

Press Release



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2010 ONTARIO DAIRY YOUTH AWARD WINNERS ARE ANNOUNCED

Cambridge, ON July 12, 2010 - The Ontario Dairy Youth Award selection committee is pleased to announce the winners of the Award for 2010. This marks the 31st year of the competition that recognizes young people aged 25-35 who are actively involved in operating a dairy farm, who have demonstrated leadership and taken an active role in their communities and within their breed. These four award recipients receive an all-expense 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 – TYLER BRANDER, Rockwood (519) 856-9957 branderlea@gmail.com

Since purchasing his parents' Halton County dairy operation in 2001, West-Central Dairy Youth Award winner Tyler Brander of Branderlea Farms has hit the ground running and not looked back!

In just eight years, Tyler along with his wife, Debbie, have doubled the herd and quota holdings, purchased a farm and relocated to Rockwood, changed the herd health program to bi-weekly and switched to using the University of Guelph Teaching Hospital as their practice of choice, implemented an Ov-Synch program, built an additional silo to allow a TMR feed program and built a new heifer barn in 2010 to allow all animals to be housed on-site. The Branderlea herd is comprised of both Holsteins and Jerseys and has a current herd classification of 3 EX, 21 VG, 22 GP and 1 G and a herd BCA of 214-206-214.

Aside from the day-to-day operation of the farm, Tyler is a very active member of his community. Having completed 25 4-H clubs as a member, Tyler was also a member of the Ontario 4-H Judging Team Delegation that traveled to Louisville. Following his time as a member, he also became a Halton County leader and led a dairy fitting club for three years and a junior dairy club for five years. He was a member of Junior Farmers for 14 years and over the years held various positions including Vice-President and Sports Director, and was active in a number of provincial competitions.

EAST-CENTRAL – TARA BULLOCK, Lakefield (705) 657-3442 tara.bullock@sympatico.ca

For the second year in a row, a member of the Bullock family will travel to the World Dairy Expo as a winner of the Ontario Dairy Youth Award! This year is Tara Bullock's time to shine as the East-Central Ontario winner hailing from Cedarvilla Holsteins and Jerseys at Lakefield. Her husband, Randy, won the award in 2009.

Tara and Randy along with their family currently milk a mixed Holstein and Jersey herd of 50 cows in a three-row tie-stall barn. Since they took over management of the operation in 1999, Tara and Randy have instituted a number of changes to the herd management, facilities, breeding program and feeding program that have had a significant impact on their operation's efficiency and progressiveness. A number of renovations and additions have already been made to the current facilities, however over the next three years, the plan is to replace the existing stalls and watering system in order to better accommodate cows that are larger framed than their ancestors for whom the stalls were built in the 1970's.

Aside from operating the farm, Tara is a very active member in her community. She is currently the

secretary of the Peterborough County Holstein Club; a position she has held since 2001. As well, she is the founder and Chairperson of the Committee for the “Outstanding Service Award for Dairy Women”; an award that will be given away for the first time in early 2011. An active member of her church, Tara has been a Sunday School teacher for four years and is currently a member of the Education Committee. She is also the current Council Treasurer for the Ridpath Jr. Public School. Additionally, she completed 32 clubs as a 4-H member, was a Peterborough County 4-H Association Member for five years, completed a two-year term as President of the Peterborough 4-H Association, chaired the 4-H Awards Night for three years, organized the 2nd Annual Fundraiser Dance for MS and is an active member of the Kawartha Jersey Club.

EASTERN – CHRISTOPH UHR, Crysler (613) 987-5474 knonaudalefarms@explornet.com

Milking 75 cows and farming 1,000 acres in Stormont County, Eastern Ontario winner Christoph Uhr of Knonaudale Farms knows firsthand that success comes as a reward to a lot of hard work and dedication. Christoph and his wife Bobbi-Jo along with their three children Jasmine, Nadia and Joshua, have farmed in partnership with his dad and older brother since 1997.

Chris is the main “cow guy” at Knonaudale. Since returning to the farm full-time, he has really taken focus on improving the type of the herd, as well as increasing the percentage of the animals. In 1980, the herd was a grade herd. Today it is 100% purebred Holstein. Chris has also introduced flushing into the breeding program as a way to build on the better families in the herd and weed out the poorer lines. Emphasis is put on good udders, strength and feet and legs when selecting bulls for the herd; cows are bred for type and fed for milk production. Currently the herd classification is at 7 EX, 46 VG and 39 GP with an average BCA of 220-226-226 and an average 305-day milk yield of 10,500 kgs.

As well as working full-time on the farm, Christoph has always been and still remains a very active member of his community. Growing up he was a member of the 4-H Calf Club in Stormont County for 6 years, and he played recreational soccer and hockey for many years. More recently, Chris has become very active in the dairy community. He is the current President of the Stormont County Holstein Club and prior to this, he served as a Director with the club for nine years. He is also serving his fifth year as an EBI Delegate. He has also been a Director for the Maxville Fair Cattle Committee.

WESTERN – DAVID MCKAY, Mitchell (519) 348-0880 davlinfarms@quadro.net

When it comes to steep learning curves, Western Ontario Dairy Youth Award winner, Dave McKay is no stranger. In fact, the first time the Perth County producer milked a cow was in 1999 on the day his first nine purebred Holsteins arrived from the sale barn!

Raised on a cash crop and purebred Charolais cow-calf operation, Dave began his farming career in the hog business following his graduation from the University of Guelph with his Diploma in Agriculture in 1995. When the hog crisis hit in 1998, Dave reconsidered his farming options and made the jump into dairy cows in the fall of 1999. In order to accommodate his new venture, Dave remodeled the old bank barn on their home farm that was housing the beef herd at the time and purchased his first quota. Over the next 10 years, Dave and his wife Linda continued to renovate more stalls in the old barn while building the herd and the quota holdings. In 2009, the decision was made to build a new robotic dairy barn to replace the old facility. The Davlin herd was moved into the new barn in March 2010.

The operation currently consists of 45 milk cows in the new facility, 1000 head finishing hog barn and 500 acres that are farmed to grow feed for the dairy operation and for a rotation of corn, soybeans, and winter wheat sold for cash crop. The dairy herd is 100% purebred Holstein.

David has been a very active member of his community over the years. He completed 20+ 4-H clubs and was very active with Junior Farmers for 10 years. Currently, David is a councilor for the Perth County Holstein Club, a regional delegate for Gencor, an alternate for DHI, a director on the Mitchell and District Agricultural Society and a proud member of Gay Lea. Outside of farming, David enjoys playing baseball in the summer and competitive volleyball in the winter.