

Preparations are well underway for this year's Jersey Australia's Inaugural Annual General Meeting and four day Jersey Extravaganza program. To be held in conjunction with the third annual Northern Lights Sale, the program will be hosted by the Northern District Jersey Breeders Club from Tuesday 19th – Friday 22nd May 2009 and promises to have something for everyone.

The program commences with the Northern Lights Sale on Tuesday 19th May, which will see elite pedigree Jerseys from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania & South Australia go under the hammer. Already pedigrees have been received for top end animals and the club envisages putting together the best catalogue yet. Pedigrees will be accepted until mid-late February, so the opportunity to showcase your herd at this high profile sale is nearing closure. Held at the Nicholson family property Jugiong Jerseys at Girgarre, the sale will be officiated by well-respected auctioneer Brian Leslie. Cheese and wine tasting, music and an informal evening meal will follow the sale.

The Club's vision is to provide the opportunity for all breeders with a common interest, to come together in a social atmosphere, whilst the promotion of the Jersey Australia AGM program as a premier event in the dairy industry calendar, for marketing of elite genetics, networking and socialising is considered a top priority as is increasing the awareness of the jersey breed across all breeds within the industry.

Day two of the program kicks off with an early morning Victorian Branch AGM followed by a bus tour visiting prominent Jersey herds on Wednesday 20th May leaving at 9am. Farm tours are always popular and are a great experience, providing an opportunity for breeders and those interested or involved in the industry to see first hand the progress and methods of some of Victoria's best Jersey herds.

The tour will be returning later in the afternoon for a little free time before the formal function of the program. The club is excited to have the face of the Canadian jersey scene, Mr Russell Gammon attending as guest speaker at the dinner dance in the evening. Russell is the CEO of Jersey Canada and is highly respected within the international industry. A passionate jersey advocate, he is a gifted public speaker and is well known for his inspiring and motivational presentations. It is a magnificent opportunity for all to hear an international guest speaker of this calibre, share his knowledge and experience in the dairy and breeding industry.

The establishment of Jersey Australia has created much excitement and support throughout the breed, bringing together all state branches under the one umbrella to collectively promote the interests of the jersey breed nationally. The inaugural Annual General Meeting will be held in the Thursday 21st May. All breeders are encouraged to attend this meeting supporting the new entity. It is an opportunity to listen and learn more of the direction our breed's national body. Lunch and a bus tour to a local winery will be enjoyed during the day, with all encouraged to attend to take a well earned break and socialise with other breeders. This day will continue on to an informal social evening in Echuca.

The final day will continue farm tours, providing the opportunity to visit further farms and conclude a good mix of on-farm opportunities and formal and informal social functions. We are fortunate in Northern Victoria to have numerous excellent herds throughout the wide region and encourage all that attend to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity to inspect them. Information on herds will be available throughout the program for attendees to take home and share with others

Herd inspections, formal and informal social events, Jersey Australia & Vic Branch AGMs, national and international guest speakers will all be part of the exciting 2009 agenda, so mark it in your diary, book your relief milkers or annual leave now and we'll see you there!

Further information on the Jersey Extravaganza program, accommodation and tourism options and herd information can be found on the website – www.northernlightsale.com.au or you may email info@northernlightsale.com.au. Details will be added as they are confirmed so please visit regularly to keep up date with happening within program. Contact Pat Nicholson, Northern Lights Sale Manager on 03 5854 6393, President Bill Cochrane 03 5486 5474, Secretary Lisa Broad 03 5486 2624 or Publicity Sandra Bacon 03 5488 2323 for further information.