

2009 Young Breeder Award - Joshua, Jacob and Joseph Hushon

Excerpts of Cindy Warners' presentation at the National Convention.

I am pleased to present this Award to Brothers Three Brown Swiss, Josh, Jake, and Joseph Hushon of Quarryville, PA. and Lake Mills, WI. Josh, Jake and Joseph have been on "Target" with their goals and objectives for the Brown Swiss breed from the beginning. They have portrayed the kind of forward thinking it takes to advance the progress of the Brown Swiss breed today - and into the future!

In their "formative years"—the Brothers Three had their humble beginnings in York County, PA. where they were showing Holsteins locally and not with much success.

So they were looking for a new and hopefully a more successful way to expand their 4-H project. In early 1991, two Brown Swiss were purchased from the Foust Hill herd of the Krone family in Glen Rock, PA. They had success on the county, district, and state levels and switched from Holsteins to Brown Swiss. Offspring from their early purchases resulted in some blue ribbon winners, All American nominations, and then a short time later, they had bred their first Homebred Excellent cow. These accomplishments got them out of the gate and running—and put Brothers Three on the map. They showed their first All-American nominations who were Brothers Three Snowflake - a Jr. 2-year-old - and Brothers Three Nutty Buddy—a Sr. 2-year-old in 1996. In 2001, their first Homebred All-American - Brothers Three Wisper - was the Jr. Champion at WDE as a Spring Yearling. In 2002 Wisper developed into a great Jr. 2-year-old, and was named the Grand Champion at the Eastern National in Harrisburg, PA.

Their journey with Brown Swiss was a bit unconventional in the beginning. As Wayne Sliker stated in his letter of nomination—"I have been impressed for years with their ability to breed, develop, and merchandise high quality Brown Swiss, which they continue to do. They have taken a journey all the way from keeping a few calves in the yard to breeding the winning Best Three Females at Madison in 2008—a very, very rare accomplishment," states Wayne.

Even with the challenges of housing animals at different farms in the early years, they continued to make progress and were able to put a herd in one place for a short time from 2005 to 2008. They had the highest producing Pennsylvania herd in 2006 and 2007, and also had the Genetics Honors Herd in 2006. Their herd totals stand at: 9 All-Americans, 22 All-American Nominations, 14 National or Reserve National Bell Ringers and 25 PA Bell Ringer Awards.

The Hushons consider Brothers Three Wisper, 2E-92; Top Acres Coll Party, 2E-93, and Brothers Three Nutty Buddy, 2E-91 the most influential cows they have devel-



President Moyers presents the award to Josh, Joe and Jake Hushon.

oped and worked with. These three foundation cows provided the genetics. With the right matings, some guidance and advice from mentors in the business, their parents, ambition and perseverance, and a little bit of luck, the offspring continue to develop into the "Right Kind". Some of these animals are still in the hands of the Hushons, but others were merchandized and have gone on to do well for new owners.

Brothers Three Worthy, EX-92, was the 2008 Reserve AA Sr. 3-year-old. I would like to highlight her history on the tanbark in 2008. Worthy was Res. Int. Champion at WDE and also the winner of the Kingsmill 3-year-old Futurity. In 2006 Worthy was nominated AA Winter Yearling. She is sired by Top Acres Jet Pilot. Brothers Three Wisper, VG-89, is a granddaughter of Wisper and was the 2008 AA Jr. 2-year-old. She is sired by Blessing Mort Legacy. Brothers Three HP Willow was the Unanimous 2008 AA Spring calf. She is sired by Top Acres EP Premium.

Without a doubt, Top Acres Coll Party-ET, EX-93, was one of the most influential cows the Hushons had the privilege to work with and no stranger to breed enthusiasts. Party was a 4-H project that Joseph purchased from Top Acres in the spring of 2000. She went on that year to be named the Jr. Champion at the All American Dairy Show, and stood First at WDE! She grew up with Joseph and sold through the Top Acres Finale Sale for a breed-record \$86,000! The Hushons developed several outstanding males and females from Party, including Brothers Three Parker.

2008 World Dairy Expo was a "Brothers Three Day". They have always been great participants on the "Tanbark Trail" over the years, but the rewards came to them at the "Big Dance" in Madison in 2008! I was close to them in the showing, and you could see the bond and the emotions of these special moments among Josh, Jake, and Joe as they gathered and hugged, and enjoyed this day.

Brothers Three are great communicators, with exceptional marketing and merchandising skills, and they have always had that

special knack for promotion. They have been active members in the PA Brown Swiss Association, but also joined the MD Brown Swiss Assoc. where they are active in State Field Days, Maryland State Fair, and the Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss Calf sale. The Hushon brothers have had to put a lot of extra effort to keep on top of their animals as they have been housed and cared for on different farms - and even in different states - but made sure they were on test and classified all starting when their first two calves came fresh. As I wrote in my nomination, "Josh, Jake, and Joseph are always willing to lend a helping hand, whether it is in the show ring or the barn, the sale ring, assisting with youth programs, meetings or conventions. They are the kind of positive participants promoting Brown Swiss and dairy activities who make things happen, and have given back to the Brown Swiss as adults."

They have been showing at the Eastern National since 1993—and at the Central National since 1996. They advertise regularly in the *Brown Swiss Bulletin*, and are active consignors in sales across the country. And what a great website they have - check it out at www.brothersthree.com. It is so informative with great pictures and always up to date. It's a super promotional site for their Brown Swiss and the breed. The Hushons have attended National Conventions every year since 1999. The first National Convention they attended was in 1994, right here in Springfield, Missouri. Jake received a youth award then and now, fifteen years later, they are recipients of the Outstanding Young Breeder Award.

In Slikers' nomination comments: "To me, it is probably more impressive that the brothers have continued to support the Brown Swiss with a passion for the future of the breed. As they successfully continue their careers, they give back their time to be involved in most all breed and industry activities."

Josh states, "We are so grateful to our parents who have supported us for our entire lives, and allowed us to travel and experience the opportunities that not only grew our Brown Swiss herd, but our future careers as well."

"I believe the Hushon Brothers really understand the ever-changing dairy industry, and how different thinking, different factors, and different people will be the ingredients for a stronger dairy business all contributing to a stronger Brown Swiss Association. Wayne Sliker concluded this way in his nomination: "As I look to the future of Brown Swiss, it is encouraging to have young breeders like the Hushons continuing their involvement." I concur with Wayne - we are pleased to have been associated with them for several years, and proud of their accomplishments!