



Future Leaders Reflect Bright, Vibrant Dairy Industry

By John Frey, Executive Director,
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Editor's Note: This is a special feature from the Center for Dairy Excellence exclusively for Farmshine newspaper.

Recently the Center for Dairy Excellence Board of Directors awarded seven \$1,000 scholarships through the "Student Leader Scholarship" program. This program is something initiated by the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders that we plan to continue as a result of the two organizations being merged in early 2011

I was amazed at the caliber and dedication of all of this year's applicants. We had 23 applicants

in total, and the quality of these future dairy leaders made for a difficult selection process.

These future leaders of the dairy industry reflect what I believe is a bright, vibrant future for Pennsylvania's dairy industry. The applicants ranged from students who plan to return to the home farm to future veterinarians to some who plan to work in the food processing industry. The passion they expressed for their future profession was evident in every application.

Each applicant answered five questions as part of the application process. In this month's center page in the *Farmshine*, I've shared a few of the responses provided by the seven winners. Hopefully you'll agree that they represent an

incredible group of young people who will lead our industry.

The "Student Leader Scholarship" is just one of several scholarship opportunities available through the center. We offer scholarships for students and for dairy producers.

For more information about these opportunities or to learn more about the winners of this year's "Student Leader Scholarships," visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org and click on "Educator," then on "See Scholarship Opportunities."



Philip Bachman is a senior at Penn State and is from a dairy farm in Ulysess, Potter Co.

In his application, Bachman talked about his family's recent move to start a farmstead cheese operation.

"Within five years, I want to see our farm process every drop of milk we produce into either cheese or bottled milk. Direct contact with our customers can help us make a better product for the consumer."



Sara Bechtel is a junior at Penn State and grew up on a dairy farm in Martinsburg, Blair Co.

After graduation, Bechtel plans to return to the farm and is "very passionate about animal welfare" and educating the public.

"I believe the public has been misled about what really happens on a dairy farm. When the public connects good farmers to the food they eat, they will know both the products and animals are safe."



Maggie Harding is a sophomore at Penn State and spent most of her life immersed in dairy.

Harding was drawn to the field of food science in 10th grade in State College, Centre Co.

"One of my goals is to be able to develop new products. With my education, I will be able to look at dairy products through the lenses of microbiology and chemistry to develop new foods with dairy that kids and adults will prefer to eat."



Destinee Horning is a sophomore at Delaware Valley College and grew up on a dairy farm outside Lititz, Lancaster County.

Five years from now, Horning plans to be enrolled in veterinary school. "I want to practice as a food animal veterinarian. I see myself helping out dairy farmers. I enjoy watching farmers take pride in the cows in which they've invested time and energy, providing me motivation for my occupation."



Chad Horst is a freshman at Penn State and works as the herdsman on his family farm in Newmans-town, Lebanon Co. Some day he hopes to take over the family farm.

In his application, Horst said dairy's impact on the environment is a key issue for our industry. "Farmers can take an active role in reducing methane in the atmosphere by utilizing the manure from their livestock to produce a renewable energy source."



Heidi Musshafen is a junior at Penn State, where she studies ag engineering. She grew up on a dairy farm in Millerton, Tioga Co.

In five years Musshafen sees herself working to help dairy farmers incorporate renewable energies into their operations. "I want to help dairy farmers maintain their viability by diversifying and reducing costs. I see myself analyzing whether a project is a good investment for the farm."



Hannah Wentworth is a junior at Penn State and grew up on a dairy farm in Quarryville, Lancaster Co.

Wentworth wants to travel to learn more about agriculture. "After graduation, I want to educate the public about dairy through public relations or ag education. I have a dream of raising my family on a dairy farm, and I want to instill in my children a passion for agriculture. I will forever be an advocate of the dairy industry."

