

Farm Features

Welcome Stock Guernsey Farm

Our Guernsey story starts in 2000 when my daughter Mary-Elizabeth wanted so badly to show her own Guernsey calf. In February of 2000, the last Guernsey heifer calf was born on my father's farm. Mary offered to buy it from her Grandfather, William Peck. He said he would have to find her a better calf. This one was born at the end of her class and according to him, "Wouldn't make a show calf." This didn't matter to seven-year-old Mary. She bought, Welcome Hot Shot Apple (the same maternal line as Welcome Choice Admiral) from her Grandfather for \$1. This intermediate heifer calf was just eight days out of the junior calf class. She was big, strong and correct. As a calf she ended up Reserve Junior Champion at the Washington County Fair. The next year as an Intermediate Yearling she was awarded Junior Champion and Reserve Grand at the Washington County Fair. Apple and Mary headed to the New York State Fair for the first time in 2001. Mary learned a lot from her cousin, Jean Gallagher (NYS Guernsey Princess) that year. She finished second in her class and it turned out she was a pretty good show calf, after all!

With all the fun we were having showing this fancy heifer calf, we needed to find a Guernsey for our son, Wayne, Jr. Burgess Farm RO Jessica was just one of two Guernsey heifers offered for sale at the Vermont All-Breeds Sale in 2001. This heifer blossomed into a VG-88 2-Yr-old, and then went on to score EX-92! This fancy Royal Oak was named Grand Champion at the 2002 Washington County Fair and calved with a Poker heifer calf during that same fair. She has gone on to be named Grand Champion several more times at the county fair. She made the journey to Louisville for the NAILE in 2004 and was nominated Junior All-American four-year old. In 2005 Jessica was named Grand Champion and Total performance cow at the New York State Fair. She was also named Honorable Mention Junior All-American five-year old in 2005.

Our Guernsey herd has expanded over the past five years to include some purchases from the Pennsylvania Blue Halter Sale, the Indiana Hoosier Classic Sale and the International Guernsey Classic sale in Madison, Wisconsin, as well as an incredible run of heifer calves. These purchases have all been successful!

At our last classification we ended with three Excellent cows and four Very Good cows. Our family has worked hard raising quality Guernseys. Even our youngest, Suzanne, has joined in on the fun. She won her class at the 2005 New York State Fair with her very first bred and owned Tiller Guernsey heifer calf. Our children have had awesome experiences showing their animals at county and state shows. This has turned into quite a family affair with the (Cindy Peck)



small tie-stall barn and are not quite equipped to market milk, yet. The Guernseys are on pasture year round. We feed a mix of pasture, hay, haylage and corn silage with grain. Our Guernseys enjoy a lot of personal care. I continue to teach high school agricultural science and Wayne, Sr. operates a custom planting and harvesting business.

Actually, this Guernsey story starts in the early 1920's when my Great-Grandfather, Henry C. Peck, purchased the first registered Guernseys for Welcome Stock Farm. Welcome Stock Farm went on to influence the Guernsey breed with bulls like Welcome Flash's Hollirex and Welcome Choice Admiral. My first Guernsey was a gift from my grandfather, Willard Peck. Welcome Daisy scored Excellent and traveled with me to many county shows. Random people have come up to me and said, "I remember when your father had fancy Guernseys at the shows." It is gratifying to see my father, William Peck, get so excited about Guernseys again. He even assisted us with flushing Burgess Farm RO Jessica- Ex. 92. We ended up with two Tiller heifers and a Tiller bull from the flush. This Guernsey story isn't new; our family just continues the long-standing Guernsey tradition.

Elizabeth Peck Foote

Wayne, Elizabeth, Wayne, Jr.,
Mary-Elizabeth and Suzanne Foote
Welcome Stock Guernsey Farm
7635 State Route 40
Hartford, New York 12838
(518) 632-5030



Gallagher and Foote cousins all showing together at the state shows. I can't help but think how proud their Aunt Kristy (1964-1987) would have been. Before her untimely death, her dream was always to have a show barn full of fancy Guernseys along with the Welcome Stock Farm Holstein herd.

Today, this 4H project has grown to nearly 20 Guernseys on our small farm in Hartford, New York. Currently we are milking five cows and feeding Guernsey calves and Holstein veal calves with the milk. We are on official test to increase the value of the Guernseys and build their pedigrees. We have a

