

Michigan Dairy Memorial Foundation Scholarships Awarded

The Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (MDMSF) was established nearly 50 years ago as a way to honor individuals in the dairy industry and provide financial assistance to students. The Foundation's endowment was established through contributions made in honor of individuals who have served the dairy industry. In turn, income from this endowment creates scholarships that support deserving Michigan State University students who want to pursue careers in the dairy industry. Two of the named scholarships within the MDMSF are the Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship and the Russel Erickson Endowed Scholarship.

Chris Creguer

Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship Recipient

Chris Creguer, of Kinde, is this year's Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship recipient. Chris is the son of Sue Dumaw of Caseville and Bernie Creguer of Kinde.



Chris is a Senior majoring in Animal Science with an Agri-business option at Michigan State University. He is also a member of and lives at the Farmhouse Fraternity. Chris says he really appreciates receiving the scholarship and is impressed with the large amount of charitable people in the dairy industry.

"I think that helping anyone continue their education is a very noble gesture," Chris remarks. "I personally know a lot of students that have received this scholarship and it has made a big difference to them. It's easier to concentrate on school work when you don't have to worry about getting money for tuition and housing."

Chris' interest in the dairy industry began when he started working for Zwemmer dairy in high school. He was hired in as a milker and worked his way up to assistant herdsman, a position that gave him experience breeding, treating and working with dairy cows.

This summer, Chris had an internship with Cargill, working with nutritionists. Having experienced the dairy industry from both a producer and a service perspective helped Chris decide that he would definitely like to have his own dairy farm someday.

"I love the way of life," he says. "Every day there's new challenges you have to deal with and it is always changing. You have to be able to adapt and take on new roles – you are part vet, part agronomist

and part accountant. I really like the diversity."

Following graduation, Chris would like to work as a herdsman. He will also continue to run the feeder calf operation he started 4 years ago on his father's farm.

Mitch Fabus

Russel Erickson Endowed Scholarship Recipient

Mitch Fabus, of Elsie, is this year's recipient of the Russel Erickson Endowed Scholarship. The \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to Mitch based on his academics, extracurricular activities and interest in a dairy-related career.



Mitch appreciates the scholarships he has received from the dairy industry during his studies at MSU and thanks everyone who contributes to the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation.

"The scholarships are great and have provided a lot of financial support towards my education," Mitch says. "They are a big stress relief for me because I am paying for my education. Because of scholarships I am able to graduate with little debt and don't have to worry about paying off student loans, that means a lot to me."

Mitch is a senior majoring in Crop and Soil Sciences, with an Agribusiness Management specialization at Michigan State University. During his time at MSU, he had the opportunity to travel to Australia and New Zealand where he did a special topics study on their grazing systems and then compared them to grazing systems here in Michigan.

Mitch is the son of MMPA member Mike and Kim Fabus and Kyle and Vicki VanDeusen. He already farms his own land, trading the use of his dad's equipment for his labor. When he graduates, Mitch plans to join his family's farm and expand both the dairy operation and cash crop operation.

"I originally planned to graduate and either cash crop farm with my dad or work for a company that was involved in agriculture and continue to help at home as much as I could," he says. "Since then I have learned that I belong at home on the farm and cash crop farming is tough to do when you do not have many assets. Dairy cows are a guaranteed paycheck each month, which means a lot to me when I am just starting out."

Mitch and his father are in the planning stages of expanding the dairy herd. The facilities are being underutilized now, so the pair will be able to increase cow numbers without the additional expense of facility improvement and expansion.

MDMSF Awards MSU Dairy Scholarships

The Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation, Inc. recently awarded more than \$74,000 in scholarships to 25 current undergraduates with a dairy interest at Michigan State University. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academics, extra-curricular involvement, and interest in a career in the dairy industry.

For the 2005-2006 academic year, scholarships were awarded to the following individuals:

Freshman Scholarships

\$1,500: Greta Koebel, Three Oaks, MI; Derek Lucas, Posen, MI; Nikki Shaw, Litchfield, MI; Michael Schrader, St. Johns, MI and Lyndsay Stakenas, Freesoil, MI.

Ag Tech Scholarships

\$2,000: Nathan Elzinga, Zeeland, MI; Brandon Falker, Romeo, MI; Adam Preston, Quincy, MI; Ashley Messing, Bad Axe, MI and Dave Bateman, Portland, MI.

Dairy Memorial Scholarships

\$3,500: Holly Boyle, Yale, MI; Edward Costigan, Lansing, MI; Amy Garrison, Onsted, MI; Joann Greenfield, Annapolis, MD; Alysa Isley, Palmyra, MI; Colleen Jackson, Caro, MI; Matt Jakubik, Whittemore, MI; Maria Johnson, Pittsford, MI; Garrett Landel, Waldron, MI; Katy McCracken, Carson City, MI; Scott Ruggles, White Lake, MI; Joe Tarkowski, Belding, MI and Jennifer Venlet, Conklin, MI.

Applications

Applications for the 2006-2007 academic school year are due February 28, 2006. Freshman and Ag Tech applications are due September 27, 2006. MD-MSF scholarship applications can be obtained from:

Dr. Miriam Weber-Nielsen, Department of Animal Science, 1250E Anthony Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1225.

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