

Maryland and Virginia Announces 2000 'Outstanding Young Cooperators'

RESTON, Va. — Jeff and Lisa Bender from Norlina, N.C. were named Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers' 2000 Outstanding Young Cooperators (YC).

Announced at the cooperative's 80th annual meeting on Wednesday, March 29, the Outstanding YCs will represent Maryland and Virginia at two national educational conferences and will attend monthly board meetings in Reston, Va.

The conferences include the National Institute on Cooperative Education in Nashville, Tenn., in August and the National Milk Producers YC Conference and Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas, in November.

Graduates of North Carolina State University, Jeff and Lisa have operated the dairy together since 1991 when they began milking 100 cows. Currently milking 245 Holsteins and managing 400 acres of crops, the Benders are focused on consistently improving their farm by upgrading the facilities to improve cow comfort as well as improving the efficiency and productivity of their cropping systems. They have one son, Jacob, who helps look after the calves and is active in several 4-H projects.

Runners-Up Gordon and Sheila Lee from Landrum, S.C., were named first runners-up and will attend the National Milk Producers YC Conference and Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas, in November. The Lees operate Lees Dairy Farm Inc. where they milk 100 Holsteins and raise 70 youngstock.

Tim Motley from Chatham, Va., was selected second runner-up and will attend the National Institute on Cooperative Education in Nashville, Tenn., in August. With his wife, Carol, and three children Adam, Melissa and Julie, Tim operates a 145-cow milking herd and raises 165 replacement heifers.

Timmy and Tammie French from Woodstock, Va., and Billy and Anne French from Maurertown, Va., were named third and fourth runners-up, respectively, and will attend the Pennsylvania Council of

Cooperatives YC Leadership Conference in Carlisle, Pa., in July. Timmy and Tammie milk 80 Jerseys and Holsteins on Skip-A-Dale farm and manage all aspects of the farm from herd health to crops. Billy and Anne have operated French Brothers Dairy for the past 19 years and currently milk 119 Holsteins and raise 106 youngstock.

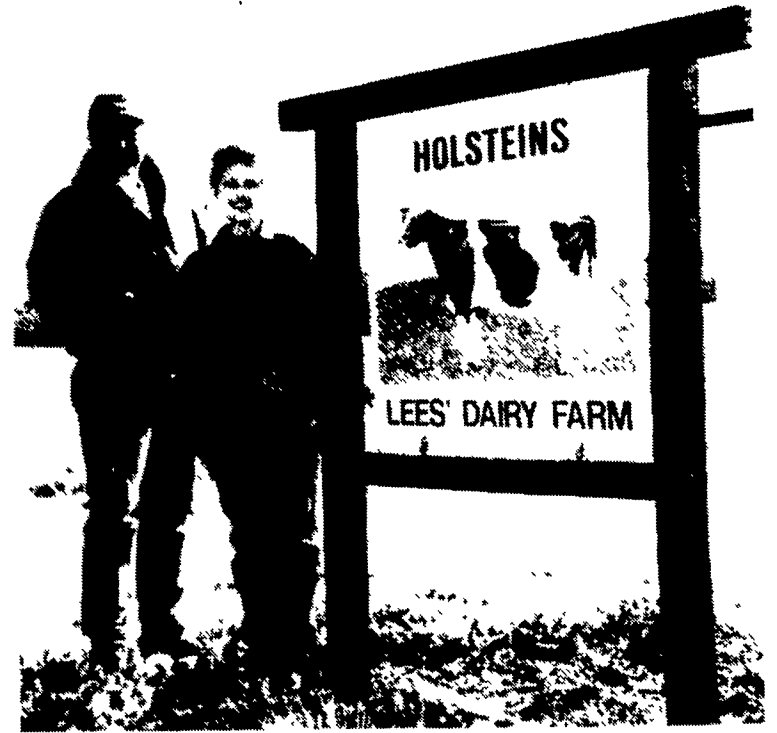
All YC contestants will be invited to attend a Maryland and Virginia board meeting and tour the cooperative headquarters in Reston, Va. Other contestants were: Billy & Beverly Ethridge,

Bowman, S.C.; John & Mary Goodwin, Orange, Va.; Byron Graybeal, Peach Bottom, Pa.; Charles Harris, Mineral, Va.; Ronnie & Cyndi Messick, Midland, Va.; Thurman Nesbitt, McConnellsburg, Pa.; and Clint Walker, Clinton, S.C.

Based on an application, interview and response to an industry round-table discussion question, participants were evaluated on their dairy career progress, communication skills, cooperative knowledge and organizational activities.



Tim Motley, Chatham, Va., was named second runner-up in Maryland and Virginia's Outstanding Young Cooperator Contest. Shown with him are his wife, Carol, and their three children, left to right: Adam, 18, Melissa, 14, and Julie, 7.



Named first runners-up were Gordon and Sheila Lee, Landrum, S.C. The couple milks 100 Holsteins and raises 70 replacement heifers on Lees Dairy Farm.

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