of two animals "kicked things in gear for the family." In 2006 Greg and Cindy Sauder moved to their current location with their family of seven children and nine Jersey cows being milked with a vacuum pump and one milker. Shortly thereafter they purchased 50 cows from an Iowa herd and they were off.

Since the entering the showing on the national level in 2007, they have had numerous All-American honorees and several Grand Champions at both World Dairy Expo and The All American Jersey Show in Louisville, open and/or junior shows. They strive to work with cows that are going to impact the breed both in the genomic world and the show ring.

In January 2012 the larger part of the herd moved into a new robotic milked freestall barn. The barn has the capacity



**River Valley Dairy**

*(Pictures provided by Holstein World)*

to hold 300 milking cows. The four Lely Astronaut robots are equipped with activity monitors, rumination sensors and other management tools. The cows are being milked on an average 3.8 times daily on the robots. The spacious freestall barn is equipped with gel mattresses, large alleyways and a drive through feed alley. Feed is pushed up once an hour by a robotic feed pusher.



### Mackinaw Valley Vineyard

Following lunch at the winery, you will have the opportunity for a wine tasting with over 20 wines from which to choose.

Situated on a glacial moraine with a natural high point, the winery's tasting room provides an amazing 30 mile view of the valley and farms below, a beautiful and relaxing experience.

Visit the convention website at:  
[www.swissayrconvention.com](http://www.swissayrconvention.com)