



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH ATTEND NATIONAL 4-H DAIRY CONFERENCE**

*PA Dairymen's Association, Center for Dairy Excellence Support State Delegation*

**MADISON, Wis.** – Six local 4-H youth attended the 54<sup>th</sup> National 4-H Dairy Conference at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Sept. 28 – Oct. 1, thanks to support from the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association and the Center for Dairy Excellence.

Pennsylvania's delegation included Mitchell Bauer, Corry, Erie County; Lauren Kinkade, Guys Mills, Crawford County; Colton Hoffman, Shinglehouse, Potter County; Amanda Thompson, Wellsville, York County; Clayton Weber, Newville, Cumberland County; and Mackey Wright, Montrose, Susquehanna County. David and Phoebe Bitler of Fleetwood, Berks County, served as chaperones.

The delegates were selected from a field of applicants to attend the conference based on past experience, knowledge and interest in the dairy industry. They joined more than 200 people from the U.S. and Canada for the four-day educational program, which exposed them to new dairy science technology and dairy-related careers.

“It was fulfilling to chaperone this tremendous group of young people and to observe their excitement for the future of the dairy industry,” says Phoebe Bitler, who serves as the chair of the Pennsylvania Dairy Task Force's education committee. “The National 4-H Dairy Conference certainly broadened their career horizons.”

During the conference, participants gained information they could use to strengthen their future in the dairy industry by attending workshops, listening to speakers and participating in educational off-site experiences. Hands-on learning workshop topics included biotechnology, genetics, foods evaluation, animal nutrition and marketing.



“The event was an amazing experience for me,” said Lauren Kinkade, a delegate from Crawford County.

Erie County delegate Mitchell Bauer agreed, adding “this experience confirmed that the dairy industry is for me.”

The National 4-H Dairy Conference is sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, with supplemental support from numerous corporate sponsors. Through a grant provided by the Pennsylvania Dairymen’s Association, the Center for Dairy Excellence funded the Pennsylvania delegates’ registration and traveling expenses while on the trip. For more information about dairy youth opportunities in Pennsylvania, visit [www.das.psu.edu/4h/dairy/](http://www.das.psu.edu/4h/dairy/).

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CUTLINE: The six National 4-H Dairy Conference delegates from Pennsylvania thank the Pennsylvania Dairymen’s Association for sponsoring their trip. From left are Mitchell Bauer, Amanda Thompson, Clayton Weber, Lauren Kinkade, Mackey Wright, and Colton Hoffman.

*The Center for Dairy Excellence is an initiative of the Department of Agriculture and was launched in January 2004 by Governor Edward G. Rendell. 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](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org).*