

What They Say About Jersey Youth Academy



The 36 members of the first class of Jersey Youth Academy pictured at the Ohio State University. *Front row, from left to right:* Cassandra Chittenden, Danielle Brown, Avery Lutz, Julie Orth, Karesa Mann, and Ivy Roberts. *Second row, from left:* Kristin Hogan, Stephanie Kasper, Jennifer Hansen, Kortney Hoerbert, Lena Sweeney and Lauren Brittany Core. *Third row, from left:* Abby Tauchen, Kelsey Burnham, Rachel Rawn, Amy Maxwell, Elena Ooms, Dorothea Baker, Rene Boardman. *Fourth row, from left:* Claire Stanley, Amber Ettinger, Katherine Rashall, Zachary Mason, Sadie Green and Jonathan Holewinski. *Fifth row, from left:* Londa Johnson, Natalie Sanders, Wade Kessenich, Brad Barham and Kyle Schirm. *Top row, from left:* Colin Russell, Clark Egleston, Daniel Fugate, Derek Dreier, Tyler Boyd and Ted Christoph.

Tyler Boyd (Class I, 2009)

One of the greatest advantages, in my mind, of Jersey Youth Academy has been how it connects young Jersey breeders from across the country. As I've progressed in my career, I regularly encounter and work alongside past Academy participants. Many of the most active young members of the AJCA are past Academy attendees.

I've also developed professional relationships with many industry representatives and breeders who have participated as mentors, speakers and Academy leaders over the years. With the dairy industry becoming smaller each year, but still so spread out geographically, the opportunity to create these long-lasting connections is unique and extremely valuable.

Ted Christoph (Class I, 2009)

The single biggest influencer of Academy for me would be the connection with so many other people and getting to know all types of breeders from across the U.S. and meeting a wide range of Jersey leaders. I wouldn't have ever been able to do that otherwise. I learned their success stories and how they achieved them. For me, the experience was all about the people connection.

Danielle Brown (Class I, 2009)

As a member of Class I, it was an honor to later serve as a chaperone for Class V. Academy was one of the best experiences I participated in as a junior of any organization. It was a one-of-a-kind way to learn more about the dairy industry and the Jersey cow while meeting breed enthusiasts from across the country.

The program helped shape my career path and the remainder of my college days by opening my eyes to the opportunities available. I am still in contact with many of my classmates and talk or work with them on a regular basis. It is amazing that the vast majority of us are working in the dairy industry and with Registered Jerseys.

Kira Andre Wetmore (Class II, 2011)

Jersey Youth Academy was great for me to network with other people my age in the Jersey industry. It really helped me understand how the association works.

I am currently working on a dairy research station in North Carolina as their herdsman, but I think the biggest impact the Jersey Youth Academy had in my life is that it is where I met my husband. Me, Steven, and his family are now working to build our own small herd of Jerseys.

Cassie Chittenden (Class II, 2011)

I would say that Jersey Youth Academy is not only an opportunity to receive a crash course in everything Jersey, it's also a chance to network work with other peers who are all very passionate about the breed and the dairy business. This is where you go to plant the seeds for life-long industry friendships.

Natalie Sanders (Class II, 2011)

Jersey Youth Academy was an invaluable experience for not only my personal development, but also valuable to the career path that I have chosen. While attending the Academy, I met many kids from all over the Midwest and East that I still have contact with today almost 10 years later.

I made many valuable contacts and learned the true value of what the Jersey breed can do for the youth. The educational aspect of Jersey Youth Academy aided me in increasing my knowledge of dairy industry topics and taught me how to communicate our dairy story in a positive light. I would highly recommend the Academy to any young person with an interest because I feel the knowledge gained from attendance is crucial to anyone in the dairy industry.

Ashlan Wickstrom (Class III, 2013)

To this day, I credit Jersey Youth Academy with changing the entire trajectory of my college education and career path. At the time I was still unsure about what I wanted to do and trying to figure out where I fit into the agricultural industry.

Academy opened my eyes to the many opportunities within the Jersey breed and the dairy industry as a whole. Being able to hear from and speak with influential leaders across all facets of the industry was invaluable. Jersey Youth Academy led me to pursue a career in agricultural communications and introduced me to a network of young, intelligent individuals who are passionate about the Jersey breed.



The 38 members of the second class of Jersey Youth Academy. *Kneeling, from left to right:* Tucker Hardy, Dylan Ellenburg, Jordan Dunn, Tyler Kirchoerfer, Trey Huffard, Tanner Barham, Billy Grammer, Mitchell Gilpin, Colin Russell, Logan Karchner, and Steven Wetmore. *Row behind standing:* Tommy Allen, Natalie Sanders, Kara Maxwell, Taryn Martin, Theresa Sweeney, Tricia Jo Kirchoerfer and Charlie Moyer. *Standing, from left to right:* Mary Katherine Rawn, Mariah Fjarlie, Kelli Carstensen, Cassandra Krull, Jaylene Leshner, Charisse Orth, Alexandra LaPrise, Jesse Kline, Stacey Theobald, Jessica Marie Sentelle, Regina Grover, Maria Noble, Amanda Mitcheltree, Haley Ooms, Rylin Lindahl, Laura Mahoney, Cassie Chittenden, Sydney Endres, Erin Williams and Kira Andre.

Morgan Randall (Class III, 2013)

I attended Jersey Youth Academy five years ago in 2013. Now I'm in my last year of vet school and I can that Youth Academy opened doors and network with different people across the industry that I will run into again in my career. It was able to get me out of my box a little bit and build those lasting connections.

Olivia Pearson (Class III, 2013)

Jersey Youth Academy was my favorite experience from my youth. I was able to network with industry leaders, AJCA staff and members and my peers. I am now a Marketing Coordinator at Farm Credit. By participating in the Academy, I was able to draw on the prestige of the academy and connections made to secure my position. This is the best opportunity you'll ever have as a youth in the dairy industry.





The 35 members of the third class of Jersey Youth Academy. *Front row, from left:* Meghan Chittenden, Taylor Leach, Amy Gowell Drogue, Morgan Richard, Cassandra Krull, Kim Kubosiak, and Katie Hutchins. *Second row, from left:* Valery Silva, Andrea Smaciarz, Meagan Bolen, Jacob Leum, Amber Gabel, Sean Brown, Morgan Randall, Theresa Sweeney, Miranda Randall, Rylin Lindahl, Kaitlyn Riley, Rebecca Thomas, Allison Foster, Ashlan Wickstrom, Casey Porter, and Olivia Pearson. *Back row, from left:* , Jon Frenchick, Mitchell Endres, Janelle Remington, Anneke Moss, Jessica Smith, Chase Koon, Gerret Boer, James Holton, Shannon Rodeffer, Amy McBirney, Rebekah Gourley, and Emily Chittenden.



The 22 class members of Jersey Youth Academy IV. *Pictured front row, from left:* Katlyn Vencill; Logan Courtney, Jenna Preston, Anneke Boer, Elizabeth Pereira, Austin Nauman and Kal Randall. *Middle row, from left:* Rebecca Sanders, Nicole Saunders, Megan Hill, Regina Pozzi, Meghan Skiba, Julia Owens, Emily Beebe, Matthew Holton and Austin Woods. *Back row from left:* Drew Hill, Toni Jacque, Samantha Allen, Tyler French, Mandy Lagerwey and Blake Koehn.



Logan Courtney (Class IV, 2015)

When I applied to be a part of the Fourth Class of Jersey Youth Academy, I never would have expected to learn so much about genomics, breed promotion and the wonderful history of our breed.

Meeting Jersey youth from across the country and from all different backgrounds led to making lifelong friends and opened minds to how adaptable our little brown cow can be no matter the herd setting!

Aside from it being a fun packed week we also had the opportunity to learn about the roles the staff at USJersey have that keep our breed running like a well-oiled machine and the potential career options for those of us wanting to work with in the breed. For any youth thinking about applying, it's a guarantee that no matter what part of the Jersey and wider dairy industry you're interested in this is a week you don't want to miss out on!

Matthew Holton (Class IV, 2015)

As a member of the Fourth Class of Jersey Youth Academy, I encourage all youth interested in Jersey cattle to consider applying for this opportunity. The connections and friends made will last a lifetime, and I also can't think of a better way to spend your summer other than with the little brown cow!

Jaydyn Isiminger (Class V, 2017)

This was one of my favorite memories associated with the dairy industry. I met people from the South, West Coast, Midwest, et cetera and I still talk to some of those people. You truly get the opportunity to branch out with public speaking, sales, Jersey association and truly market yourself and your farm!

I encourage anyone of the right age to apply and take advantage of this opportunity. You get to travel to farms, listen to speakers, stay on OSU campus and have so many fun activities with your new and life-long friends.

Kaila Wussow Tauchen (Class V, 2017)

I am much more comfortable talking about the latest trends within the breed and using my newfound knowledge to educate my peers, and some of my professors, about the true benefits and facts of the Jersey cow.

Academy helped reinforce to me that I want to work in some aspect of the dairy industry, especially in a way that I can work with producers.



The 28 members of Jersey Youth Academy V are pictured at Bar-Lee Jerseys in Willard, Ohio. *Pictured front row, from left:* Skylar Buell, Katie Pitchford, Kathryn M. Bosley, Willow Voegtlen, Jaydyn Isiminger, Maggie LaPrise, Katarina Emerich, Samantha J. Schuessler, Catherine Savage, Kaila Wussow, Erin Leach, Korri Ann Briggs, Ellen Harth, Allison Massey and Haley Christie. *Back row from left:* Elli Hayes, Case Schaap, Carly Olufs, Cort Rowley, Ethan C. Holland, Sarah Schonauer, Breanna C. Bowen, Maxwell Chittenden, Wesley Noble, Kylie Lehr, Kalli Corrick, Jarod E. Herron and Tucker Peterson.

Katarina Emerich (Class V, 2017)

Academy helped reinforce that I am on the right path with what I want to do with career. It actually made me even more excited to go and work in the industry that has done so much for me. It was easily the best week of my summer and I made many life long friends that all share a love for the Jersey cow!

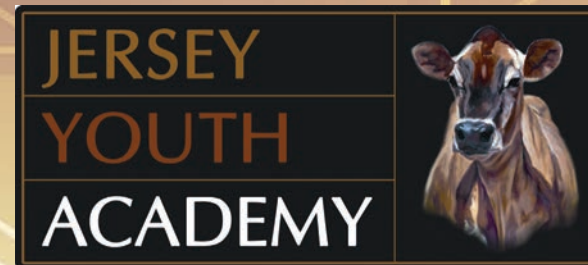
Program information and application online at

<http://bit.do/JYA>

Applications must be received in AJCA office not later than 4:30 p.m. EST on Saturday, December 1, 2018.

USJersey

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**Class VI • July 14-19, 2019
Columbus, Ohio**

Jersey youth who are currently juniors and seniors in high school or enrolled in an accredited two-year or four-year vocational school, college or university; and also those under the age of 22 who have completed a high school degree or equivalent and are currently employed in dairy herd management are eligible to apply.

**Applications open on September 1
and close December 1, 2018**

