

Maryland & Virginia Awards \$7,500 in Scholarships to Deserving Youth

April 19, 2011 (Reston, Va.) - Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative is pleased to award \$7,500 in scholarships to ten deserving students for the 2011-2012 academic school year. Maryland & Virginia awards five \$1,000 scholarships annually and through the generosity of directors and leadership council members, the cooperative is awarding five additional \$500 scholarships this year. *"College expenses like everything else are going up,"* CEO Jay Bryant said. *"Tomorrow's dairy leaders need an extra hand today to make sure they get the right start."*

Congratulations to the five \$1,000 winners Tracey Forsythe, Hagerstown, Md.; Chris Potts, Purcellville, Va.; Charlotte Thompson, Union Bridge, Md.; Luke Trout, Baldwin, Md.; and Clayborne Zimmerman, Walkersville, Md.

Tracey Forsythe, Hagerstown, Md.

Tracey will be entering her junior year at Delaware Valley College in the fall where she is majoring in Agribusiness and carrying a minor in horticulture. She is active in the school's dairy club and has also been involved in running track and cross country for the past five years. Tracey is a member of Washington County 4-H Dairy Club where she has held a variety of office. In the future Tracey hope to own her own business, either a dairy operation or greenhouse.

Chris Potts, Purcellville, Va.

Chris is majoring in Dairy Science and minoring in Agriculture Economics at Virginia Tech. He has received recognitions from Holstein Association USA, FFA, Virginia Junior Holstein Association and Virginia 4-H as well as makes it on to the Dean's List. In the future, Chris plan on returning to and eventually managing the family farm. He hopes to use his knowledge to modernize their farm and continue to breed high quality cattle.

Charlotte Thompson, Union Bridge, Md.

A University of Maryland Eastern Shore student, Charlotte, is the daughter of Frank and Pam Thompson. She is a member of several 4-H clubs and FFA Chapters, as well as the National Honors Society. After college, Charlotte hopes to "be an admirable agricultural business woman" and positively impact the dairy industry. She is currently studying Agri-business and plans on pursuing a career in agricultural economics. -more

Luke Trout, Baldwin, Md.

Luke is studying biochemistry and math at St. Mary's College of Maryland. He is the son of Jim and Renee Trout and works on a local dairy farm where he has several responsibilities and also works part-time at a domestic veterinary clinic. Luke has earned many academic acknowledgments and is active in several community organizations. Following graduation, Luke hopes to attend vet school and later return to his hometown to serve the local farms.

Clayborne Zimmerman, Walkersville, Md.

A Walkersville native, Clayborne is currently completing his first year at Virginia Tech where he is majoring in Dairy Science. Clayborne has been active in 4-H and FFA for many years and spent the past year as an active member of the Virginia Tech Dairy Club. He consistently made the honor roll and also has certification for welding. After college, Clayborne hopes to return to his grandparents' farm full time.

The five \$500 scholarship winners are Sarah Innerst, Red Lion, Pa.; Collins Lethbridge, Union Bridge, Md.; Austin Schwartzbeck, Union Bridge, Md.; Roxanne Seltzer, Selinsgrove, Pa.; and Jason Zimmerman, Littlestown, Pa.

Sarah Innerst, Red Lion, Pa.

Sarah is currently enrolled in Delaware Valley College, pursuing a degree in Dairy Science. She is the daughter of Dean and Becky Innerst and has been very active in FFA and various collegiate activities. Sarah hopes to someday return to the family farm and pursue a career that will positively impact the dairy industry.

Collins Lethbridge, Union Bridge, Md.

Collins will enter Carroll Community College as a freshman this fall. He has been active in 4-H and FFA where he has participated in Dairy Judging, Tractor Operating and other competitions. Collins is enrolled in a welding course and plans on using his education to bring mechanical innovations back to the family farm. He intends to return to the farm and continue working alongside his family.

Austin Schwartzbeck, Union Bridge, Md.

As a student at Virginia Tech, Austin is pursuing a degree in dairy science. He has spent the past several years breeding and showing high quality Holsteins and also competing in both dairy judging and dairy bowl. Austin plans to return to his family's farm as the fourth generation. He hopes to help continue to improve the farm's profitability through cattle genetics and crop production and management.

Roxanne Seltzer, Selinsgrove, Pa.

The daughter of Dennis and Nancy Seltzer, Roxanne currently attends Virginia Tech where she studies dairy science. On the farm she helps milk and care for the calves, as well as completes any other necessary tasks. Roxanne hopes to use her education to help bridge the gap between consumers and farmers in order to promote dairy products and farming practices.

Jason Zimmerman, Littlestown, Pa.

Although Jason did not grow up on a farm, he is actively involved in his grandparents operation. He has exhibited Holsteins at many local fairs and often mentors younger youth. Jason was also active in the Montgomery County 4-H Dairy Club and traveled to Madison on the Maryland Dairy Judging team where they placed first in the nation. After graduating from Virginia Tech with a degree in dairy science and pre-veterinary medicine, Jason plans on attending vet school and pursuing a career as a large animal vet.

Each of the ten scholarship winners are a son, daughter or employee of a Maryland & Virginia member and are attending an accredited four-year college or university. They were evaluated by a selection committee on the basis of their response to essay questions, their financial need, and their desire for a career in the dairy industry.

For more information about the cooperative's scholarship program, please contact Suzanne Perdue, Communications Specialist, 800-552-1976 or via e-mail at sperdue@mdvamilk.com.

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Owned and operated by 1,500 dairy farm families from Pennsylvania to Georgia, Maryland & Virginia is a milk marketing and processing cooperative providing consumers throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern U.S. with fresh milk and dairy products. Maryland & Virginia owns and operates three fluid processing plants; Marva Maid of Newport News, Va., Marva Maid of Landover, Md., and Maola Milk and Ice Cream Company in New Bern, N.C.; two manufacturing plants; one in Laurel, Md. and Valley Milk LLC located in Strasburg, Va.; and a farm supply warehouse business in Frederick, Md.