



For Immediate Release

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Future Dairy Leaders Attend PA Dairy Summit Thanks to Scholarships

Harrisburg – Forty future dairy leaders learned about cutting-edge dairy technology and production practices while networking with nearly 400 dairy producers and industry representatives at the 2011 Pennsylvania Dairy Summit. This experience was made possible through scholarship support from the Center for Dairy Excellence and Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association.

Established several years ago by the Dairymen's Association and Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders, the Future Dairy Leader Scholarships were developed to encourage young dairy leaders to attend the summit. The sponsorships continued with the Stakeholders' integration into the Center for Dairy Excellence earlier this year.

"It is important that we encourage and involve the young people in our dairy industry if we want to build a strong future for dairy in Pennsylvania," said Lolly Leshner, dairy farmer from Bernville, Berks County and president of the Center for Dairy Excellence. "Having them attend the summit is not only an invaluable experience for them, but also reminds others attending that we have a bright future in these young dairy leaders."

Scholarship winners were from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey and Vermont.

"It is gratifying to have this great cross-section of youth from the Northeast region attend the Pennsylvania Dairy Summit," said Dave Smith, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association. "These youth are the future of our industry and we need their involvement for forward progress."

The 2012 Pennsylvania Dairy Summit is set for Feb. 8-9, 2012, in Lancaster. For more information about this and other scholarship opportunities available to Pennsylvania's dairy youth, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org.

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Photo: Forty future dairy leaders received scholarships from the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association and the Center for Dairy Excellence to attend the 2011 Pennsylvania Dairy Summit.

Editor's Note: The following is the list of scholarship winners (not in order of the photo).
Sara Bechtel, Martinsburg, Blair County;
Cole Brantner, Oxford, Chester County;
Sarah Caldwell, Beaver Falls, Beaver County;



Benjamin Cooke, New Hope, Bucks County;
Kevin Folk, Beaver Springs, Snyder County;
Shane Gross, Sterling, Wayne County;
James Hammond, Corry, Erie County;
Jennifer Harrold, Latrobe, Westmoreland County;
Harrison Hartman, Sinking Spring, Berks County;
Chad Hoover, Patton, Cambria County;
Destinee Horning, Lititz, Lancaster County;
Ben Jandzio, Lansdale, Montgomery County;
Stephanie Kauffman, Denver, Lancaster County;
Jason and Lori Kauffman, Belleville, Mifflin County;
Billie Jo Kiel, Portage, Cambria County;
Chad Kline, Troy, Bradford County;
Christine Krall, Lebanon, Lebanon County;
Zachary Kreger, Morris, Tioga County;
Christian Landis, Stevens, Lancaster County;
Kolby McIntyre, Sugar Grove, Warren County;
Zachary Meyers, Greencastle, Franklin County;
Darla Ramsberger, Pitman, Schuylkill County;
Jared Risser, Bainbridge, Lancaster County;
Corrie Small, Stevens, Lancaster County;
Courtney Stewart, Conneautville, Crawford County;
Stacy Theobald, Waymart, Wayne County;
Nathan Ulmer, Bellefonte, Centre County;
Hannah Wentworth, Quarryville, Lancaster County;
Sarah Wichard, Newville, Cumberland County;
Corey Wilt, Everett, Bedford County;
Aaron Young, Catwissa, Columbia County;
Edward Carter, Ashfield, Mass.;
Victoria Fanion, Westfield, Mass.;
Regina Grover, Bernardston, Mass.;
Chris Hoefele, Fleming, N.J.;
Daniel Lyness, White Horse, N.J.;
Wes Miller, North East, Md.;
Emily Yeiser, Arnold, Md.; and
Travis Whitcomb, South Royal, Vt.

The Center for Dairy Excellence is a non-profit organization developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Bringing together people from more than 40 different dairy organizations in Pennsylvania, the Center's mission is to enhance the profitability of the dairy industry by empowering people, creating partnerships, and increasing the availability and use of resources. Learn more about the Center at www.centerfordairyexcellence.org.