

Press Release



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Dedication, Commitment and Diversity Shown by Students

Cambridge, ON June 30, 2009 – Ontario Dairy Youth Scholarship Winners for 2009 have been selected and are to be congratulated for their very impressive attributes.

“We are very proud of another great year of applicants for these scholarships”, states Jason French, General Manager of the Ontario Holstein Branch. “Their dedication, commitment and diversity provides an opportunity for us to tell their story, not only of the things they currently do, but also initiatives that they plan to undertake”. This award, supported through the Ontario Holstein Branch and the Ontario Dairy Youth Trust Fund, attempts to aid dairy youth in completing their post-secondary education. Due to the vast number of applications received, the Trustees increased the number to eight scholarships of \$500 each; four diploma and four degree. Priority is given to those students showing a keen interest and involvement in their agricultural community. Youth from all breeds are eligible for the awards, and successful applicants must have completed their first year of College or University.

The selection committee is pleased to announce this year’s outstanding winners.

Degree Winners:

- **KATIE ALLEN, Vankleek Hill (613) 678-6524**

Katie is attending Bishop’s University and plans to become a teacher. Her passion for working with young people is certainly evident as she was employed as a dairy educator in Prescott County for a number of years. Katie states that the 4-H program delivers opportunities to “discover knowledge” rather than the traditional “lecture style” for youth and how beneficial this has proven to be. She plans to travel abroad to gain teaching and life experience and will always act as an ambassador for agriculture because it’s important for students to understand where and how their food is produced.

- **MICHAEL BARNUM, Campbellford (905) 653-2497**

As a keen Bachelor of Commerce in Agriculture student at the University of Guelph, Michael will be Vice-President for the 2009-2010 Aggie class and is excited to be part of such a dynamic group of individuals. He has a real enthusiasm for show cows and enjoys fitting cattle, traveling, seeing great cows and meeting new people. He has his own registered prefix “Shockwave” and owns several of his own heifers and cows. Michael has had the opportunity to achieve personal success at 4-H shows, with his biggest accomplishment at the “Classic” at the Royal Winter Fair the last two years, where he was part of the winning Northumberland team. He has set many large goals for himself, which include investing in cattle and building on genetics, continue clipping, and one day to win a Master Breeder shield.

- **LYNSAY HENDERSON, Mossley (519) 820-0702**

Lynsay is completing her Masters Degree in Dairy Management Health focusing on genetics, particularly selecting for health traits and survival in Holstein calves. Although she did not grow up on a dairy farm, her experience and involvement in the industry is extensive. Her education choices and aspiration for a future career in the dairy industry stem largely from her involvement in 4-H, where she achieved numerous accolades and enjoyment. Lynsay feels that when you have the opportunity

to work in a field you are passionate about, many personal and career goals overlap. These include to never stop learning, a successful career in the dairy industry where she can make a positive difference, and to experience another country and dairy industry abroad.

- **JACLYN RIVINGTON, Carp (613) 839-5254**

Going into her third year at the University of Guelph pursuing Bio-Medical Science, Jaclyn dreams of becoming a doctor, while still keeping herself involved with dairy animals in some capacity. Having worked on the home farm her entire life, her experience and achievements in the 4-H program, and her intrigue with the medical field, have all been a plus for Jaclyn, as she works towards her goals. Many weekends will be dedicated to exhibiting cattle at fairs and in her spare time you can find her at the curling rink. She also volunteers regularly with the Stroke-Recovery Network in Guelph and recently returned from a two-week volunteer program in Peru.

Diploma Winners:

- **JUSTIN CROWLEY, Hastings (705) 696-3277**

Justin is attending the Kemptville Campus, University of Guelph, and likes the hands-on experience, as he feels this will better prepare him to take over the family farm. Not only has he been active in school activities but also assumes a full slate of responsibilities and duties of all chores on the farm. 4-H has been an integral part of Justin's life and he feels fortunate to reap the many benefits this program has created for him. This avid hockey player plans to do some traveling in the future to learn from the wealth of knowledge fellow dairy farmers across the country can offer and dreams of one day breeding a Royal Winter Fair winner or even a Grand Champion.

- **JESSIE HUBBS, Bloomfield (613) 393-2176**

Yet another student at the Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph, Jessie also hopes to one day take over the family farm and has registered her own "Jeelhu" prefix to start her on the way of attaining this goal. An impressive number of almost 80 completed 4-H clubs, amassing numerous awards and achievements, certainly shows the dedication of this determined individual. Not only athletic and musical, Jessie is heavily involved in her community, volunteering for various causes, for the benefit of others. As well, she plans to continue playing an active role in the local fair, learn more about wine production and eventually have a 50% red and white Holstein herd.

- **SHEA O'NEILL, Hepworth (519) 935-2848**

A diploma in agriculture student at the Ridgetown Campus of the University of Guelph, Shea feels fortunate to be involved in several farm operations in a variety of roles. He also relishes working at major cattle shows assisting with picturing and credits Patty Jones with being a great mentor. Shea uses this experience plus knowledge he obtained during his 4-H years to work closely with younger members and enjoys teaching and assisting them in various tasks. 4-H has been an important part of his family and he plans to continue the tradition of participating and volunteering for this great program. Agriculture is his passion and Shea hopes to build upon his "Shad" livestock with top quality dairy and sheep genetics.

- **MELISSA SAGER, Campbellford (705) 653-4863**

Melissa is also enrolled in agriculture at the Kemptville Campus, where she is deeply involved with school activities. Recently her family expanded their dairy farm with a new cow-tie stall facility and thus her responsibilities at home have grown so everything runs smoothly. She began showing calves in the "pre 4-H" classes at fairs and was hooked. Melissa credits her 4-H career for teaching her life lessons she will always put to use. Looking to the future, Melissa hopes to return home to the family farm and carry on traditions of a challenging, yet rewarding, farm life.

The selection committee wishes each applicant best of luck while finishing their post-secondary education, and success in all their future aspirations. Congratulations!