

Michigan Dairy Memorial Foundation Scholarships Awarded

The Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (MDMSF) was established about 50 years ago as a way to honor individuals in the dairy industry and provide financial assistance to students with a dairy-related scholastic focus. The Foundation's endowment was established through contributions made in honor of individuals who have served the dairy industry. Income from the endowment creates scholarships that support deserving Michigan State University students who want to pursue careers in the dairy industry. The two largest scholarships available through MDMSF are awarded each year in honor of Glenn and Anne Lake, and Russel Erickson.



Katy McCracken

Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship

Michigan State University senior Katy McCracken has more time to focus on her final classes after receiving the MDMSF Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship, which pays her tuition and fees for two semesters. Katy qualified for the scholarship based on her interest in a dairy related career, her academics and extracurricular activities.

"The Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Fund has been a great benefit to me," Katy says. "It has decreased my financial burdens and makes it easier for me to focus on my school work and classes instead of worrying about money."

Katy is the daughter of MMPA members Curt and Crystal McCracken of Carson City and periodically returns to her family's 70 cow dairy to help out. Her strong roots in agriculture helped her choose her course of study at MSU, and she will graduate this December with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science with an agribusiness specialization.

Following graduation, Katy has already lined up a job as a loan officer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in Adrian. She hopes to be transferred to a FSA office close to her family's farm once she completes her training.

"Growing up on a dairy and cash crop farm, I knew that I wanted to have a career that involved the agriculture industry," Katy says.

At MSU, Katy is involved in the MSU Dairy Club where she formerly served as president. She was also a member of the collegiate level MSU Dairy Judging Team during the 2005-2006 school year.

"Dairy judging was a new experience for me – I had never done that before," Katy says. "It was a great experience and opened a lot of doors for me. I met a lot of interesting people, learned new things, got to travel, became a better public speaker and made a lot of good memories."



Mary TenBrink

Russel Erickson Endowed Scholarship

Mary TenBrink, of Coopersville, is this year's recipient of the Russel Erickson Endowed Scholarship. The \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to Mary based on her interest in a dairy related career, extracurricular activities and academics.

"I would like to give a big thanks to the selection committee and foundation for the scholarship," says Mary, who is currently a junior studying Animal Science with an Agribusiness specialty at Michigan State University. "It helps by preventing me from taking out student loans."

Mary grew up on a 180 cow dairy and returns home whenever possible to help her parents, Randy and Marie TenBrink on the farm.

"After graduation, I want to go back to the farm to be the herdsman and eventually become partners with my dad and brother," Mary says.

Once she joins the family farm full time, Mary says her education and the internship experience she gained working on a 1,600 cow dairy in California will help her more quickly detect problems in her own herd.

"Now I know what to look for when evaluating the herd and can work to find areas of improvement," Mary explains.

Participation on the MSU Dairy Judging Team gave Mary the opportunity to travel across the country and to Europe. Highlights of her judging experiences include events at the Royal Highland in Scotland, Luxembourg, and state-side to Louisville, Ky., Harrisburg, Pa. and Madison, Wis.

At MSU, Mary is the current president of the MSU Dairy Club and a member of the MSU Agronomy Club.

MSU Dairy Scholarships Awarded

The Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation, Inc. also awards scholarships to undergraduates with a dairy interest at Michigan State University. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academics, extracurricular involvement, and interest in a career in the dairy industry.

For the 2006-2007 academic year, scholarships were awarded to the following individuals:

Freshman Scholarships (\$1,500): Elizabeth Adams, Lake City, MI; Hannah Carruthers, Pinconning, MI; Jordan Drumm, Homer, MI; Joe Pasch, Weidman, MI; Nicole Schaendorf, Allegan, MI; Bill Shuler, Baroda, MI and Lynnae Slavik, Ashley, MI.

Dairy Memorial Scholarships (\$3,500): Jesse Chase, Hastings, MI; Edward Costigan, Lansing, MI; Amy Garrison, Onsted, MI; Jessica Geurink, Allendale, MI;

Joann Greenfield, Annapolis, MD; Tyler Hake, Edon, OH; Colleen Jackson, Caro, MI; Matt Jakubik, Whittemore, MI; Maria Johnson, Pittsford, MI; Greta Koebel, Three Oaks, MI; Alyssa Selesky, Lakeview, MI; Pieter Serne, Lowell, MI; Kent Thelen, Fowler, MI; Paul Windemuller, Zeeland, MI and Jennifer Venlet, Conklin, MI.

Ag Tech Scholarships (\$2,000): Jake Brindley, Rose City, MI; Tim Gamble, New Carlisle, IN; Ashley Messing, Bad Axe, MI; Adam Preston, Quincy, MI and Greg Thon, Kingsley, MI.

Applications for the 2007-2008 academic school year are due February 28, 2007. Freshman and Ag Tech applications are due September 27, 2007. MDMSF scholarship applications can be obtained from:

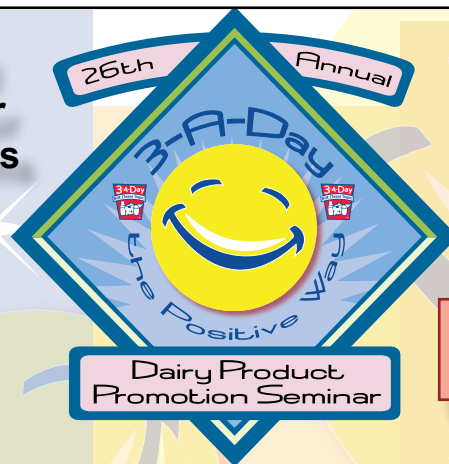
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