



**OHIO JUNIOR
AYRSHIRE CLUB**

Ohio Junior Ayrshire Club Winter Newsletter

Emma Mathews, President Maggie Mathews, Vice President
Sara Wolf, Secretary/Treasurer
Eileen Gress and Richard Bloomfield, Advisors

Advisors Note

Hello all Ohio Junior Ayrshire Club members! While the snow and temperatures fall, here's a newsletter to keep you up to date on club activities, upcoming dairy and Ayrshire events, and interesting Ohio or national Ayrshire news. Check out our Ohio Ayrshire Queen's Ayrshire Adventure to Australia on page three!

We hope to see all of you at some of our upcoming events. If you have any other Ayrshire or dairy-related activities in your area that you think other Ayrshire youth would like to participate in, let us know and we'll add it to our next newsletter.

Best wishes,
Eileen and Richard, Junior Club Advisors

Upcoming Events

Ohio Ayrshire Banquet
February 25, 2017
Plain City, Ohio

Ohio Spring Dairy Expo
March 30 - April 1, 2017
Columbus, Ohio

National Ayrshire Convention
June 21 - 24, 2017
Altoona, Iowa

If you have any additions to the calendar, please submit them to eileencgress@gmail.com!

APPLY NOW: National Ayrshire Convention Essay Contest

Have you ever attended the National Ayrshire Convention? If not, this is your chance to win a paid registration for this year's convention in Altoona, Iowa! At last year's Banquet meeting, the youth club voted to create an essay contest to give youth who have never attended Convention the chance to attend and compete in National Youth contests.

Here's what you have to do to enter:

- Enter the National Ayrshire Youth Book contest (details on the contest are on the last page of this newsletter and online at www.usayrshire.com/youthapplication.html)
- Send a copy of your entry to Eileen Gress, along with a 750-1,000-word essay on why you want to attend the National Ayrshire Convention and what you hope to learn from attending. Entries due by March 1, 2017.

Entries will be judged by a third party. The winning essay and applicant will receive a paid registration for the 2017 National Ayrshire Convention. (Registration does not include hotel or travel fees and expenses.) The winner will be required to choose one National Youth contest to compete in during their time at National Ayrshire Convention.

Event Short: Ohio Ayrshire Banquet

The 2017 Ohio Ayrshire Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, Ohio. The meeting starts at 11:00, followed by lunch and the remainder of the meeting, awards, and elections. Juniors will split off for a junior meeting after lunch.

At the Junior meeting, officers will be elected, and the Ohio Ayrshire Queen and Princess will be crowned. **If you are interested in running for Ohio Ayrshire Queen or Princess, please fill out the attached application and return it to Eileen Gress by February 15.** If you do not fill out an application for Queen or Princess, you will not be able to run. An application for Ohio Ayrshire Queen and Princess has been included in every mailing of this newsletter, so if you know of a friend or neighbor who qualifies to run, please pass it along.

Also at this meeting, we will be deciding on awards for Spring Dairy Expo. Please bring ideas, photos, or suggestions for class awards as well as Junior, Senior, and Grand Champions. We will also be deciding on items to auction off at the Spring Dairy Expo Ayrshire sale. If you will not be in attendance but have ideas, please send them to Eileen.

Additionally, awards for Outstanding Ohio Ayrshire Youth will be presented after the juniors rejoin the rest of the club following the Junior meeting. These awards will be presented to youth who have gone above and beyond in their membership, attending meetings, Ayrshire and dairy events, and participating in National Ayrshire or other dairy contests. Throughout the year, attendance and participation in these events has been kept track of, and winners will be determined by the youth who have had the most participation.

Event Short: Ohio 4-H Dairy Judging Contest

The Ohio 4-H Dairy Judging Contest will be held during Spring Dairy Expo in Columbus, Ohio. The contest will be held on Saturday, April 1 in the Voinovich building. There will be three separate divisions: Juniors, ages 8-11; Intermediates, ages 12-14; and Seniors, ages 15 and up as of January 1, 2017. Intermediates will give two sets of reasons (notes permissible) and Seniors will give two sets of reasons without notes.

Contact Sherry Smith (smith.10072@osu.edu or 330-465-2376) or visit the Ohio 4-H Dairy Programs website (<http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/dairy>) for more information.



Did You Hear? Our Ohio Ayrshire Queen went International!

Hope Hazelton, our 2016-2017 Ohio Ayrshire Queen, traveled to Australia over the summer to see Ayrshires in action 'down under.' Way to go, Hope!

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Hope Hazelton combined a college requirement with her desire to travel this summer. The result was spending 11 weeks in Australia, helping 4 families work their dairy farms. The Ada resident, a student at the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, had to complete an internship within her field of study toward an associate's degree in dairy cattle production and management.

Originally, she wanted to go to Scotland, but didn't get any response through the Internet. Hazelton said she talked to another dairy farmer who said if he had to live anywhere else, it would be Australia, so she shifted her focus there. Within a half hour of expressing an interest online in working on dairy operations in Australia, she was contacted by a man who thought he could set up such a trip. Within a week the trip was pretty well planned out.

From May 13 to July 27, Hazelton worked at four dairy farms for about 2 ½ weeks each. She worked on two in New South Wales, one in Victoria, and the other one in South Australia. Three of the four had about 200 head of cattle, while the fourth had 400 head and used a rotary parlor. At two of the farms she was up at 5:30 am to help with milking and feeding and other daily tasks. At the other two, her day started a little later and she helped out more on the calf side, feeding, cleaning their pens, and tagging new calves.

It was winter in Australia and she said the temperature averaged about 40 degrees Fahrenheit. There were no barns or shelter for the cattle. They were kept outside and grazed on grass. "Everything was so open", Hazelton said. "They take up more land because of grazing", she said of the Australian farms. She helped with the rotational grazing, switching over the fencing and wire so the cows would go to a different pasture with fresh grass. Hazelton said the farmers did put out silage bales once a day as a feed supplement.

The cows in Australia aren't expected to produce as much milk as in America since they are grass-fed. But when it came to milking time, Hazelton was in for a surprise. "The thing that shocked me the most is they popped the cups right on without any prepping." She said, "They may have dusted the teats, but nothing else." Hazelton said, "In school, Australia is held on a pedestal for its clean milk. They have more restrictions on their milk so it surprised me they were lenient on that."

But it wasn't all work, especially toward the end of her visit. She returned to Sydney with the family from the second farm and spent several days sight-seeing, including taking a ferry ride to the Sydney Opera House and visiting the large Sydney Harbour Bridge. Hazelton got to see plenty of kangaroos, which are as plentiful as deer in this area. She got to play with kangaroos at a wildlife park as well. Plus, since she was near the coast the whole time, she got to visit plenty of beaches.

Her ultimate goal is to be a dairy farmer so she thought it was a good idea to do her traveling now. Plus the Australia trip gave her some insight into how she would like to operate her own dairy, doing as much grass-based feeding as possible. She wants to sell raw milk the "legal way" by selling herd shares to people who then would "own" the milk.

APPLY NOW: National Ayrshire Youth Applications

Without the hustle and bustle of show and fair season, winter and spring are the perfect time to work on scholarship and award applications. Spending a few hours working on an application can earn youth \$500 or more - especially if those few hours are spent applying for the National Ayrshire Youth Scholarship.

Every year, the US Ayrshire Breeders Association awards one \$500 scholarship to a deserving Ayrshire youth. To receive consideration for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Have been a Junior Member in good standing with the Ayrshire Breeders' Association for the past five years.
- Be planning or currently majoring in a post-secondary agricultural program.
- Be a high school senior or currently enrolled in a two- or four-year institution of higher learning, with documentation from that institution.
- Be between the ages of 16-21 by December 31 of the contest year.
- Submit a copy of your high school and/or college transcript.
- Submit a summary of your career goals and aspirations relating to your area of study.
- Submit two letters of recommendation from your school's guidance counselor, teacher or other school official, FFA advisor, 4-H leader or a National ABA adult member (or any individual of your choice except a family member)

In addition to the National Ayrshire Youth Scholarship, youth of all ages can create and submit their National Ayrshire Record Books for recognition and a cash prize. Record books are a way for youth to show the knowledge and experience they have gained through their work with Ayrshires, and can serve as a way to remember their years of work in 4-H and FFA with their favorite cows. Complete contest rules and guidelines for submission can be found by visiting the link below.

There are four divisions for the Record Book contest:

- Beginner - 8 years old or under
- Junior - 9-12 years old
- Intermediate - 13-15 years old
- Senior - 16-21 years old

All ages as of January 1, 2017

Submitting an application for the National Ayrshire Youth Scholarship or the Record Book contest will count as points toward outstanding member awards, and winning either of these contests will count as additional points. Show off your hard work with Ayrshires and earn money and recognition by competing in these contests!

Applications can be found online at
<http://www.usayrshire.com/youthapplication.html>

Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2017 to
Ayrshire Breeders' Association
1224 Alton Darby Creek Rd, Columbus, OH 43228

Email Eileen Gress (eileencgress@gmail.com) if you have questions.