

Penn State Dairy Scholars Receive Awards

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Several Penn State University Department of Dairy and Animal Science students recently received monetary awards in recognition of their efforts.

Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science has chosen three scholars to receive the John O. Almquist Graduate Student Research Award, which is a \$3,000 endowment to support research in pursuit of a graduate degree.

At the same time, two students received scholarships of \$1,000 each from the American Feed Industry Association in recognition of their outstanding achievement, scholarship, citizenship, leadership, character, and activity.

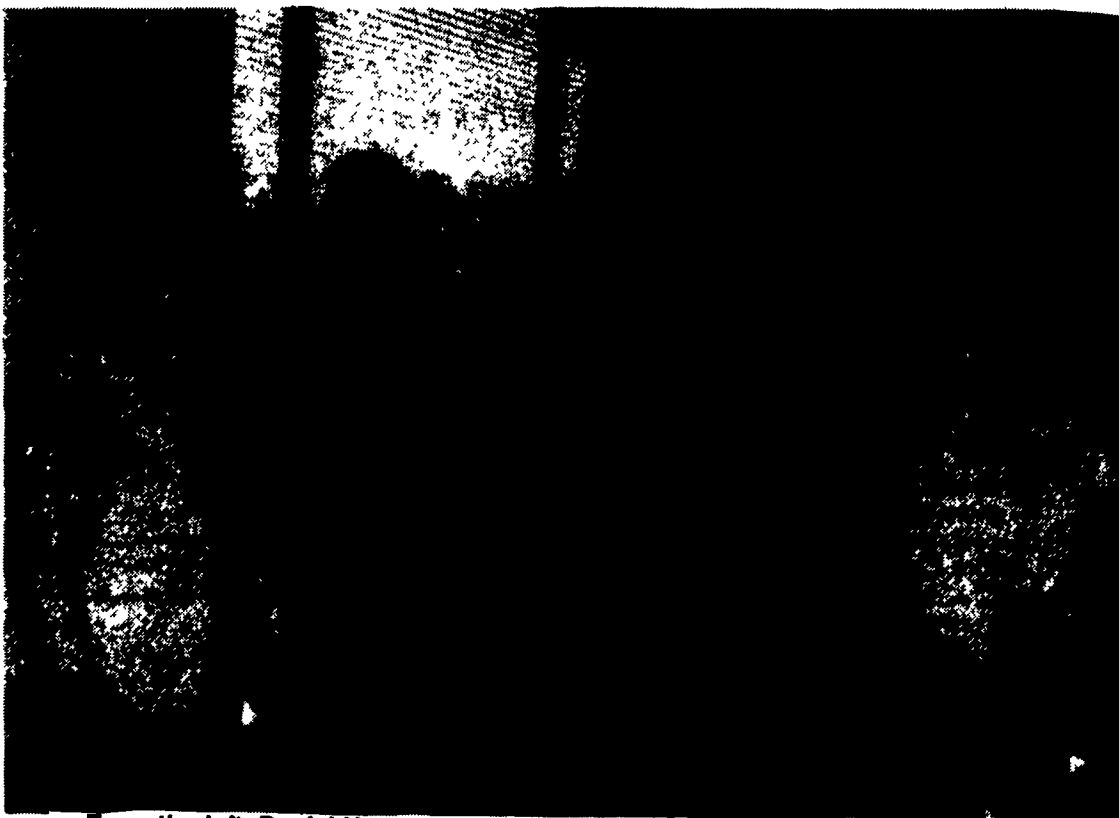
The Almquist award recipients were Valerie Fishell, Douglas Hongerholt, and George Vatzias, all three of whom are candidates for doctorate degrees. Harry Roth, of Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, which sponsors the award, presented them during a recent ceremony in State College.

Department head Stanley Curtis said, "We are grateful for Atlantic Breeders' generosity and vision in support of graduate study and research in animal science."

Fishell is researching the effect of dietary vitamin E on pork composition and quality; Hongerholt's is pursuing the effects of grain feeding frequency on rumen fermentation and lactational response of dairy cows rotationally grazed



From the left, Kanthasamy Karunanandaa and Brian Lammner, studying with the Penn State University Department of Dairy and Animal Sciences are the recipients of scholarships from the American Feed Industry Association.



From the left, Daniel Hagen, chairman of the John O. Almquist Graduate Student Research Awards Committee, stands with recipients Doug Hongerholt and Valerie Fishell, Harry Roth representing sponsor Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, and John Almquist, for whom the award is named. Not shown is award recipient George Vatzias.

on pasture; while Vatzias is investigating the effect of genetic selection for high ovulation rate on insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-1) and IGF-binding protein concentrations in ovulation follicular fluid of gilts.

All three are to present their findings in the department's Colloquium series during the semester their thesis is completed.

John Almquist, for whom the awards were named, was present during the ceremony. He served on the Penn State faculty for almost 40 years and retired in 1983.

He had joined the research faculty in 1944, six years before his creation of the Dairy Breeding Research Center. In 1981 Alm-

quist was the recipient of the Wolf Prize in Agriculture, comparable to winning the Nobel Prize, for his work in artificial insemination for livestock improvement, according to a department news release.

The recipients of the American Feed Industry Association scholarships were Brian Lammners and Kanthasamy Karunanandaa.

Lammners, who is pursuing a masters degree in animal science, entered the department's graduate program last fall, after completing undergraduate work in dairy science at Ohio State University.

Kanthasamy recently passed his comprehensive doctorate examination and is to spend the next year working on his thesis in ruminant

nutrition. He completed his undergraduate degree in Sri Lanka before receiving a master's degree in agronomy from Penn State.

He was also first among 11 entrants in a graduate student paper presentation contest during this summer's Eastern Forage Improvement Conference, sponsored by the Northeastern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy. His presentation was on botanical fractions of rice straw colonized by white-rot fungi: the effect of fiber digestion and fermentation characteristics in vitro.

The study was co-authored by Gabriella Varga, Steven Fales, and Daniel Royse.

Dairylea Holds Meeting, Selects Executive Committee

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The board of directors of Dairylea Cooperative Inc., based in Syracuse, N.Y., recently re-elected its executive committee for another year during a recent reorganizational meeting held at the cooperative's annual meeting in Liverpool, N.Y.

The delegate body also ratified a redistricting plan which changes district boundaries to make them closer to equal in membership strength.

Dairylea is a Syracuse, N.Y.-based dairy cooperative with more than 2,300 member farms throughout the Northeast. It markets a total of 3.1 billion pounds of milk annually and participates and is invested in a milk marketing network stretching from Maine to Maryland and Ohio.

More than 750 farmer members and industry guests attended the two-day annual convention, which included a management presentation by Dairylea Chief Executive Office Rick Smith, and an annual address by Clyde Rutherford, the cooperative's president.

Re-elected to the executive committee were Clyde Rutherford, of Otego, N.Y., president; Warren Beardsley, of Fairport, N.Y., at first vice president; Raymond Diebold, of Altoona, second vice president; James Madigan, of Towanda, as treasurer; and Raymond Johnson, of Schaghticoke, N.Y., as assistant treasurer.

In other electoral action, Douglas Young, of Union Springs, N.Y., Hugh Humphreys, of New

Hartford, N.Y., and Edgar King, of Schuylerville, N.Y., were three new members seated on the board of directors. Beardsley and August Knispel, of Pittstown, N.J., were both re-elected to the board.

During his presentation to the delegates and guests, Smith said that the cooperative has continued to pay a competitive price to dairy farmer members with milk sales increasing by \$38 million, or 12.5 percent over 1992 sales.

According to Smith, total milk marketed this year increased by 11.3 percent, going from 2.2 billion pounds in 1992 to 2.5 billion pounds this past year.

At the same time, member and affiliate member milk production increased 15 percent.

According to the cooperative, it experienced an increase in member farms, with 627 dairy farmers joining within the last 18 months.

The co-op's growth compares to a farm decrease of 5.6 percent in the New York-New Jersey Milk Marketing Order, and a 2.8 percent decrease in farms within the Northeast milkshed.

"Our organization had another strong year," Smith said, "ending in a profit of \$1,217,000. This marks the fifth successive year of annualized profits in excess of \$1 million."

Smith also said that the co-op reports a \$2.3 million increase in tax-paid retained earnings; a debt-to-equity improvement to 81 cents on the dollar from last year's \$1.10 debt for \$1 equity; and member equity, as a percentage of total

assets improved 22.9 percent over last year.

Rutherford, in his president's address, talked about the changes at Dairylea in the past 15 years, which covers his service as the co-op's president.

"Our membership understands that, to achieve our goals, we may do things a little differently —

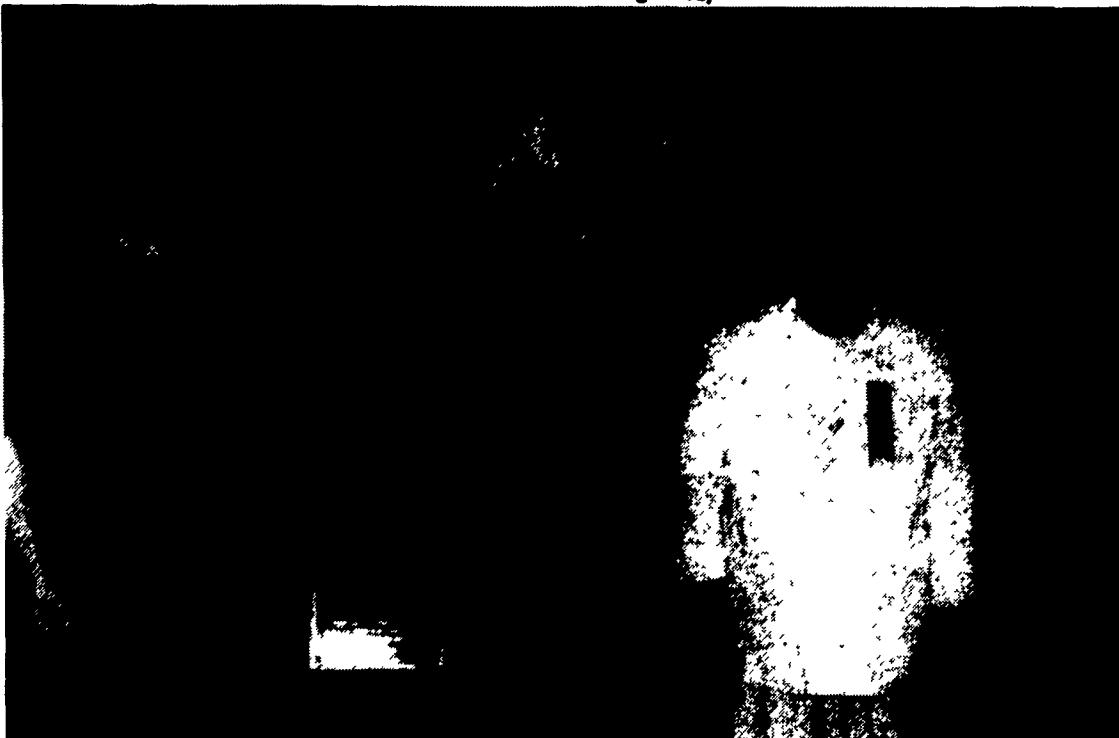
different from the past and different from other cooperatives. The continued support and encouragement of our members has enable the cooperative to travel down both unfamiliar and innovative roads, which ultimately have led to greener pastures," he said.

He also said that there is a need for national unity among dairy farmers regarding federal dairy policy.

"We all share the common goal of wanting to improve the financial situation of the dairy farming community. However, too much time is wasted arguing about which road to take, rather than concentrating on arriving at our destination," Rutherford said.

Dairymen, Inc. Honors Quality Producers

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Recognized for 75 continuous years of membership with the Dairymen Middle Atlantic Division and its predecessor Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers were, from left, Ben and Dorothy Markline and grandson B.J. Waltmyer, David Patrick, and Wilfred and Annie Hoff.