

MMPA Scholarship Winners

Michigan Milk Producers Association awarded seven scholarships to students enrolled in the Dairy Production Program of the Institute of Agricultural Technology at Michigan State University for the 2005-2006 school year. One scholarship for the 2005-2006 school year was also awarded to a student at Purdue University.

Michigan State University



Ryan Benthem, son of Bruce and Karen Benthem of McBain, is a graduate of Northern Michigan Christian. In high school, he was active in basketball and soccer. At MSU, Ryan is a member of the MSU Ag Tech Dairy Judging Team, and recently completed an internship at Jim and Brad Ritter's dairy farm in Byron, Mich. After graduating, Ryan plans to farm with his father and uncle on the family's 300-cow dairy.



Nathan Elzinga is the son of Daniel and Sharon Elzinga of Zeeland, Mich. Nathan is a graduate of Hudsonville High School. At MSU he is a member of the MSU Ag Tech Dairy Judging Team and recently completed an internship at Maple Row Dairy in Saranac. After graduation, Nathan plans to return to his family's 200-cow dairy.



Keith Pawlanta, son of Roger and Sue Pawlanta, of Bridgeport, Mich., is a graduate of Bridgeport-Spaalding High School. He was active in football and 4-H while in high school. At MSU, Keith is a member of the Farm House Fraternity and recently completed an internship at Hufnagel Dairy in Fowler. After graduating, Keith would like to be a herdsman.



Tim Gamble, son of William and Susan Gamble, of New Carlisle, Ind., is a home-schooled graduate of Keystone National High School. While in high school, he served as 4-H president and was chairperson of the MMPA Milk Marketing Tour. At MSU, he is a member of the MSU Dairy Club where he serves on the Membership Committee. Following graduation, Tim plans to return to his family's 120-cow dairy farm and continue to develop a herd of registered cows.



Ashley Messing, daughter of Greg and Shelly Messing of Ubly, Mich., is a graduate of Ubly High School where she was active in FFA, 4-H and the Huron County Dairy Club. She is a recipient of the FFA Silver State Degree. Ashley is a member of the MSU Dairy Club. She plans to begin her own herd of Jersey cows after graduation.



Adam Preston, son of Glenn and Suzy Preston, of Quincy, Mich., is a graduate of Quincy High School where he played basketball, was a member of the National Honors Society and was involved in 4-H and FFA. Adam is a member of the MSU Dairy Club and MSU Ag Tech Dairy Judging Team. He plans to work as a herdsman before returning to his family's 200-cow dairy following graduation.



Mike Schrader, son of David and MariLou Schrader, of St. Johns, Mich., is a graduate of St. Johns High School where he built two houses for Habitat for Humanity through the Construction Trades Program and was involved in 4-H. At MSU, Mike is a member of the MSU Dairy Club. He plans to return to his family's 90-cow dairy after graduation.



Danny Foster is employed by George and Shirley Hazle. He is the son of Annette and Denis Foster of Laingsburg, Mich., and is a graduate of St. Johns High School where he played soccer. He is a member of the MSU Dairy Club and plans to purchase his own dairy farm following graduation.

Purdue University



Laura Oesch is the daughter of Michael and Judy Oesch of Middlebury, Indiana. She is a graduate of Northridge High School. Laura is a senior majoring in Agricultural Economics and works in the Purdue Ag Econ Department. She is a member of the Purdue Dairy Club where she is involved in the Boilermaker Heifer Sale. Laura is a project leader for the Elkhart County Dairy 4-H and plans to join her family's 180-cow dairy when she graduates.