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.

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
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 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 1st and May 15th 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 1st and May 15th

For applications and details visit 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.
Committed 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 of the Ayrshire breed depends on the young breeders of today continuing our traditions.

“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

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/Arddossan 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 Kemptes
Shawn and Karen Hernley
Glen Foerd Conservation
Scott Russell Family
Duane Rader Family
Arlene Cresser
Terry and Becky Payne
Mary Scott Remer
Gene and Judy Rathjen
Midwest Ayrshire Club
Blake Bieber
Dave Koss
Doug Fairbanks

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**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

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.

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.