



**Press Release**  
**June 2010**

**Contact: See last paragraph**

## **Junior Dairy Leaders “Graduate” August 11 at 2010 Empire Farm Days**

Seneca Falls, NY - On Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 28 youth ages 16-19 from 19 New York State counties will graduate from the Cornell Pro-Dairy Junior Dairy Leader Program. The ceremony will be held at 2:30pm in the DairyProfit Seminars Center at Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls, NY.

“The Cornell Pro-Dairy Junior Dairy Leader program is a statewide program for youth with an interest in learning more about career opportunities in the dairy industry and gaining hands-on field experience,” says Program Coordinator Deborah Grusenmeyer.

“The yearlong program combines hands-on workshops focusing on specific facets of the dairy industry in veterinary science, dairy nutrition, production management, and on-farm production analysis with the opportunity to interact with dairy producers, industry professionals, and other dairy-interested young people,” Grusenmeyer adds.

As part of the graduation ceremony at Empire Farm Days, the 2010 class members will present a summary of their experiences throughout the program year: what they saw, what they learned, who they met and what they did during nine workshops from September 2009 to August 2010. The kick-off program included a seven-day tour of dairies and agribusinesses in Madison, Wisconsin, and attending the National 4-H Dairy Conference with more than 200 other dairy-interested youth from the U.S. and Canada.

Junior Dairy Leader Assistant Coordinator, Kim Skellie says, “The Junior Dairy Leader graduation ceremony provides participants with the opportunity to highlight their experiences and demonstrate to visitors, family, friends, agribusiness professionals and educators the dynamic aspect of dairy education and the multitude of dairy career opportunities.

The 2009-2010 NYS Junior Dairy Leader class includes 28 students from 19 counties:

- Broome County: Jessica Mras
- Cayuga County: Rebecca Ryan
- Chautauqua County: Emily Knight
- Cortland County: Megan Wildman
- Delaware County: Katelyn Walley
- Erie County: Magdalene Richmond
- Franklin County: Mary DeBeer

- Genesee County: Matthew Gould, Anika Zuber
- Jefferson County: Jacob Griep
- Madison County: Brian Oster, Zachary Taylor
- Oneida County: Meghan Vaill, Eric Worden
- Orleans County: Betsey McKenna
- Oswego County: Carolyn Dudden
- Renssalaer County: Patricia Lamb
- Steuben County: Isaac Oman
- St. Lawrence County: Morgan Chambers
- Washington County: Justin Braun, Peter Braun, Tyler Clark, Mary Foote
- Wayne County: Emma Andrew, Edward Facer, Kelly Nagel
- Wyoming County: Marshall Hinz, Lyman Rudgers.

The Junior Dairy Leader Program sponsors include Pro-Dairy, Agway Foundation, New York Farm Viability Institute, New York Center for Dairy Excellence, Dehm Associates, Shur-Gain USA, Genex/CRI, Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement Program, Cargill Animal Nutrition, and Cornell's Department of Animal Science.

For more information on the Junior Dairy Leader Program, contact Deborah Grusenmeyer, Cornell University Pro-Dairy Youth Program, 607-255-0656, [djc27@cornell.edu](mailto:djc27@cornell.edu).

For more information on Empire Farm Days, contact Manager Melanie Wickham, 877-697-7837, [mwickham@empirefarmdays.com](mailto:mwickham@empirefarmdays.com).

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**JPG(s):** The 2010 class of Junior Dairy Leaders will make presentations on their year-long agricultural learning opportunities on Wednesday, August 11 at 2:30pm at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls, NY.