



Leah James

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Leah is a native of the state of Minnesota and finished her bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls. With a background rooted in the dairy industry; Leah was extremely active collegiately with the dairy judging team including being on the winning collegiate team at the North American International Livestock Exposition contest in Louisville, KY as well an All-American judge at World Dairy Expo.

Leah's career portfolio includes serving as a type evaluator and area representative for many years with the American Jersey Association before joining the AI industry. Currently, Leah is the Global Dairy Marketing Manager at GENEX Cooperative. Leah is a YDLI alumni and a superintendent for the youth and collegiate judging contest at World Dairy Expo.

Leah, her husband Jason, and daughters Brenlyn and Annika, are also active owners of their herd - Pine-Valley Farm in SW Wisconsin. The focus of their herd includes breeding and developing elite animals across three breeds, Holstein, Jersey, and Milking Shorthorn. The couple also enjoys leasing animals to multiple juniors across Wisconsin; helping them get a start in the dairy project. Leah and Jason have developed All-American's, put bulls into stud and were recognized as the American Jersey Cattle Association Young Breeders in 2018. They also received the Kitchell Sayre Sportsmanship Award at the International Milking Shorthorn Show in 2019.

Top five most significant judging experiences:

- Judging Internationally - Guatemala National Shows for both Holstein and Jersey
- Judging the North Carolina State Fair Junior Show – All Breeds
- Judging the Minnesota State Fair Open Guernsey Show
- Judging the Minnesota State Fair Open Milking Shorthorn Show
- Winning the National Collegiate Contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition

Besides judging type conformation classes, this judge also enjoys:

- Youth Shows
- Showmanship