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My family has been in livestock for as long as I can remember, from showing mini horses at National level when they were first introduced in the US as exotic animals, to Grade A 100+ goat dairy many years later. Livestock raising began for myself as I started out my 4-H years with market and breeding sheep, and then moved to goats for my remaining 6 years, winning GCH market goat, and many champions and Best in Shows with my Boer and Dairy does. The love for the dairy goats still lingers with me today as I manage the goat herd on my family's dairy, and build my herd of Guernseys using the best genetics available.

I had heard of the Golden Guernsey goats but had no idea they were in the States, until 2006 when my sister and I were breeding some of our 4-H does out at a friend's farm and we were introduced to her new buck who had just arrived from New York - a purebred Golden Guernsey "Swind Plymouth". Breeding plans were quickly changed and we had Plymouth kids on the ground the following spring! Boys were born unfortunately, but I was hooked on the breed with those fuzzy golden babies. When Plymouth came available the next year he became my first and foundation herd sire, covering my best Swiss show does to start a breeding up program. In 2009 a new sire was needed for Plymouth's daughters so I traveled to WA and purchased Bluecollar MeadowLark, an A/I son of Peacload Pureglow, from Diane Gray. Two higher percentage does - Bluecollar GoldBerry, a GG Swind Copper daughter, and Bluecollar LuckCharm, a GG Swind Prince daughter - were also acquired that year and although both were lost the first season to kidding complications, their offspring have contributed greatly to the herd.

Now 10 years later and with over 100 animals registered with BGS, I find myself looking to a high standard when it comes to type and style in the breed. My breeding goals are simple; to see the Guernseys competitive in our US shows and in the milk bucket. Both which I feel will ensure the life and expansion of the breed in not only small herds but in larger show and dairy herds where they will continue to be bred and registered. Having shown and studied dairy conformation for several years before beginning my Guernsey herd it has been very beneficial when selecting stock for breed improvement. From the very beginning does with poorly attached udders, frail boned, or extremely heavy shouldered with weak backs, were culled from the herd. Kids born with teat defects, and black or brown color or spots never go into the breeding program. I do permit high quality animals carrying white markings on their legs or body, as per our ADGA breed standards, to remain in my breeding program IF they meet all my other expectations, but white markings is not a desired trait and are being bred away from. To reach my expectations Golden Guernsey males are used as often as possible to keep the breed standard and qualities - the coat color and length, head style, ear type and set, calm gentle nature, and rich milk components - but with improvements seen little by little in udder attachment, flatness of back, and stronger pastern and hoof, by careful selection and breeding the highest quality Swiss does into the gene pool.

I do plan to register my entire herd with ADGA when that comes available. Individuals may still be registered with BGS if the demand is there, but to register exclusively with BGS will in my opinion be detrimental to the breed in the US as it will prevent serious breeders and owners from taking advantage of programs such as LA or competitive showing. Also leaving horns on Guernsey breeding stock, as lovely as they are, will remove them from the majority of the show and dairy herds and reduce their marketability.

I look forward to the future of the "American" Guernseys in the US and seeing them our 9th ADGA breed!

Jolene Jantzi

Owner of the "Treasured" Guernseys

(ADGA herd name "Treasured Sunrise")