

300 Attend Young Dairy Leaders Institute

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Young dairy leaders from across the country arrived in Tampa, Florida, on Feb. 3, for the Holstein Foundation's Young Dairy Leaders Institute.

Participants engaged in four all-day training sessions focused on leadership and communications skills training.

At the end of the Institute, approximately 300 young dairy leaders, working with all breeds of

dairy cattle, and from throughout the country, will have participated in the Institute since 1994.

Following their initial training sessions, participants will undertake year-long "field work" and return to Florida in February 2000 for final training workshops. When asked what prompted Institute participant Karla Spencer from Houston, Missouri, to attend she replied, "I came to YDLI to learn how to help bridge the gap

between businesses and agriculture in my community."

Maria Nye from Delta, Utah, expressed her views about the training program when she said, "What has really impressed me is that people are interested in what John and I think about various things rather than only focusing on what we know. I like that a lot and it is different from other seminars I have attended."

During the February 1999 train-

ing, participants set personal goals, developed speaking skills, explored people types and personality styles, learned about balancing professional and personal demands, heard about ways to manage change and stress, learned about farm business succession and estate planning, participated in technology skills training for Internet applications to help increase profitability of dairy operations, and were introduced to an

economics workshop on managing risk, change and opportunity for dairy business.

Presenters included Emory Austin, noted national keynote speaker on leadership and communication; Jim Henion, director of training and staff development, Cooperative Resources International; Don Rogers, senior farm business consultant with First

Pioneer Farm Credit; Dr. Mark Varner, professor of animal and avian sciences, University of Maryland; Alan Zolin, director, Dairy Procurement, Kraft Foods, Inc.; David Okerlund, consultant and keynote speaker, leadership/communications.

Support for the 1999-2000 Institute comes from a major individual gift from William T. Graham, founder of World Dairy Center, in Madison, Wisconsin and the following generous corporations.

ABS Global; Agway Foundation; Alfa Laval Agri, Inc.; Allflex USA, Inc.; Alta Genetics USA, Inc.; American Jersey Cattle Association; Blue Seal Feeds, Inc.; Church & Dwight Co., Inc.; Cooperative Resources International; Dairy Farmers of America; Dairy Herd Management Magazine; Hoard's Dairyman; Holstein World; H.W. Naylor Company, Inc.; INVESCO Capital Management, Inc.; Key Foundation; Kraft Dairy Trust; Kraft Foods, Inc.; Land O'Lakes, Inc.; National All-Jersey; Niagara Mohawk Foundation; Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement Program; P & C Teat Dip, Inc.; Protiva-A Unit of Monsanto Company; Purina Mills, Inc.; Scoular Company - Commodity Marketing Division; Scoular Foundation; Select Sires; Semex, USA; Sire Power, Inc.; World Dairy Expo; and Zinpro Corporation.

The Holstein Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing and sustaining leaders to meet the challenges of a changing agriculture. For more information about the Holstein Foundation, its programs, or Young Dairy Leaders Institute, please contact Donna Beal, Director of Development, at 800-952-5200, ext. 2280.



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