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2010 NDS Graduate Dairy Production Award Presented to New York Producer

Maribel, Wis.—The National Dairy Shrine announced the recipient of the 2010 Graduate Dairy Production Award as Timothy Northrop of York, New York. The award was first presented in 2009 and was created to recognize, encourage and assist qualified four-year agricultural college graduates to pursue careers in commercial dairying and to gain ownership of dairy cattle to grow the size of their herd. The award is sponsored by Elanco Animal Health, and is awarded annually to a candidate who applies during their second to fourth year after college graduation.

Northrop is a 2005 graduate of Cornell University, where he focused closely on dairy herd management, agricultural business management and finance. He says that, “each of these three area play an integral role in operating a successful dairy business.”

He was able to utilize these skills upon graduation, when he put together a business plan to start-up his own dairy operation. Northrop was approved for a loan for 36 milking cows, which he purchased while renting facilities in northern New York. While production was low and reproductive function poor in the herd he acquired, Northrop was able to almost doubled production and utilize an aggressive reproductive program to grow herd numbers from 36 to 90 animals in just a two-year period.

Maxed out in his facilities, Northrop moved his cows to western New York in September 2007, to the location where he currently resides. Over the past two-and-a-half years, Northrop has grown his animals numbers from 90 cows and 40 heifers to nearly 400 cows and 290 heifers.

“I manage all aspects of the business including the financial management, herd management and employee management,” says Northrop. “Throughout the last four years, I have worked closely with veterinarians, nutritionists and financial consultants to make sure from both a farm and business management standpoint that I am making informed decisions that will improve the overall profitability of my business.”

To stay abreast of current issues and connected with other dairy producers, Northrop has participated in the Cornell Dairy Profit Monitor Program as well as the Cornell Dairy Farm Business Summary. He is currently involved in a large herd discussion group that encompasses progressive herds across New York and Pennsylvania, while also attending industry conferences and being active in his milk cooperative.

As Northrop continues to grow his operation, he looks to the future as an exciting time for his operation.

“I continue to move forward with my dairy career with great enthusiasm. I believe the dairy industry has and will continue to offer great potential for investment,” states Northrop. “I am very excited at the prospect of continued financial growth and investment in dairy as a way of life to provide for a family in the future.”