

Press Release



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Dedication, Commitment and Diversity Shown by Students

Cambridge, ON August 3, 2010 – Winners of the Ontario Dairy Youth Scholarships for 2010 have been selected and are to be congratulated for their very impressive accomplishments. With close to 30 applicants this year, the selection of the recipients was no easy task! As with previous years, there are four \$500 scholarships presented to students pursuing their degree, as well as four \$500 scholarships awarded to students pursuing their diplomas. Priority is given to those students showing a keen interest and involvement in their agricultural community with youth from all breeds being eligible for the awards. All recipients have to have completed at least one year of their studies. Congratulations to the 2010 recipients of the Ontario Dairy Youth Scholarships.

Degree Winners

•BRETT GAMBLE, Chatsworth (519) 794-2879

Brett is currently enrolled in her second year of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Guelph. As an avid 4-Her growing up and playing an active role on her family's Grey County dairy farm, Brett has always known she would have a career in the agricultural industry. Since her admission to OVC, Brett has become a very active student with a number of school clubs and activities. Most notably, she is currently the Bovine Club 2nd Year Class representative and will assume the role of Co-President next year. With a passion for dairy and a specific interest in animal health, Brett has decided to pursue a career as a large animal veterinarian following vet school. She is excited to work with dairy farmers in the future and looks forward to collaborating with them to solve and prevent herd health issues.

•CRAIG McDiarmid, Osgoode (613) 774-3220

Craig is currently enrolled in his second year of Life Science at Queen's University. Growing up on his family's dairy farm near Ottawa, Craig took an active roll in the day-to-day management of the herd. This developed into not only a love of working with the cows, but also a specific interest in the medical and genetic side of things. Following his degree at Queen's, Craig hopes to attend vet school and become a veterinarian. Outside of the dairy business, Craig has become involved with a health organization through which he traveled to Nairobi, Kenya for three months this summer. He along with seven other students educated Kenyan high school students about making healthy choices, and helped set up HIV testing centres.

•EMMA MCMILLAN, Hastings (705) 778-3389

Emma is currently enrolled in the Kinesiology Co-Op program at the University of Waterloo. With a passion for sports and adventure and a love for learning about science and math, Emma has decided to pursue a career as a physiotherapist, personal trainer or athletic therapist following her graduation from the program. She aspires to one day own her own practice. Even though she has chosen a field outside of agriculture, Emma still maintains a love for farm life and the Holstein cow. When not at school, she is happy to return home to help with whatever chores need to be done and work with her 4-H calf. She has been an active 4-Her in Northumberland County for nine years. Emma has also had the opportunity to travel to Uganda on a missions trip where they spent time with AIDS orphans and built a new school room.

• **ASHLEY O'HARA, Schomberg** (905) 939-7174

Ashley is currently enrolled at the University of Guelph working towards her degree in Agriculture with emphasis on Animal Science. Growing up on her family's South Simcoe dairy farm, she has taken an active interest in the operation since a young age and has now taken on roles that involve breeding decisions. Ashley was introduced to the show ring through her involvement in 4-H. She has had opportunities to not only represent her county at the Classic several times, she has also help fit and prepare cattle for numerous shows and sales across the country. In the future, Ashley hopes to use her Degree in combination with her passion for cattle to pursue a career as a Classifier.

Diploma Winners

• **GORDON ALBLAS, Branchton** (519) 448-4215

Gordon will be starting the second year of his Agriculture Diploma at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus. Since he was 13, Gordon has done most of the sire selection for his family's Carpediem Holsteins in Wentworth County. Upon receiving his diploma, Gordon plans to return home to the farm full-time and continue to improve the dairy herd as his goal is to have a high production and classification herd. A very active 4-Her, Gordon has completed 48 clubs in his 9-year membership, has held all executive positions at one time or another and has also served as a youth leader for the past two years. Away from the cows, he has recently begun his own flock of sheep. He hopes to expand the flock from 35 ewes to 100 ewes and sell breeding stock and meat.

• **DIRK BRUNSVELD, Cambridge** (519) 623-5276

Dirk is enrolled in his second year at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus working towards his Agriculture Diploma. Dirk has worked on his family's Wentworth County dairy farm since he was 12 years old. Over the years he has gradually taken on more responsibility and is now able to look after the farm himself when needed. Following graduation, Dirk plans to return to the farm full-time where he plans to expand the herd from 70 to 100 while continually looking for ways to improve the efficiency and profitability of the operation. Outside of farming, Dirk has a keen interest in history. He hopes to travel to Europe in the near future to visit with relatives, tour historical sites and see first-hand how milk is produced outside of Canada.

• **MERINA JOHNSTON, Martintown** (613) 528-4331

Merina is in her second year at St. Lawrence College in the Business Administration program with her studies focused on Accounting and Human Resources. By taking on a heavier course-load and some on-line courses, when she graduates, she will have diplomas in both areas of study. Growing up, Merina played an active role in the day-to-day chores and partook in the everyday decision making at Cherry Crest Holsteins in Glengarry County. She has thoroughly enjoyed attending and working at a number of shows over the years, and sees this as an excellent networking opportunity. She was a very active dairy 4-Her and has recently become a leader of a junior dairy club. Merina had the opportunity to help out with the bookkeeping for the 2009 Sale of Stars at the Royal Winter Fair and looks forward to helping out again this year. After graduation, Merina hopes to pursue a career in agricultural business.

• **STEPHANIE TAYLOR, Blackstock** (905) 986-9613

Stephanie will be entering her second year at Kemptville College where she is working towards her Diploma in Agriculture. Growing up on her family's Durham County dairy farm, Stephanie was responsible for a number of daily chores including milking, feeding calves and heifers and helping to name and sketch the calves. She was an active dairy 4-Her and is very proud to have represented her county at the Classic five times, the most recent being in 2009. Outside of agriculture, Stephanie is a big sports enthusiast following and participating in a number of different sports. Most notably, she competed in Synchronized Skating for eight years and continues to skate recreationally and volunteer with the Blackstock Skating Club. Following graduation, Stephanie hopes to pursue a career in the agricultural research sector and in particular in crop and nutrition development.

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