

# Press Release



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## 2011 ONTARIO DAIRY YOUTH AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**Cambridge, ON July 4, 2011 – The Ontario Dairy Youth Award selection committee is pleased to announce the winners of the Ontario Dairy Youth Award for 2011.** This marks the 32<sup>nd</sup> year the competition that recognizes young people aged 25-35 who are actively involved in the operation of a dairy farm, who have demonstrated leadership and taken an active role in their communities and within their breed has taken place. The four award recipients will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin this fall. The Ontario Dairy Youth Award is funded through the Ontario Dairy Youth Trust Fund and the Ontario Holstein Branch.

### **WEST-CENTRAL – Wray Brubacher, Drayton (519) 638-7771 • [wray1@295.ca](mailto:wray1@295.ca)**

For Wray Brubacher, West-Central's Dairy Youth Award winner, hard work, commitment and good management are the keys to a successful dairy operation. Along with his wife, Brenda, Wray owns and operates Brookhaven Holsteins just outside of Drayton. With five young children, Wray never finds himself short of helpers. Sons, Tyler and Dawson, look after the calves and help feed and name the animals. Daughters, Tiana and Tierra, help in the house and enjoy taking care of their new baby brother, Dallas.

Their tie-stall bank barn houses 54 cows, 47 of which are currently milking. At present, 25 cows are classified as VG, with the remaining cows being classified GP. Since becoming involved in the operation, Wray prides himself on having only registered, purebred Holsteins in the barn. He's maximized cow comfort and health by feeding TMR and installing mats and additional fans in order to improve ventilation. Using sexed semen and relying on AI for all breeding has allowed him to quickly improve his herd. Recently, he started flushing some of his better cows and even has one cow contracted to Select Sires.

Outside of the day-to-day farm operation, Wray is a Sunday school teacher and a referee for youth hockey. He is a dedicated volunteer in his community and involved in prison ministry.

### **WESTERN – Chancy Burgess, Mildmay (519) 367-3658 • [burgessclan@wightman.ca](mailto:burgessclan@wightman.ca)**

When Western Ontario Dairy Youth Award winner Chancy Burgess first began breeding cows under his Chakelburg Holsteins prefix five years ago, he set his sights on maximizing efficiency and improving farm management. Burgess took over his father's half of the award-winning A to Z herd in 2006 and hasn't looked back since.

The Chakelburg herd is comprised of 140 Holsteins with a current classification of 9 EX, 36 VG, and 23 GP. Burgess says he breeds for type and components and keeps a close eye on bloodlines that cross well in order to incorporate them into his herd. He focuses on feet, legs, and udders to work with the current classification system, but still values frame, capacity and width throughout.

Aside from the day-to-day operation of the farm, Burgess is active in his local community as a 4-H leader in Mildmay. He has been a Gay-Lea delegate for the past three years and volunteers his time with the Mildmay Agricultural Society to help out with numerous events, including the annual Mildmay Fair. His four children, Dalainey (7), Addison (5), Kenadee (3) and Hudson (2) keep him busy and you'll often find them riding their bikes or helping out with the calves.

**EAST-CENTRAL – Collin Walker, Stayner (705) 428-2021 • [walkhavern@gmail.com](mailto:walkhavern@gmail.com)**

East-Central Ontario Dairy Youth Award winner Collin Walker isn't afraid of change. Since taking over his family farm in 2000, he has implemented a series of modifications that have resulted in healthier, happier and higher-producing cows at Walkhavern Farms in Stayner, Ontario. In just eight short years, Collin and his wife Tanya have increased production by 30 per cent, cow genetics with respect to GLPI and Conformation by 50 per cent, and doubled their land base.

Two dominant foundation cow families, Zoe and Eve, have been high-producing and high-indexing families for the Walkers. These families have helped contribute to an impressive herd classification of 5 EX, 29 VG and 31 GP and an average composite BCA of 218. Cows are fed with a TMR mixer and those producing over 38 litres of milk per day are top dressed with additional feed.

Aside from his day-to-day farm responsibilities, Collin is an active member of the Simcoe County Holstein Club and currently serves as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. He is the Chairman for the Simcoe County Holstein Club Show this year and is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year as a Chairman for the Stayner Evangelical Missionary Church.

**EASTERN – Brad Lowry, Almonte (613) 256-1894 • [penlow@explornet.com](mailto:penlow@explornet.com)**

Eastern Ontario Dairy Youth Award winner, Brad Lowry, knows a thing or two about overcoming hardship. In the summer of 2010, a fire destroyed a machine shed on his family's farm in Almonte, taking a large portion of equipment with it. A look-on-the-brightside Lowry says that although the fire put on hold plans to renovate an existing heifer barn, the family was "extremely lucky" it wasn't the dairy barn that was lost.

Since then, Lowry has continued to move forward with his eye on the prize of breeding excellent cattle and filling a quota of 64 kgs daily at Penlow Farms. Along with his parents, Allan and Donna and the involvement of his 84-year-old grandfather, Bert, Brad milks 50 cows in his head-to-head barn and aims to keep the stalls occupied at all times in order to fill his quota. They focus their breeding on type and have a current herd classification of 11 EX, 28 VG, 16 GP.

Off the farm, Brad is the President of the Lanark Holstein club and has been a director there since 2005. He is a member of the North Lanark Agricultural Society (Almonte Fair), the Eastern Ontario Western Quebec Championship show committee, as well as the Chair of the Dairy Committee. In the past, he has been involved in Lanark Junior Farmers, and has completed over 25 4-H clubs focusing on dairy, dairy judging and showmanship.