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### Students attend MDMSF Annual Meeting



Scholarship recipients for 2018-19 are pictured above. Pictured (left to right) in the back row are: Kelsie Letts, Aaron Fahrner, Austin Haywood, Madeline Meyer, Jared Sanderson, Colleen Potter, Lauren Heberling, and Lynn Olthof. Pictured in the middle row (left to right) are: Monika Dziuba, Wyatt Lamb, Emmy Schuurmans, Katie Osborne, Allison Schafer, and Kristen Burkhardt. Pictured in the bottom row (left to right) are: Leta Larsen, Janet Felbarth, Jessica Nash, and Miriah Dershem.

### THE MICHIGAN DAIRY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND: AT A GLANCE

Thanks to the generous support of donors, the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation (MDMSF) at Michigan State University (MSU) is proud to highlight an impressive list of scholarships made possible in 2018-2019:

- \$1,500 for fall semester to five freshmen in Ag Tech or 4-year program
- \$2,000 for fall semester to five Ag Tech Students
- \$3,500 over two semesters to 10 students in a 4-year program
- Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship – \$7,500 over two semesters
- Russel Erickson Scholarship – \$5,000 over two semesters
- John and Barbara Dilland Scholarship – \$4,000 over two semesters for a student majoring in Agribusiness Management
- Redmond and Edna Cotter Purina Memorial Scholarship – \$4,000 for a student in veterinary school with preference extended to those with international interest
- Jack and Betty Barnes International Scholarship – scholarships for international experiences
- Archie Studer Scholarship – \$4,000 over two semesters for a student with interest in dairy breeding or production
- Donald and Valera Murray Scholarship – \$4,000 over two semesters
- Velmar Green Scholarship – \$4,000 over two semesters for a second-year student in the Ag Tech Dairy Management Program
- Harold and Lillian Gremel Scholarship – \$4,000 over two semesters for a student in veterinary school
- Nick Bellows Scholarship – \$4,000 over two semesters for a student with interest in dairy promotion
- George and Shirley Hazle Scholarship – \$4,000 over two semesters for a student with a strong 4-H background

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great honor it is to be associated with this fine organization and its work of providing scholarships to deserving students with dairy industry interests. Last year we awarded over \$80,000 to 25 students. Along with presenting these scholarships, the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation (MDMSF) committee is very supportive of the Michigan State University (MSU) dairy cattle judging teams, dairy products judging team, and Dairy Challenge program.

One thing we all agree on is that higher education is more important today than ever before and it will become even more so in the future. That is why the MDMSF continues to be of vital importance to our dairy industry.

Everyone knows the last four years have been very hard for the dairy industry. It becomes more important than ever before to support our students who have the desire to get involved in the dairy industry.

I encourage you to give generously and consider donating to the MDMSF, either to the general fund or to recognize a deserving individual as an honoree. It only

takes \$1,000 for an individual to be honored by the fund and have their picture and name permanently displayed at MSU as a leader in the dairy industry. The numbers of new honorees continue to grow thanks to all of my fellow board members who find so many opportunities to acknowledge peers in the industry. Please encourage others as well. There are many that do not receive this newsletter and may not be aware of the Foundation's work.



Everyone that is involved with MSMDF is very dedicated to growing the Foundation, and with your help, we can make it even better for the future.

Ken Gasper  
MDMSF President

## 2018-2019 DAIRY MEMORIAL HONOREES

### M. DUANE GREEN

Duane was born in Elsie, Mich., on November 5, 1930 to Merle and Hope Green, and passed away August 14, 2018. He graduated from Elsie High School in 1948 and continued his education for one year at Cornell University, taking all the dairy courses offered. On November 19, 1950, he married the love of his life, Grace Ensign, and they had three children: Bryon (deceased), Charles (married to Susie) and Karen (married to Arden Densmore). They were blessed with six grandchildren and two great-grandsons. Duane was a devoted family man who loved taking the grandchildren on special adventures. He was known for his playful teasing, and the community knew him as a generous but humble man. Duane and Grace spent many winters in Florida and enjoyed traveling to the Upper Peninsula to see the fall colors.

Duane and his brother Velmar farmed with their father Merle, who founded Green Meadow Farms, Inc. Duane enjoyed the show circuit, traveling via train in his early years, and the farm still holds the record for being the longest consecutive exhibitor at the Michigan State Fair. The trio was named Dairy Farmers of the Year by MSU in 1980. Duane held leadership positions in many agriculture organizations in which he was involved, including: past president of Holstein Association USA, Director of the National Ayrshire Association, Director of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Director of NorthStar Select Sires, and Chairman of the Holstein Foundation, an organization that he helped establish. He also judged many dairy cattle shows across the United States and South America.

The tribute bestowed upon Duane upon his retirement as

President of Holstein Association USA exemplifies his leadership skills. He served on the Association's Board of Directors for 14 years, culminating his tenure as President the last two years.

*"Duane, you are a man of few words but of great insight, perception, and judgment. You have demonstrated you can take a stand on controversial issues, regardless of the roles. Yet you are a man of compassion, humility, and patience. You have provided strong and effective leadership for the Association through very tough economic and challenging times... Your knowledge of finances, understanding of commercial dairy enterprises, and a deep commitment to the Association and its principles and purpose made you ideally suited for the top leadership position of the Association during these past years. While we may never forgive you for your sideline activities with another unnamed breed (his love of Ayrshires), we think it demonstrates the lengths to which you will go to bring the industry together."*

Duane was also involved in his community. He was a member of the Elsie Lions Club for 57 years and the Elsie United Methodist Church and held officer positions in each organization. He was a former 4-H member and then served as a 4-H leader for many years.

The dairy industry was a huge part of Duane's life. From his favorite show cows like Lassie, Naomi and Vitality to the many people who became his good friends over his lifetime, his passion for the industry and love for the dairy cow was evident.



## GERALD GEURINK

Gerald Geurink was born in 1939 and grew up on the family farm in Allendale, Mich. The farm's original 20 acres was purchased by Gerald's great-grandfather in 1889. The original barn was built in 1911 and had room for 18 cows plus young stock and stables for eight horses.

Gerald's grandfather and his brother worked the farm after his great-grandfather died, though his grandfather never really enjoyed farming. Therefore, when his oldest daughter, Hermina, married Henry Geurink in 1938, Gerald's grandfather sold the farm to them. Because gasoline was scarce during World War II, Henry did all the farm work with three horses. He milked 18 cows by hand until 1946 when he bought his first milking machine. In 1952, Gerald began to milk and do most of the chores.

In 1957, Gerald left the farm to attend MSU, and a 4-H scholarship helped to make this possible. At the beginning of his junior year, Gerald left MSU to return home to work the farm while his father recovered from a debilitating injury. He returned to MSU in 1961 to finish his degree in agricultural mechanics and was honored as the outstanding graduate in that field at graduation.

Gerald's first job after graduation was with MSU Extension in Bellaire, Mich. A year later he moved back to Allendale to work on a farm for a relative, planning eventually to purchase a farm of his own. After working for his relative for a year, Gerald took a position with the Farmer's Home Administration in Marquette. After transferring to Sault Ste. Marie, Gerald became acquainted with John Kronemeyer, who had moved from Hudsonville to buy a dairy farm in Pickford. Two years later, they formed a partnership.

In 1970, Gerald's father's health deteriorated to the point that he was no longer able to work. In 1971, Gerald moved back to Allendale. He built an addition on the barn, milked 40 cows, and worked toward a goal of a 100 percent Registered Holstein herd. Milk production increased from 12,000 pounds per cow per year to 26,000 pounds. During his lifetime, he expanded the farm by purchasing an additional 77 acres. Today, Gerald raises a few heifers from the herd's best cow lines.



Gerald served as President of the Michigan Holstein Association, the NorthStar Select Sires Local, Ottawa DHIA, Allendale Planning Commission, Soil Conservation Board, and Farmers Cooperative Elevator. He was a 4-H leader for many years, and also served as deacon and elder in his church.

Gerald and his wife Joan were blessed with three boys and three girls and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They exhibited at dairy cattle shows most of their lives with help from their children and grandchildren, and they also provided opportunities for young people in the area to show their cattle. Several members of their family graduated from MSU, including their daughter Jessica, who remains involved in the dairy industry and enjoys working with 4-H youth on dairy cattle showmanship and judging. Gerald continues to work two days a week at the hardware store. The Geurink's are grateful for the blessings that God has provided to their family.

## TOM HERREMANS

Tom Herremans, a native of Ravenna, Mich., grew up on a dairy farm and went on to have a long, accomplished career in the dairy industry through his intense focus on milk quality and mastitis management. After receiving a degree in dairy science, he taught vocational agriculture and served as the FFA advisor at Capac Schools for 10 years. Following his tenure as an educator and advisor, he was hired in 1982 by the Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) as a member representative. He later served as an area supervisor and eventually started overseeing the MMPA mastitis management program.

As a mastitis management specialist, Tom used his passion for teaching to develop Milker Training Schools for the MMPA membership. He fostered other MMPA member representatives as well as farms with his unique excitement for udder health and lowering herd somatic cell counts. Herremans also trained member representatives on the aspects of mastitis management and milking system performance to help MMPA member farms.

Tom was a teacher to the core. He inspired many with his excitement and willingness to encourage learning and a better understanding of mastitis prevention and proper milking procedures and equipment. His patience and encouragement was always met with appreciation and resulted in a better understanding of what was discussed.

According to his colleagues, the phrases "No, I can't" and "that isn't part of my job" were not part of Tom's vocabulary. He sacrificed much of his own time and resources to lend a hand to anyone who asked. Members and industry professionals truly valued his time and knowledge, as well as his dedication to milk quality.

Tom retired after 31 years of service to the cooperative. During his time with MMPA, Tom served on many state and national committees, including several for the Michigan Dairy Industry Conference, National Mastitis Council (NMC), Dairy Practices Council, and the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS). He also received numerous awards recognizing his contributions to the dairy industry, including but not limited to the Michigan Field Representative of the Year in 1997 and NMC Award of Excellence for contribution to mastitis prevention and control in 2014.



Upon Tom's retirement, former MMPA General Manager Walt Wosje remarked, "Tom Herremans is the 'cream of the crop.' I am convinced that Tom Herremans (and associates) have done more to improve milk quality and reduce SCC than any other efforts of other groups. Tom and his team are the best."

Tom passed away March 10, 2018. Surviving are: one son, Timothy (Sarah) Herremans of Dorr; four daughters: Melissa (Glen) Mann of Rockford, Carrie (Matt) Braford of Ravenna, Jennifer (Weston) Selent of Weaverville, NC, and Lindsey (Erik) Jacobson of Jackson; 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; one sister, Irene M. Herremans of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; two brothers: Paul W. (Marilee) Herremans and Robert Herremans, both of Ravenna.

## BLAINE AND KIM BAKER

Blaine and Kim Baker own Bakerlads Farms, a fifth-generation operation established in the 1870s in Lenawee County's Clayton, Mich. The two brothers formed a partnership in 1984. Currently, the farm's 1,600 acres and additional 650 rented acres are divided into 950 acres of both corn and soybeans and 350 acres of alfalfa. The dairy herd is made up of 540 Holstein cows and 607 replacements with a DHIA rolling herd average of 27,410 pounds of milk, 951 pounds of 3.5 percent butterfat, and 805 pounds of 2.9 percent protein. The average somatic cell count is 115,000. The farm is Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)-verified in livestock, farmstead and cropping systems, and evaluated through the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) program for animal care. A double-14 parallel milking parlor was installed in 2016 to reduce milking time and improve parlor climate and employee work shifts. Bakerlads emphasizes labor training. Turnover is minimal among its seven employees, and several have worked on the farm for more than 20 years.

Blaine graduated from the Michigan State University (MSU) Ag Tech program in 1976 and has worked 42 years with the farm operation. He and his wife Barbara have one daughter, Chelsea, 29. Kim graduated from MSU in 1980 with a degree in agricultural engineering and has worked 38 years on the farm. He and his wife Donna have five children: Sarah, 23; Jacob, 21; Mark, 19; Adam, 17; and Hannah, 15.

Kim and Blaine share responsibilities managing the dairy herd. Kim focuses on managing employees and machinery maintenance, Donna does the accounting, and Blaine focuses on the cropping and record keeping.

Additionally, the Bakers are committed to soil and water conservation. They have succeeded in maintaining crop yields while improving water quality and reducing erosion and the carbon footprint by using no-till methods. Erosion control practices include blind inlets, two-stage ditches, cover crops, and filter strips. They have installed phosphorus filters on tile outlets and conduct edge-of-field water sampling. They collaborated with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a 20-acre wetland treatment and irrigation system for recycling milking parlor wash water, silage leachate, and lot runoff.

Dr. Tim Harrigan of the MSU Department of Biosystems and

Agricultural Engineering points out that Blaine and Kim Baker have a history of leadership and service in their community.

"They work hard to stay on the cutting edge of production and environmentally sensitive farming practices and sharing what they learn with the agricultural community," Harrigan said. "For 22 years, they set aside cropland for research and demonstrations and co-hosted more than 500 visitors at the annual Center for Excellence field day."



Blaine Baker

They worked with MSU on corn silage yield trials and projects evaluating drainage tile water quality in livestock-based cropping systems. The Bakers collaborated with MSU Extension on work to reduce the risk of transmission of Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV). Kim presented their efforts and results at a meeting of the Extension Dairy Advisory Team, of which he is a member. More recently, they agreed to collaborate with NorthStar's AntelBio on the use of a novel testing method to determine cows in the herd that are more infectious than other BLV-positive animals.

The Bakers are devoted to their community. Blaine is past president of the Lenawee County Farm Bureau Board and Hudson School Board; past delegate of Milk Marketing Inc. and Dairy Farmers of America, and a past secretary of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee. He currently serves on the state Farm Services Agency Board and the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan Board, and is chair of the Lenawee Conservation District Board. Blaine helped start the Center for Excellence and serves on its steering committee. Kim serves on the MSU Extension Dairy Advisory Team and Lenawee County Holstein Board, as lay leader for the Clayton Methodist Church, and worked with local fair promotion efforts to provide agriculture scholarships. The Baker's have been involved with the MSU Extension Breakfast on the Farm, and they were recognized as TelFarm Manager of the Year and Lenawee County Conservation Farmer of the Year, and received the 2012 Michigan Farm Bureau Ecology Leadership Award. They have also earned a number of milk quality awards.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### February 28, 2020

Deadline for scholarship applications  
(first-time and renewal applications for 4-year students)

### April 24, 2020

Annual meeting of MDMSF Board of Directors

*For application or more information about MDMSF Scholarships,  
visit [www.ans.msu.edu](http://www.ans.msu.edu) and click on the "students" link.*

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation (MDMSF) awarded more than \$80,000 in scholarships to 25 Michigan State University (MSU) students pursuing dairy industry-related programs of study for the 2018-19 academic year.

Five MSU students were awarded \$3,500 scholarships from the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation: Kelsie Letts, Austin Haywood, Evelyn Okkema, Emily Schuurmans and Elizabeth Venema.

Students pursuing a two-year certificate in the MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology dairy management program earned \$2,000 scholarships from the Michigan Dairy Memorial

Scholarship Foundation: Jacob Arens, Kristen Burkhardt, Miriah Dershem, Jessica Nash and Lynn Olthof.

First-year MSU students were awarded the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation Freshman Scholarships worth \$1,500: Aaron Fahrner, Janet Felbarth, Matthew Granskog, Rose Kuperus and Wyatt Lamb.

The following seven MSU students were awarded scholarships \$4,000 or more from the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation and are highlighted below: Madeline Meyer, Leta Larsen, Jared Sanderson, Lauren Heberling, Darren Kulicamp, Allison Schafer and Monika Dziuba.

### **LETA LARSON** Russel Erickson Scholarship

Leta Larsen, of Scottville, Mich., was selected as the 2018-19 recipient of the Russel Erickson Scholarship through the MDMSF at Michigan State University. Larsen was selected for her interest and contributions to the dairy industry, along with her impressive leadership qualities.

Larsen is currently majoring in agribusiness management with a minor in agronomy at MSU and has plans to graduate in May 2020. Along with taking many dairy-related classes, Larsen's dedication to the dairy industry led her to participate in the MSU Dairy Challenge where her team earned first place in the novice division in 2016. Larsen is also a member of the MSU Dairy Club, where she served as Membership and Promotions Chair in 2017, and active in the MSU National Agri-Marketing Association.

Outside of school, Larsen is a student assistant at Career Services at MSU, helping students prepare for interviews and assisting with career fair preparation. She also continues to

help on her family's farm, Larsen Farms, as calf manager and farm assistant manager. In the future, Larsen plans on returning to her family's dairy farm and opening a dairy processing plant on the farm where they will bottle milk and make ice cream and cheese.

"I feel very blessed to have grown up on a dairy farm and I look forward to working in this industry for many years to come," Larsen said. "I am confident that I will make a positive impact on this industry that I love and someday will be leaving it better than I found it."

The \$5,000 Russel Erickson Scholarship is named after Russel Erickson, MSU professor emeritus in the Department of Animal Science. The recipient of the scholarship must be a student whose career aspirations include working on or with dairy farms.



### **MONIKA DZIUBA** Nick Bellows Scholarship

Monika Dziuba, of Riverview, Mich., was selected as the 2018-19 recipient of the Nick Bellows Scholarship through the MDMSF at MSU. Dziuba was selected for her outstanding academic achievements, her proven leadership abilities and her passion for the dairy industry.

"Growing up originally in a suburban area, I did not have access to resources that would help me to expand my interest in the dairy industry," Dziuba said. "However, attending MSU gave me my first opportunities to make this dream and passion a reality. I was able to take classes and find experiences that helped me to become as knowledgeable, involved, and passionate about dairy farming as I am today."

Dziuba pursued every dairy-related experience she encountered during her undergraduate years at MSU. From co-authoring scientific research publications to receiving reserve grand champion team member in the MSU Dairy Challenge, she has a complete understanding of the dairy industry because of these extensive opportunities.

Dziuba will begin veterinary school at MSU this fall while also pursuing a Master of Science degree in food safety. This approach will prepare her to become a production animal veterinarian with a focus on dairy cattle, in addition to educating the growing consumer market about food safety. She strongly believes that as a veterinarian, the firsthand information she shares with her clients and consumers about agriculture has the ability to reach and impact the most people.

The Nick Bellows Scholarship was established in 2011 by the United Dairy Industry of Michigan board of directors and its staff members to recognize Bellows for his two and a half decades of commitment and dedication as the organization's CEO.



## JARED SANDERSON

### Donald and Valera Murray Endowed Scholarship

Jared Sanderson, of Sandusky, Mich., was chosen as the 2018-19 recipient of the Donald and Valera Murray endowed scholarship through the MDMSF at MSU. The scholarship provides \$4,000 to recipients to assist with education expenses.

Sanderson graduated from MSU this past May in the top one percent of the class of 2019. Equipped with a degree in animal science, he is looking forward to beginning classes at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine in the fall. Sanderson, the son of Mike and Pattie Sanderson, was selected for the Donald and Valera Murray endowed scholarship because of his exceptional academic ability and future aspirations of giving back to the dairy industry.

“I love the dairy industry and the people that make it up,” Sanderson said. “I cannot wait for the day that I can take my place among those who have helped me so that I can start to contribute to the progression and evolution of the dairy industry.”

While pursuing his undergraduate degree, Sanderson immersed himself in various practical learning environments in the dairy industry: conducting transition cow trials as a feed sales intern at Purina Animal Nutrition by taking blood samples and monitoring feed management; performing laboratory assays and collecting blood, fecal, urine and milk samples from

cows as an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Mike VandeHaar’s lab; and feeding and processing calves as a farm laborer and calf rearer at Weaverland Dairy, L.L.C.

At MSU, Sanderson was involved with the Block & Bridle Club, serving as its treasurer, being appointed dairy superintendent for the Little International Show, and helping to manage the AutumnFest booth. He was also vice president of the MSU Dairy Club and helped plan the Club’s annual Spartan Spectacular Calf Sale and the club booth at the Great Dairy Adventure.

Sanderson is looking forward to spending his career working with dairy farmers and helping them maximize their herds’ potential.

The Donald and Valera Murray Endowed Scholarship is named in honor of Donald Murray, a former MSU Extension dairy specialist, and his wife, Valera, and it recognizes Dr. Murray’s leadership role in establishing the MDMSF. He guided the Foundation and served as its secretary from its beginnings in 1957 until he retired in 1972.



## MADELINE MEYER

### Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship

Madeline Meyer, of Ionia, Mich., was chosen as the 2018-19 recipient of the Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship from the MDMSF at MSU. The Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship, named after Michigan dairy farmers Glenn and Anne Lake, provides \$7,500 in scholarship money divided over two semesters. Glenn Lake served as president of the Michigan Milk Producers Association and the National Milk Producers Federation. Lake provided leadership in creating the Great Lakes Milk Marketing Federation, which helped dairy farmers secure bargaining rights to market their milk.

Meyer, the daughter of Jamie and Veronica Meyer, was selected to receive the scholarship based on her academic achievements, involvement in extracurricular activities and interest in pursuing a career in the dairy industry. She recognizes the dairy industry’s drive for success, and credits her academic success to her long-time involvement in the dairy industry. With high marks, she plans on graduating with an undergraduate animal science degree in May 2020 and looks forward to remaining active in the dairy industry.

“Growing up on Sandy Ridge Dairy didn’t just give me a passion for agriculture, it taught me valuable life lessons,” Meyer

said. “Being in a five-family partnership isn’t always easy, and I have learned teamwork and cooperation from watching my parents and our partners over the past decade.”

At MSU, Meyer is active in the MSU Dairy Club and the Block & Bridle Club, on the MSU collegiate dairy cattle judging team, and with the St. John’s Catholic Church Student Parish. Her extracurricular activities also include working at the MSU dairy processing plant, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as a student assistant, and as a research assistant in Dr. Mike VandeHaar’s lab. In the past, Meyer served as the 2016-17 Region Five State FFA Vice President and the 2017 Ionia Free Fair Queen. Meyer completed an internship at Fern-Jo Farms, a 2,000-head Holstein and Jersey dairy operation in Tulare, Calif., in the summer of 2019.



**ALLISON SCHAFER**  
Archie Studer Scholarship

Allison Schafer, of Westphalia, Mich., was selected as the 2018-19 recipient of the Archie Studer Scholarship through the MDMSF at MSU. Schafer was selected for her numerous experiences in the dairy industry and impressive leadership qualities.

Schafer, the daughter of Leroy and Stephanie Schafer, is an agribusiness management major at MSU and plans to graduate in December 2019. At MSU, Schafer is a member of the MSU Dairy Club and Collegiate Farm Bureau, and competed as a member of the MSU Collegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Team. She served on the Spartan Spectacular Calf Sale committee and participated in the MSU Dairy Challenge. These experiences, along with serving as a 2016-17 Michigan Dairy Ambassador, has prepared her for her future career in the dairy industry.

“My passion for the dairy industry started on my family’s 280-cow dairy located in Westphalia, Michigan,” Schafer said. “My father is the sixth-generation on the farm, and he and my mother have raised my brothers and me with the same passion for family tradition and the dairy industry.”

Outside of school, Schafer works as the calf manager on her family’s operation, JEM-LOT Dairy, where she feeds calves, cleans pens, and manages registration paperwork. Schafer is also a team member at Tractor Supply Company, a role that has helped her gain customer service experience.

Schafer has had many dairy-related experiences in 4-H that have introduced her to the wide variety of potential careers within the industry. While she is currently undecided about what her future will hold, Schafer knows that dairy will be a part of it.

The Archie Studer Scholarship provides students with \$4,000 in scholarship monies to be used toward education expenses. The scholarship was named after the late Archie Studer who owned and operated Kenowa Acres Dairy Farm for more than 35 years.



**COLLEEN POTTER**  
Redmond “Red” and Edna Cotter Scholarship

Colleen Potter, of Zeeland, Mich., has been chosen as the 2018-19 recipient of the Redmond (“Red”) and Edna Cotter endowed scholarship through the MDMSF at MSU. She was chosen to receive the \$4,000 scholarship based on her outstanding academic achievements and involvement in the dairy industry.

Potter is a Grand Valley State University graduate and in her second year of veterinary school at MSU. She was a recipient of the 2018 AABP Amstutz scholarship, which identifies and supports the most superior students in their second year of veterinary school who demonstrate the character, knowledge, experience, motivation, and potential for becoming outstanding bovine veterinarians in North America in the 21st century. Potter has worked as a farmhand on Raterink Dairy Farm, completed an externship focusing on bovine veterinary and management services through Zoetis, and interned at Merck Animal Health through an MSU Food Systems Fellowship. She is also involved with numerous clubs in the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, the committee head of MSU Vet-A-Visit, a member of the award-winning MSU Archery Team, and an Ottawa County 4-H leader.

“I have found my purpose in helping farmers not only make a living for themselves, but to provide a safe food supply for our

communities,” Potter said. “I want to pursue a career solely in dairy medicine and work to improve the field as it changes rapidly, helping to find new ways to take on the challenges facing the industry today.”

The Redmond (“Red”) and Edna Cotter endowed scholarship honors the Cotter couple and their many contributions to the dairy industry. A 1937 graduate of MSU, Mr. Cotter was employed for 43 years as a sales manager for Ralston-Purina, covering Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Upon his retirement, he served as a guest lecturer in the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Edna Cotter’s MSU roots stem back to the beginning: she was born on a farm on what is now the MSU Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. She graduated from Michigan State College (MSC) in the 1930’s, and was a generous supporter of the Redmond and Edna Cotter Agribusiness Scholarship Fund, the MSU Intercollegiate Athletics Fund, and the Carrigan Chair for Feline Health in the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.



## KATIE OSBORNE

### Harold and Lillian Gremel Scholarship

Kathryn Osborne, of Millerstown, Penn., was selected as the 2018-19 recipient of the Harold and Lillian Gremel Scholarship through the MDMSF at MSU. Osborne was selected for her current leadership abilities and her passion for the dairy industry.

“From a young age, I have been immersed in the dairy industry and I have always wanted to give back to the community that made me the person that I am today,” Osborne said. “I can’t think of a better way to give back than to use my knowledge and skills to help farmers keep their animals safe, healthy, and productive through thick and thin so that the next generation can be given the same opportunities I was.”

Osborne was born and raised on a 100-cow dairy farm in central Pennsylvania where she took notice of the detrimental economic impacts of chronic mastitis on her family’s herd and herds in the surrounding area. As a daughter of a veterinarian, it was in her blood to care for the animals around her and investigate potential mastitis prevention programs that could be implemented on farms. She completed research in high school

through FFA and continued it during her undergraduate years at Wake Forest University.

At MSU, Osborne is the Food Animal Club vice president and the palpation team coordinator. Her involvement within the dairy industry will make her a valuable bovine veterinarian in the future.

The Harold and Lillian Gremel endowed scholarship was established in 2007 by the Gremel family to award a veterinarian student \$4,000 in scholarship monies. Together, during their 52 years of marriage, the Huron County dairy producers and lifetime industry supporters were past recipients of the West Huron MMPA Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award, honored as the MMPA Outstanding Young Dairy Couple and chosen as the MSU Dairy Farmer of the Year. Harold also served on the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation board of directors.



## ADAM WILES

### Velmar Green Scholarship

Adam Wiles, of Middleton, Mich., was selected as the 2018-19 recipient of the Velmar Green Scholarship through the MDMSF at MSU. Wiles received the award on the basis of his academic achievements, involvement in extracurricular activities and interest in the dairy industry.

“My interest in the dairy industry is very strong,” Wiles said. “I have been involved on the farm throughout my life and it has taught me many life lessons.”

Wiles completed his dairy management certificate from MSU in December 2019 and is now employed at Swisslane Dairy where he is building his knowledge before returning to his family’s dairy operation, Wiles Dairy Farm. Wiles is particularly interested in dairy reproduction, robotic milking equipment, and dairy cow nutrition. Prior to his full-time employment at Swisslane, Wiles worked as a summer intern to gain more experience within the dairy industry.

The \$4,000 scholarship, named in honor of innovative dairy leader C. Velmar Green of Elsie, is awarded annually to a second-year student in the MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology

dairy management certificate program. The Velmar Green Scholarship was established in 2009 by the MMPA to recognize Green for his 40 years of service to the MMPA board of directors. Green is the owner of Green Meadow Dairy Farms Inc., one of the largest herds of registered Holsteins in North America and home to an on-site teaching laboratory for MSU College of Veterinary Medicine students. He has held leadership positions with milk marketing groups, breed associations, the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA), the Michigan Cattlemen’s Association, university advisory groups and agricultural lending organizations. Green was the 2012-13 chairperson of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and recognized by the World Dairy Expo as the Dairyman of the Year in 2013.





## LAUREN HEBERLING AND DARREN KULICAMP

John and Barbara Dilland Scholarship

Two MSU students have been selected as the 2018-19 recipients of the John and Barbara Dilland Scholarship awarded through the MDMSF at MSU. Lauren Heberling, of Carsonville, Mich., and Darren Kulicamp, of Coopersville, Mich., were chosen based on their active involvement in the dairy industry, stellar academic achievements, and excellent leadership skills.

Heberling currently works as the editor of Creed Magazine for the Michigan FFA Association, and she worked previously at Gar-A-Mark Dairy Farm as calf manager. Most recently, Heberling was a marketing intern at the MMPA cheese plant in Middlebury, Ind and an intern for Land O' Lakes in Arden Hills, Minn. Her outstanding accomplishments include serving as Michigan FFA State Reporter in 2016, being selected as the Michigan Sugar Queen First Runner-Up in 2017, and participating in the National Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Final Four in 2018. At MSU, she stays busy with her involvement in the MSU Dairy Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and Sigma Alpha.

"Looking forward to life after college, I am extremely hopeful that my career will include both marketing and dairy," Heberling said about pursuing her passion to create solutions for the many challenges facing dairy producers today. "I know that while my future will most likely not include going back to my family's farm, it will definitely include involvement in the dairy industry, whether it be through sales, marketing, or one of the many other careers our dairy industry has to offer."

Kulicamp is entering his second year at MSU, where he is involved with the MSU Dairy Club, Block & Bridle Club, and Collegiate Farm Bureau. Although he didn't grow up on a dairy farm, Kulicamp has spent time working at Dream Winds Dairy, L.L.C. and K&H Grain, L.L.C. to gain experience in the industry. In the future, he plans on pursuing a career in dairy sales and aspires to run a part-time farming operation with his family.



Lauren Heberling



Darren Kulicamp

"I would like for my career to focus on the dairy side of things, not only because it is a keen interest of mine or that it would keep me busy close to home, but more importantly, I see a great potential for growth in Michigan's dairy industry," Kulicamp said. "Personally, I see the most potential for growth in the 21st century in technology, such as robots."

The \$4,000 John and Barbara Dilland Scholarship is named in honor of John Dilland, former controller, director of finance, and general manager for the MMPA, and his wife, Barbara. Over the course of John's 35 years of service and leadership, he represented the Michigan dairy industry on several national organizations: National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Milk Producers Federation and the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy. In Michigan, he served on the board of directors for the Michigan FFA Foundation and the MDMSF. The award is presented to an MSU sophomore, junior, or senior student majoring in the field of agribusiness management.

# 2018-19 DAIRY MEMORIAL RECIPIENTS

## Dairy Memorial Scholarships (\$3,500)

**ELIZABETH VENEMA's** passion for the dairy industry began on her family's dairy farm in Deford, Mich. She began attending MSU in 2015 with plans on returning to her family's operation after graduation; however, as the dairy industry's outlook began looking bleak, her family sold their cows, causing Venema to change her future career plans. Today, Venema is a graduate of MSU with degrees in animal science and agribusiness management and is a law student at Cooley Law School in Lansing. Throughout her undergraduate years, Venema worked at the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Food and Dairy Division as a student assistant. Her position allowed her to develop graphic design skills, assist with daily office operations, and create and maintain electronic files on all of Michigan's dairy farms and plants. In the future, Venema plans on embarking on a government career as an agricultural lawyer. She hopes to bring a different perspective to the legal world, providing representation for the state's and nation's dairy farmers.

**KELSIE LETTS** is a freshman pursuing an animal science degree at MSU with plans to one day open her own veterinary clinic and continue her family's farm. Hailing from Marshall, Mich., Letts didn't grow up on a dairy farm, but showed dairy cattle at her county fair with help from a neighboring dairy operation. Her livestock experience gained during her years in 4-H inspired her to study at MSU and become a large animal veterinarian. To prepare for veterinary school, Letts has shadowed a veterinarian to learn animal restraint, proper surgery protocol, and more about the profession. Letts has also shadowed a herdsman at Holloo Dairy Farm in Marshall where she cared for sick cattle, gained large animal handling skills, and artificially inseminated cattle. Her experience in the agriculture industry and as the 2017-18 Michigan Future Farmers of America (FFA) Regional State Vice President has also encouraged her to work in public outreach to educate consumers about common agricultural practices.

## Dairy Memorial Scholarships (\$3,500)

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**AUSTIN HAYWOOD**, of Hastings, Mich., has been involved in the dairy industry his entire life. Haywood is the sixth generation on his family's 1,200-cow dairy operation, Sand Creek Dairy, LLC. On his family's farm, he serves as the herd manager and farmhand and is also the owner and primary laborer of Haywood Family Cheese, a family-owned business producing 2,000 pounds of Havarti cheese annually. Haywood is currently a sophomore in the MSU Department of Animal Science and plans to return to his family's dairy farm to continue to improve and implement progressive practices on the operation after graduation. Fascinated with business, Haywood is minoring in agribusiness management and fittingly uses his knowledge as treasurer of both the FarmHouse Fraternity and the MSU Dairy Club. He served as the 2016-17 Michigan FFA State Secretary where he facilitated an annual statewide convention for 2,100 members, visited industry leaders and legislators and prepared leadership workshops for students across the state. In this role, he developed his passion for communicating to the public and to consumers about the agricultural industry. He plans to remain active with FFA to continue public outreach and help develop the next generation of agricultural leaders.

**EVELYN OKKEMA** grew up on her family's 500-cow dairy operation, De Grins Oer Dairy, in Blanchard, Mich. For as long as she has been able to, Okkema has fed calves from birth to weaning, managed milking shifts, and operated farm equipment to help manage daily farm operations. Okkema received her technology certificate in dairy management in 2016 from MSU and graduated this spring with an undergraduate degree in agribusiness management. While at MSU, Okkema took advantage of the many opportunities presented to her: she competed on the MSU Dairy Cattle Judging team, participated in the MSU Dairy Club, worked at MSU's Sheep Teaching and Research Center, and became certified in artificial insemination by the American Breeding Service. Okkema's education prepared her to return to her family's operation and ensure it will remain functional for many years to come. While assisting in managing the farm, Okkema also plans to stay active in the 4-H community, giving back to the program that gave her many of the skills and interests she has today.

## Ag Tech Scholarships (\$2,000)

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### **KRISTEN BURKHARDT**

Kristen Burkhardt's passion for the dairy industry was fueled during summer months when she visited her grandparent's dairy operation, Nugentdale Farm, in Lowell, Mich. Although she didn't grow up on a dairy farm, Burkhardt took advantage of any opportunity that would give her more dairy experience. This willingness to learn led her to serve as Michigan Junior Dairy Ambassador, Michigan Junior Holstein Association president, member of the Michigan 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging team, and a youth voice on the 2016 National 4-H Dairy Conference Planning Committee. Burkhardt completed her dairy management certificate from MSU in May 2019 and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in agribusiness management. She is enthusiastic about where the dairy industry may take her next.

**EMILY SCHUURMANS**, of Caledonia, Mich., graduated from MSU's Department of Animal Science with honors this spring. Schuurmans is passionate about the dairy industry and particularly fascinated by dairy reproduction and its effects on farm efficiency. During her time at MSU, Schuurmans worked as an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Richard Pursley's lab investigating dairy cow fertility; as a bioprocess associate at Zoetis learning about poultry embryo development; and as a student employee at the MSU Sheep Teaching and Research Center helping to manage lambing. Schuurman's wide range of research, animal care, and volunteer experience prepared her for MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine where she is beginning in the fall. Schuurmans plans on using her career to work with dairy farmers on improving their reproduction rates and overall production. She understands the critical need of producing more milk to feed the growing population and believes that increasing on-farm efficiency is part of the larger solution and an area where she can contribute.

### **MIRIAH DERSHEM**

After receiving her dairy management certificate from MSU in December 2019, Miriah Dershem began studying agribusiness management to learn more about the business of running a dairy operation. Her passion for the dairy industry began with showing dairy cattle at her local county fair and participating in 4-H dairy quiz bowl and dairy judging contests at the county, state, and national levels. Dershem has been an active board member of the Michigan Junior Holstein Association, serving as vice president and attending the National Junior Holstein Convention in 2018. She is also a Michigan Junior Dairy Ambassador, a role that has inspired her to support and advocate for the dairy industry in her future. After graduation, Dershem wants to become a herdsman and manage calves on a dairy operation.

## Ag Tech Scholarships (\$2,000)

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### LYNN OLTHOF

Lynn Olthof, of Spring Lake, Mich., cultivated her passion for the dairy industry while growing up on her grandparent's dairy farm. She fell in love with baling hay, milking cows, and showing cattle at her county fair. Olthof received her dairy management certificate and is now studying agribusiness management at MSU with plans to graduate in May 2021. Olthof is fascinated by the economic benefits of quick genetic improvement in a dairy herd and wants to implement what she has learned in college on her grandparent's farm as she takes it over in partnership with her cousin. After graduation, Olthof is interested in a career in dairy reproduction, an area of interest she discovered at MSU.

### JACOB ARENS

Jacob Arens, son of Nicole and Andrew Arens, has had many experiences working on dairy operations. Along with helping on his family's farm, Double A Dairy, in Portland, Mich., he has also worked as a hired hand on Steenblik Dairy, a 4,000-cow operation, and Thelen Dairy, a 180-cow farm. Arens received his dairy management certificate from MSU this past December and has returned to his family's dairy, implementing many new

and innovative ideas. On the farm, Arens helps milk, feed and breed cows, and assists with managing the family's heifer farm and cheese plant. He is also a dairy forage and dairy nutrition consultant for Agri-King, an opportunity that has further expanded his involvement in the dairy industry.

### JESSICA NASH

Jessica Nash is completing her dairy management certificate at MSU and is transferring to a four-year agribusiness management degree to learn more about the dairy industry, new technologies in the field, and dairy nutrition. She grew up on her family's 320-cow dairy operation in Elsie, Mich., where she continues to assist with calving and monitor calf health. Nash has also served as a Michigan Junior Dairy Ambassador, a board member of the Michigan Junior Holstein Association, and represented the state in the North American International Livestock Expo 4-H dairy quiz bowl contest. Nash enjoys using math to solve issues and develop new solutions, so has considered careers in farm financial services, ruminant nutrition, or agricultural policy to apply her skills.

## Freshman Scholarships (\$1,500)

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### AARON FAHRNER

Aaron Fahrner is a freshman at MSU pursuing a degree in agribusiness management. His passion for agriculture began growing up on his family's farm, Fahrner Family Farms, and working on his neighbor's farm, Starward Farms, throughout high school. After graduation in May 2022, Fahrner plans on returning to his hometown of Sebawaing, Mich., to work for a company in the agriculture field. So far in his college career, Fahrner has enjoyed learning about the animal feed industry, especially formulating dairy feed rations. He is hopeful that his future career will build on this interest.

### JANET FELBARTH

As a college freshman passionate about dairy, livestock, and agriculture, Janet Felbarth, of Capac, Mich, is excited to experience everything that MSU's animal science degree has to offer. From becoming a member of the MSU Dairy Club to taking dairy-related classes, Felbarth is enjoying learning more about Michigan's dairy industry. She was very active in her high school's FFA chapter where she became familiar with common agricultural practices and recognized her love of large livestock. FFA also provided her with the leadership skills she has today through participation in Project RED, serving as Lapeer County FFA Sentinel, and teaching her peers about livestock. In the future, Felbarth hopes to become an animal nutritionist specializing in dairy nutrition.

### MATTHEW GRANSKOG

Matthew Granskog grew up on his family's dairy operation, Granskog Farm, in Lake Township, Mich. As a young adult, Granskog became responsible for mixing feed, helping to manage the herd, and assisting with many equipment repairs. He attended Stephenson High School and gained a broader picture of the agriculture industry by involving himself with 4-H and FFA. Granskog is also a Menominee County Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer, a position that allows him to educate

consumers about agriculture through volunteering at local Breakfast on the Farm events. Granskog is looking forward to working in the dairy industry after graduating from MSU with a dairy management certificate in December 2019.

### ROSE KUPERUS

Rose Kuperus hails from Freeport, Mich., where she lives on her family's dairy farm, Twin River Dairy. On her family's dairy, Kuperus manages all aspects of the farm's calving system, assists with herd health monitoring, and operates equipment to ensure daily farm tasks are completed. Off the farm, Kuperus works at South Kent Veterinary Hospital in Caledonia, where she refills prescriptions, cleans and disinfects rooms and equipment, and handles all client communication. Kuperus is currently a freshman at MSU with plans to receive her livestock industry certificate from MSU's Institute of Agricultural Technology in May 2020. After completing her time at MSU, Kuperus strives to better the dairy industry as a nutritionist, herdsman, or dairy farm manager.

### WYATT LAMB

Wyatt Lamb is pursuing a dairy management certificate at MSU with plans to graduate in December 2019. Throughout college, he has continued to work on his family's 250-cow dairy operation, Lamb Dairy Farm, scheduling and managing the night milking shift, taking care of calves, and assisting with daily farm operations. While attending Cros-Lex High School, Lamb was a National Honor Society member, wrestling team captain, and active in his county's 4-H program. Lamb never had a doubt that taking over the dairy farm from his family was in his life plans, a reason why attending MSU was an obvious choice. At MSU, Lamb is a member of the MSU Dairy Club and Block & Bridle Club where he networks and continues to learn more about the agriculture industry.

# THANK YOU LETTERS

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I am grateful to be a recipient of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship. Thank you for making this award possible. I really appreciate your support in achieving my college education goals. While at Michigan State University I am majoring in Animal Science and Agribusiness Management and after graduation I will be attending Cooley Law School to pursue my JD degree.

This scholarship has helped me maintain the lofty standards of excellence that were required of me to successfully complete my college career. I am honored that I have been chosen as a recipient for the 2018-2019 school year. The dairy industry holds a very special place in my heart and this scholarship will allow me to continue following my passion. Your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals is inspiring. Thank you to everyone at the foundation and everyone who has made these scholarships possible for students at Michigan State University.

Thank you again,

*- Libby Venema*

It was great news to hear that I am a recipient of the Nick Bellows UDIM Dairy Memorial Scholarship. I am very honored to have been chosen to receive this award. It means a great deal to me that my passion for the dairy industry has been recognized. I am so grateful for the amazing work that this foundation does to sustain, honor, and promote the dairy industry. This scholarship will help me to finish my bachelors degree as well as start veterinary school. Organizations throughout the dairy industry, such as this foundation, that aid new leaders entering the industry is just one reason why I am so passionate about spreading knowledge about the dairy industry.

Thank you,

*- Monika Dziuba*

I would like to thank you for selecting me for the Red and Edna Cotter Purina Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship. This money is a huge help in funding my veterinary education and more than that, I deeply appreciate your support and

encouragement as I pursue my dream. It is so easy to get overwhelmed by veterinary school and all that comes with it, but being selected for this scholarship has reminded me that there are people who believe in what I am doing and want to help me along the way. I am extremely grateful for everything that you do for students and hope to be valuable to producers as I receive my DVM and begin practicing. Thank you once again!

*- Colleen Potter*

Thank you for awarding me the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship for the fall semester. It is a great honor to be chosen as a recipient of this scholarship. It will be very helpful in financing my education and allowing me to pursue my interest in agriculture and the dairy industry. Thank you again for this honor.

*- Aaron Fahrner*

I first would like to thank you for allowing to receive this wonderful scholarship.

I truly appreciate your generosity in choosing me for this reward. I am honored to be one of the chosen students that will be receiving this scholarship. With this scholarship money, I will be able to enjoy my college experience more, knowing that I won't have to worry about money as much. This scholarship will allow me to continue to pursue not only my education, but my career and life goals. Again, I am truly so thankful to be able to receive this reward.

Sincerely,

*- Adam Wiles*

I am writing to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship. I was honored to hear of my selection. With your financial support, I will be able to concentrate more of my time on my studies and experiences.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. The dairy industry is my passion, and I am grateful for the MDMSF for investing in its future.

Kindly,

*- Emmy Schuurmans*

I would like to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship! I am humbled to receive this scholarship as it will help me continue my education here at Michigan State University as I become more knowledgeable on an industry I am so passionate about. After completing the Ag-Tech Dairy Management Program and the Agribusiness Management Program, I look forward to serving the dairy industry wherever my career takes me. Thank you again for selecting me to be a recipient of this scholarship, it truly is an honor.

Sincerely,

*- Kristen Burkhardt*

Thank you very much for this generous scholarship from the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Fund. This is a great honor to receive and it means so much to me. This scholarship will help me further my education in Dairy Management and Agricultural Business here at Michigan State. My education is helping me pursue my dream in the dairy industry, which is to become a herdsman on a local dairy farm. Thank you again for providing me with this opportunity and selecting me for this great honor.

*- Miriah Dershem*

I am beyond thankful and completely honored to be a recipient of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship. This will greatly aid my college expenses as I am continuing my education. Growing up on a dairy farm, I have an immense appreciation for the cows and all the hard work that is needed to run a dairy operation, and I am excited to further both my education and career in the dairy industry. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the future of the dairy industry.

*- Rose Kuperus*

Thank you for helping me pursue my educational goals by selecting me as one of your scholarship recipients. I am extremely humbled to receive this scholarship and will use it as I continue to pursue a career within the greatest

industry of all, the dairy industry. Your contribution to my educational pursuit will have an impact far beyond me as I get into the industry and have the opportunity to interact with fellow dairy industry members.

Once again thank you for your generous contribution.

*- Lynn Olthof*

I am beyond grateful to be chosen as the recipient of the John and Barbara Dilland Michigan Dairy Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Agribusiness Management. Words cannot describe how your philanthropic spirit has truly blessed me. This award will allow for relief of some of the financial burden associated with a college education, allowing me to focus more intently on my studies in Agribusiness.

In my studies at Michigan Sate I am preparing for my desired career as a salesman, in the field of agriculture input sales. In this field I would like to work as a representative for a large animal nutrition company or crop protections firm. I would be more than happy to work in either of these facets to serve this beloved industry. Additionally, I have serious ambitions to return to my family farm part-time, in partnership with my father and brothers, with hopes of being able to farm full-time one day.

Again, I thank you for your contribution to the future agriculture, and the success of many young adults at Michigan State University. On behalf of all recipients, both past and present, I assure you that your gracious gift has not fallen on idle hands and will be used to the greatest extent. Without such generous donors such as yourselves, this University would not be what it has become. Your contribution to the betterment of many young people, and the agriculture industry, is both encouraging and not without effect. I thank you for helping to sow the seeds of the future!

*- Darren Kulicamp*

Thank you very much for selecting me as the 2018-2019 Russel Erickson Michigan Dairy Memorial Endowed Scholarship recipient. I am very honored to receive this generous scholarship, and appreciate you recognizing me for this award. I am greatly looking forward to a career in the

dairy industry, and I am thankful that I am able to work with such passionate and driven individuals. Scholarships like this one help my peers and myself reach our goals in the industry, and set us up for great success in the future. I am very thankful for all Michigan's dairy industry has given to me, and I can't wait to work in this industry in the future. Thank you again!

*- Leta Larsen*

Thank you for naming me as one of the recipients for the Harold and Lillian Gremel Michigan Dairy Memorial Endowed Scholarship. As tuition continues to climb, the impeccable generosity of scholarship donors like you becomes increasingly important. As a student whose life has revolved around the dairy industry, I see first-hand the struggles dairy farmers are facing in these trying times. It means a lot to me that foundations like yours are here to help out the industry by encouraging and supporting the future leaders of the dairy industry. Thank you again for the honor and your continued support.

*- Katie Osborne*

Thank you so much for the scholarships, they will greatly assist me in continuing my education. I am very excited to be pursuing my degree in Animal Science and hope to someday receive my Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. From there, I plan to focus my practice on large animals, specifically dairy cattle. I greatly appreciate your support!

*- Kelsie Letts*

Thank you very much for this generous scholarship! I am very honored to receive the Glen and Ann Lake Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year. I am so proud to be involved with the great dairy industry that we have here in Michigan; an industry that continues to generously give back to students. All of the amazing opportunities that my education at Michigan State University has afforded me would not be possible without this financial support. Again, thank you so much for your tremendous support of Michigan's young dairymen and women!

*- Madeline Meyer*

I would first like to thank you for awarding me with the 2018 John and Barbara Dilla nd Michigan Dairy Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Agribusiness Management for \$2,000 per semester for both the fall and spring semester of my junior year. I am grateful beyond words for your belief and support in my education and experience at Michigan State University.

Growing up on my family's dairy farm in the Thumb of Michigan was where a passion for both dairying and agriculture began. As I joined FFA my junior year of high school, that passion developed from feeding calves and milking cows to competing in the FFA Marketing Plan Contest. This contest applied what I learned from the farm and helped me develop analysis, product marketing, and sales skills. While the technical marketing knowledge I gained was extremely valuable, this contest also inspired me to be where I am today – studying agribusiness management – a major that combines both business and agriculture, two things that I love.

After this semester, I will be beginning at Michigan Milk Producers Association as a marketing intern and am extremely excited to use what I have learned thus far to continue to gain experience and knowledge in dairy product marketing. This knowledge is something I hope to utilize after graduation, as my goal career involves working with both marketing and the dairy industry. I wish to extend another huge thank you to all involved in providing me with this amazing gift; one that I will utilize to the best of my ability to give back to the dairy industry after my time at Michigan State University. Your constant support of not only myself, but other young members of the dairy industry speaks volumes to your belief in our ability to be the next generation of agriculturalists.

*- Lauren Heberling*

## Department Summary

### NEW LEADERSHIP

New leadership was appointed to the Department of Animal Science over the past year.

Professor Dale Rozeboom was named Associate Chair for Farm Operations and Stakeholder Relations; Professor Cathy Ernst was named Associate Chair for Graduate Training and Research; and Karen Waite, academic specialist, was named Coordinator of the Undergraduate Program.

### FACULTY CHANGES

Faculty changes included new professor hires, retirements, and promotions.

Zheng Zhou, assistant professor (ruminant nutrition), joined the department in spring semester 2019, and Jackie Jacobs, assistant professor (companion animal behavior and welfare), joined during fall semester 2018.

Professor Gretchen Hill retired in spring 2019, and Professor Steve Rust retired later in summer 2019.

Janice Siegford was promoted to professor and Chen Chen was promoted to associate professor.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS

A number of faculty and staff members earned notable awards over the last year.

Dr. Richard Pursley, professor, was named the 2018 National Association of Animal Breeders Research Award recipient in October.

Dr. Michael Allen, professor, received the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) Fellow Award, and Dr. Adam Lock, associate professor, received the American Feed Industry Association Award at the ADSA Annual Meeting.

Dr. Lock also received the MSU 2019 Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor of the Year Award.

Three Animal Science faculty members' research was described in the 2018 Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture Legislative Summary: Jason Rowntree, associate professor, Richard Ehrhardt, Extension specialist, and Adam Lock, associate professor.

Joe Domecq, academic specialist, was the subject of the article "Facilitator of opportunity," written by Laura Moser, in *Hoard's Dairyman* in its April 25, 2019, issue.

### STUDENT NEWS

In student news, animal science doctoral student Carly O'Malley was awarded the Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching Award for 2019 from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Five animal science students earned awards at the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference in April 2019: Crystal Prom (second Ph.D.), Alycia Burch (second MS), Julie Oppenorth (third MS), Ariana Negreiro (first undergraduate), and Ursula Abou-Rjeiley (second undergraduate).

Julie Oppenorth, graduate student, placed second in the ADSA Graduate Student (MS) Production Oral Competition at the ADSA annual meeting.

Deborah Velez-Irizarry, Ph.D. student, was named as a 2019 ADSA-ASAS Midwest Young Scholar.

Animal science student teams made the news over the last year with some impressive results.

The MSU Livestock Judging team was reserve champion team at the Southeastern Livestock Exposition and 2019 champion team overall at the All-East Contest.

The MSU Academic Quadrathlon team finished second at the Midwest competition.

A team of four MSU students earned first place in their division in the 18th annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Contest (NAIDC) held in March in Tifton, Georgia.

Animal science student Ariana Negreiro was chosen as one of the few undergraduate researchers highlighted through video focusing on undergraduate research at MSU.

### DAIRY FARMER OF THE YEAR

Each year the Department of Animal Science presents the Dairy Farmer of the Year Award. Blaine and Kim Baker of Bakerlads Farms, a fifth-generation farm in Lenawee County, Clayton, Mich., received the 2019 award.

The award was presented during the Dairy Industry Banquet held February 8, 2019, at the Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference in Frankenmuth, Mich.

# How to avoid taxes on your retirement income

by Jeffrey Bushey

Managing Partner, Nietzke & Faupel, P.C.

The new tax law enacted for 2018 raised the standard deduction to \$26,600 for a married couple who are both over age 65. In addition the new tax law capped the amount of state income and property taxes that can be deducted at \$10,000. Most retirees don't have large home mortgage interest deductions. Assuming they max out the state and local tax deductions of \$10,000 they would then need to give more than \$16,600 in charitable contributions to itemize. Therefore many retirees no longer qualify to itemize their deductions. This results in no added tax benefits in charitable giving.

Most retirement accounts require a minimum distribution to be taxed each year after age 70 ½. To take advantage of the new higher standard deduction, taxpayers who have retirement accounts that require a minimum distribution and who also want to get a tax advantage for charitable giving can take a Qualified Charitable Distribution. They simply need to have the requirement minimum distribution go directly from the retirement account to a charity. This distribution is not taxed. Therefore the effect is a tax deduction for the charitable donations and the couple can still use the standard deduction.

Depending on a taxpayer's taxable income level, a Qualified Charitable Distribution can result in a tax savings up to 43%. Qualified Charitable Distributions can allow a taxpayer to get a deduction for charitable giving and still take full advantage of the new higher standard deduction. Anyone considering this type of gift should get professional tax advice before making the gift.



## MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO MDMSF

*When the occasion suggests flowers, consider a living, growing tribute.*



### MICHIGAN DAIRY MEMORIAL & SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Where the earnings provide scholarships to worthy students in dairy industry-related fields.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

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Dr. Miriam Weber Nielsen  
Department of Animal Science  
Michigan State University  
2265 Anthony Hall, 474 S. Shaw Lane  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1225

## **MSU Dairy Cattle Judging Program completed 2018 successful season**

Three divisions of dairy cattle judging teams participated in contests during 2018: collegiate, post-secondary, and 4-H.

The 2018 Michigan State University (MSU) collegiate dairy cattle judging team members were: Cameron Cook, of Pewamo, Madeline Meyer, of Ionia, Makayla Petter, of Hastings, and Allison Schafer, of Westphalia.

The team competed in three national competitions: the 50th annual All-American Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest in Harrisburg, Penn.; the 98th annual World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Madison, Wis.; and the 45th annual North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. The team also traveled to the 2019 Fort Worth Stock Show in Fort Worth, Texas.

The team won the oral reasons contest and were first place in both the Brown Swiss and Jersey breeds at the All-American Invitational Contest. They finished seventh overall. The team finished first in the Ayrshire breed and were fourth high team overall, fifth in Guernseys, and sixth in oral reasons at the NAILE. MSU was unable to compete in the team category at the World Dairy Expo contest because of illness, but Petter competed as an individual.

Individually, Cook placed third in Brown Swiss, fifth in oral reasons, and ninth in Guernseys at Harrisburg, and fourth in Ayrshires and tenth in oral reasons at the NAILE. Meyer finished third in oral reasons, fourth in Guernseys, sixth in Jerseys, and seventh in Brown Swiss at Harrisburg, and fourth in Brown Swiss at Louisville. Petter was third in Ayrshires, seventh in Brown Swiss, and eighth high individual overall in the World Dairy Expo contest in Madison, and third in Brown Swiss at the NAILE. Schafer was third in Guernseys, fifth high individual overall, and eighth in Holsteins in Louisville.

In the post-secondary division, four second-year MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology dairy production management program students competed at the All-American

Dairy Show in Harrisburg, the 2018 International Post-Secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held during World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis., and the NAILE.

The four MSU sophomores competing on the team were: Gerrit Baker, of Byron Center; Kristen Burkhardt, of Fowlerville; Miriah Dershem, of St. Johns; and Rebeka McDonald, of Conklin. All four students are 4-H alumni.

As a team, the group placed first in Jerseys, second in Brown Swiss, fifth in oral reasons, and sixth overall in the Harrisburg contest. At the World Dairy Expo contest, the team placed first in Jerseys and Milking Shorthorn, second in Ayrshires and Brown Swiss, third in Holsteins, sixth in the Red and White breed, and eighth in Guernseys. They were second high team overall and third team overall in oral reasons. In Louisville, the Ag Tech team placed first in Guernseys, second in oral reasons and Brown Swiss, third in Holsteins, fourth in Ayrshires and Jerseys, and were third high team overall.

Individually, Baker was second in Brown Swiss at Harrisburg; fourth in Jerseys and tenth in Holsteins at World Dairy Expo; and first in Brown Swiss and Holsteins, sixth overall, ninth in Guernseys, and tenth in oral reasons in Louisville. Burkhardt earned second in Jerseys and was ninth in oral reasons at the Harrisburg contest; was second in Brown Swiss, third in oral reasons, sixth overall and in Milking Shorthorns, and eighth in Ayrshires at World Dairy Expo; and finished fourth in oral reasons and Guernseys, was seventh overall and in the Ayrshire breed, and ninth in Holsteins at Louisville. Dershem won the Jersey breed in Harrisburg and the Holstein and Milking Shorthorn breeds at World Dairy Expo (scored 50 points in oral reasons in Shorthorns); was also fifth in Guernseys, seventh overall and in Ayrshires, and eighth in Jerseys at World Dairy Expo; and placed third in Guernseys, seventh in Holsteins, and



Members of the MSU collegiate dairy cattle judging team were (pictured left to right): Allison Schafer, Cameron Cook, Makayla Petter, and Madeline Meyer. Pictured at right is Coach Joe Domecq.



Pictured are (left to right): Coach Joe Domecq, Lauren Heberling, Cameron Cook, Morgan Luoma, Allison Schafer, Madeline Meyer, and Leta Larsen. (Photo courtesy of Melissa Hart).



eighth in oral reasons and Brown Swiss at the NAILE. McDonald was fourth in Milking Shorthorns at World Dairy Expo, and finished ninth in oral reasons and overall and tenth in Guernseys at Louisville.

Three separate teams competed in the 4-H division at the three contests.

Representing Michigan 4-H at the 50th annual All-American Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest in Harrisburg, Pa., were: Ian Black, of Eagle; Miriam Cook, of Pewamo; Caitie Theisen, of Mt. Pleasant; and Jacob VanderMolen, of Allendale.

The team was first in Jerseys, third in oral reasons, fourth in Brown Swiss and Guernseys, and fifth high team overall. Black was high individual in Jerseys, sixth in Brown Swiss, and eighth in Ayrshires. Cook was second in oral reasons, fourth in Jerseys, and fifth overall. Theisen was second in Jerseys, third in Guernseys, and fifth in oral reasons. VanderMolen won the Guernsey breed and placed eighth in Holsteins.

Members of the Michigan 4-H dairy cattle judging team that competed at the 2018 National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Madison, Wis., were: Ian Black, of Eagle; Miriam Cook, of Pewamo; Jessica Nash, of Elsie; and Caitie Theisen, of Mt. Pleasant.

The team earned third in Guernseys, sixth in Brown Swiss, seventh in Jerseys, eighth in oral reasons, and finished sixteenth overall. Cook was seventh in Jerseys, and eighth in oral reasons and Guernseys.

Four 4-H members competed in the dairy cattle judging contest at the North American International Livestock Exhibition in Louisville, Ky., in November: Shannon Good, of Caledonia; Drew Neyer, of Shepherd; Cristin Theisen, of Mt. Pleasant; and Katie Wilson, of Blanchard.

The team won the Brown Swiss breed and was third high team overall and in oral reasons, fourth in Holsteins, and fifth in Guernseys. Good was third in Brown Swiss, seventh in Guernseys, eighth in Holsteins, and ninth in oral reasons. Neyer was third in oral reasons and fourth in Holsteins. Theisen was sixth in Brown Swiss.

The teams were coached by Dr. Joe Domecq.



Pictured are members of the two-year MSU Ag Tech dairy cattle judging team (left to right): Coach Sarah Black, Rebeka McDonald, Gerrit Baker, Kristen Burkhardt, Miriah Dershem, and Coach Joe Domecq.



Team members for the Michigan 4-H team at the All-American Contest in Harrisburg, Pa., were (pictured left to right): Ian Black, Miriam Cook, Cristin Theisen, Jake VanderMolen, and Coach Joe Domecq.



Representing Michigan 4-H at World Dairy Expo were (pictured left to right): Coach Sarah Black, Miriam Cook, Ian Black, Jessica Nash, Caitie Theisen, and Coach Joe Domecq.



Michigan 4-H members judging at the North American International Livestock Exhibition in Louisville, Ky., were (pictured left to right): Contest official, Drew Neyer, Cristin Theisen, Shannon Good, and Katie Wilson. Coach Joe Domecq is pictured on the right.

## **MSU North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge team wins second consecutive national title**

Twelve MSU students participated on the national team, in the academy, or a regional event to refine analytical, communication, and dairy science skills.

A team of four Michigan State University (MSU) students earned first place in their division in the 18th annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Contest (NAIDC) held March 28-30, 2019 in Tifton, Georgia. Members of the winning team were: Monkia Dziuba, animal science senior from Riverview, Michigan; Lauren Heberling, agribusiness management junior from Carsonville, Michigan; Ariana Negeiro, animal science senior from Ft Lauderdale, Florida; and Jared Sanderson, animal science senior from Sandusky. Students may only compete one year on a NAIDC team. The team was coached by Dr. Roger Thomson, an Academic Specialist in the Department of Animal Science. This is the second consecutive year MSU has taken home top honors under the leadership of Dr. Thomson.

According to the NAIDC website, the goal of the contest is to “Develop tomorrow’s dairy leaders and enhance progress of the dairy industry, by providing education, communication and networking among students, producers, and agribusiness and university personnel.”

This is accomplished through a two-day competition where teams receive information with management and production data for a specific dairy farm and then visit the farm for person an in-person operation evaluation.

After reviewing all information and seeing the farm first hand, teams develop a comprehensive plan with management recommendations. The teams present their plan to a panel of dairy experts the next day and field questions about their recommendations. Plans may include recommendations about dairy cattle nutrition, reproduction, housing, finances, and animal health.

The NAIDC traces its origins to MSU, where the first-ever annual contest was held in 2001.

The innovative event is designed to allow dairy science students that are pursuing a four-year undergraduate degree at North American universities

with a hands-on, team-based opportunity to apply theory and skills learned in the classroom to a real-world dairy situation.

The NAIDC effectively incorporates all facets of a working dairy business into an interactive, educational, and fun forum.

In its 18-year existence, the NAIDC has helped to train thousands of students through the national contest, the Dairy Challenge Academy, and four regional contests conducted annually in advance of the national competition.

Thirty-six teams competed in Georgia evenly distributed between four dairy farms. MSU was competing against the University of Guelph (2nd place), University of Minnesota, University of Georgia, University of Alberta, University of New Hampshire, Clemson University, Delaware Valley University, and Utah State University.

Students spent months studying, preparing, and practicing for the challenge before putting their knowledge and hard work to the test on the national stage.

In addition to hosting the challenge, the NAIDC holds the Dairy Challenge Academy concurrently with the national contest.

The goal of the academy is to provide an extended learning environment for college sophomore, juniors, and seniors in 4-year dairy science programs, community colleges, and technical schools.

Academy participants spend the first day with NAIDC teams reviewing farm information and engaging in operation evaluations. Once the teams start preparing their presentations, Academy participants meet with and are mentored by dairy experts to enhance their analysis and presentation skills.

Students from different universities are grouped into teams of 6-8 individuals and provide a short oral priority report to dairy industry guests and other Academy members.

This year, Cameron Cook, a junior in agribusiness management, Austin Haywood, a junior in animal science,

Leta Larsen, a junior in agribusiness management Maddy Meyer, a junior in Animal Science, represented MSU in the Academy. For the third year, the Academy students were coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, an academic specialist in the Department of Animal Science.

MSU was also represented by a team of four students at the regional NAIDC contest.

This contest, held February 13-15 in Freeport, Illinois and hosted by the University of Illinois, is another learning opportunity for students to gain experience in dairy farm analysis through engaging with mentors.

Four regional contests are held prior to the national contest each year: Northeast, Southern, Midwest, and Western.

Similar to the Academy, students from different universities are matched up into teams of four to five individuals and provide an oral priority report to judges after learning financial, benchmark, PCDart, and DairyComp 305 information and visiting a local farm.

Dean DeGross, a junior in animal science, Leta Larsen, a junior in agribusiness management, Morgan Luoma, a junior in animal science, and Peter VanderHoff, a junior in agribusiness management represented MSU and were coached by Dr. Thomson.

Reflecting on a successful 2019 program, Dr. Thomson remarked, “The success of this year’s team was especially gratifying. At the very first practice, Monika, Lauren, Ariana, and Jared set the goal of achieving a first place finish like the 2018 team. They worked extremely hard all semester perfecting both their observational and presentational skills.”

“When it came time for the national contest, they were fortunate to present in the morning. They came in fresh, excited, and ready to share their insights on the farm. Their presentation was amazing. The judges struggled to make constructive criticisms and mostly offered compliments. One of the judges visited our table after the awards dinner in the



Coach Domecq, Monika Dziuba, Lauren Heberling, Jared Sanderson, Ariana Negreiro, and Coach Thomson represented MSU at the 18th annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge in Tifton, Georgia March 28-30, 2019. The team took home first place during the contest for the dairy farm they analyzed. Photo courtesy of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge.

evening and reiterated his praise to the team. I am very proud of these students and their hard work to accomplish the goal they set for themselves. Having two years of first place teams is phenomenal.”

Student agree participating in the NAIDC is a highly valuable experience, not only for improving practical skills related to dairy farm analysis they may apply at home, but also as a networking opportunity with industry professional nationwide and engaging with like-minded peers.

“Whether locally, regionally, or nationally, the Dairy Challenge has been one of the most rewarding opportunities during my time at Michigan State” said team member Sanderson.

“The competition allowed me to extend my education outside the classroom and develop skills and knowledge that will benefit me in my future career. I have learned how to work better in a team, communicate both individually and publicly, and above all it has made me better at understanding how a dairy farm is operated. I have made lifetime friendships not only with my teammates, but also with those at other universities. After competing locally and regionally, it was an honor to be selected for this year’s national team. I had the best teammates; we were all able to keep ourselves focused while still having fun and enjoying the

experience. I couldn’t have asked for a better team! When they announced we had won our division I was overwhelmed with joy and pride. What an honor it was for our team to be able to bring back a first-place finish to Michigan State and to the Michigan dairy industry. Lastly, I would like to recognize and say thank you to my coaches, Dr. Roger Thomson and Dr. Joe Domecq, for all their time and efforts to make the team possible, and for teaching and mentoring me throughout my collegiate career, thank you.”

The North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge was established as a management contest to incorporate all phases of a specific dairy business. Its mission is to facilitate education, communication and the exchange of ideas between students, agribusiness representatives, dairy producers and universities to further the development of the dairy industry and foster growth of new industry leaders.

The program is supported financially through donations from 120 dairy businesses and producers and coordinated by a volunteer board of directors.

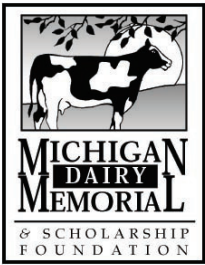
The MSU team would not have been successful without the support of many Michigan dairy partners.

Dairy farms that opened their doors providing a practice space for the teams

were: Green Meadows Dairy Farm, the MSU Dairy Teaching and Research Center, Simon Dairy Farm (Brent Simon), Lew Max Holsteins (Aaron Gasper), and Full Circle Dairy Farm in Florida. Financial endowment funding was provided by the Michigan Dairy Memorial Endowment, the Roger & Marjorie Mellenberger Dairy Endowment, and Hazel Dairy Memorial Endowment. Generous sponsorship was also provide by VitaPlus, Caledonia Elevator, Dairy Farmers of America, Prince AgriProducts, NorthStar Cooperative, Agri-King Nutrition, Attalee Brix, ABS Global, Zinpro Corporation, Nobis AgriScience, Michigan Milk Producer Association, Avon Hi-Life, Diamond V Mills, Cargill, Greenstone Farm Credit, JEFO Nutrition, Hi-Tech Dairy Supply, ADM Alliance Nutrition, and Land O’Lakes.

Visit [www.dairychallenge.org](http://www.dairychallenge.org) or [www.facebook.com/DairyChallenge](http://www.facebook.com/DairyChallenge) for more details on regional and national NAIDC events. For more information about MSU participation in the MSU Dairy Challenge, the Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge or the National Dairy Challenge, contact Dr. Thomson [thomso75@msu.edu](mailto:thomso75@msu.edu).

The 19th annual NAIDC and Dairy Challenge Academy will take place in Green Bay, Wisconsin March 26-29, 2020.



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