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National Dairy Shrine Announces Merton Sowerby Junior Scholarships

Denmark, WI. The National Dairy Shrine is pleased to announce the recipients of the Merton Sowerby Junior Merit Scholarships for 2019. These scholarships are designed to encourage qualified Junior status undergraduate students to pursue careers in the dairy industry or related occupations. This scholarship is named in honor of National Dairy Hall of Fame Pioneer and Klussendorf honoree Merton Sowerby.

**Emily Annexstad of St Peter, Minnesota** has been awarded the top scholarship of $1500. Emily is double majoring in Animal Science and Agricultural Communication & Marketing at the University of Minnesota. Emily is secretary of the campus National Agri-Marketing Association, serves as a Midwest Dairy Ambassador, was vice president of the Beta of Clovia Sorority and is active in the Gopher Dairy Club currently serving as President. Ms. Annexstad had also served as the 64th Princess Kay of the Milky Way. Emily plans on a career in dairy communications championing the positives of the dairy industry.

Additionally, five other undergraduate students have been awarded $1000 scholarships. They are **Shoshana Brody from Baltimore, Maryland** a major in Animal Science at Penn State University. At Penn State Ms. Brody is President of the Penn State Dairy Science Club, Vice President of the Penn State Coaly Society, and Vice President of the Penn State Reproduction Research Team. She is a member of Gamma Sigma Delta and in Schreyer Honors College. With a great interest in science and biology this year Ms. Brody is concentrating on furthering her knowledge of dairy science by working in the dairy nutrition laboratory of Dr Kevin Harvatine.

**Sarah Thomas of Pittsboro, North Carolina** who is attending Virginia Tech majoring in Dairy Science. Sarah is very active in campus organizations at Virginia Tech, being a leader in numerous positions with the Dairy Science club, President of Sigma Alpha and a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Ambassador. Sarah has been a member of a collegiate judging team which had never placed lower than second at four national contests highlighted by her being named an All American at the National Contest in 2018. This summer Sarah is serving as the Hoard’s Dairyman summer intern and in the future, she would like to be a program specialist for the Holstein Association and the Holstein Foundation.

**Sanne de Bruijn of Vicksburg, Michigan** who is attending South Dakota State University double majoring in Dairy Production and Dairy Manufacturing. Sanne is a student ambassador for the Ag College at SDSU, Head mentor of the freshman dairy seminar class, on the SDSU College Student Council and Vice President of the SDSU Dairy Club. She has worked with the Midwest Dairy Association, attended Agriculture Future of America Conferences and is a member of the SDSU Dairy Products Evaluation team. Sanne’s dream is to breed a genetically superior dairy herd, process their milk into nutritious products, while maintaining a farm open to the public to show the attributes of excellent animal care and management.
Madeline Meyer of Ionia, Michigan who is attending Michigan State University and majoring in Animal Science. Madeline is the current Director of the Michigan State FFA convention, Secretary of the MSU Dairy Club, President of the MSU Block & Bridle club, member of the MSU Dairy Cattle Judging team and has participated in Dairy Challenge. Madeline has worked in the research lab with Dr. Vandehaar and as a Purina Animal Nutrition intern. Her experience in 4-H and FFA by mentoring younger students has developed a passion for education. Ultimately Madeline would like to become a dairy science educator and judging team coach at MSU.

Lauren Heberling of Carsonville, Michigan who is attending Michigan State University majoring in Agribusiness and Food Industry Management. At MSU Lauren is the President of the MSU Dairy Club, Vice President of Collegiate Farm Bureau, a Representative of the Student Senate, member of NAMA, Sigma Alpha, the MSU Dairy Challenge and Dairy Judging teams. Lauren is the current editor of the Michigan FFA magazine, has had internships with Michigan Milk Producers Association and as a Sustain Intern with Land O Lakes this year. Ms. Heberling plans on a future in dairy product marketing.

The annual National Dairy Shrine Scholarship & Awards Banquet will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, on Thursday October 3rd at 5:30 PM. For more information about the students being recognized by National Dairy Shrine or tickets for the Awards Banquet, contact the NDS office at info@dairyshrine.org. Additional information on National Dairy Shrine membership or other activities is also available at www.dairyshrine.org. Dairy enthusiasts are encouraged to become a part of the most important dairy organization helping to inspire future dairy leaders, honor current or past dairy leaders and preserve dairy industry history.

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Pictures are available if desired. Please contact info@dairyshrine.org to obtain photos of the honorees.