Learn From the Past to Build the Future

National Dairy Shrine was created by a group of visionary leaders to celebrate the dairy industry. The founders wanted to memorialize the contributions of previous leaders, honor current dairy leaders and inspire future dairy leaders while documenting these stories in a permanent home of dairy history that can be shared with generations to come. The National Dairy Shrine Museum and National Dairy Hall of Fame in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin has all of those ideals on display. The recognition of past and present dairy icons as well as their personal stories of success can be an inspiration for anyone. Furthermore I believe that the goal of encouraging the best and brightest students to be leaders of tomorrow is growing ever more important. Our industry is losing numerous dairy leaders to retirement who have formed the foundation of outstanding progress. Will the next generation of leaders be able to step up to accept the challenge of making a greater future? National Dairy Shrines’ goal is to facilitate the development of the next generation. Please help us by spending a little time getting young people involved in dairy industry events, enrolling at dairy schools of higher education and developing their leadership skills.

National Dairy Shrine is evolving to meet the challenges of society’s cultural shifts. More and more students are in need of financial aid so NDS has responded by nearly doubling the number of scholarships available to students. No matter what year you are in college there is a NDS scholarship that you can apply for. We also have scholarships available to students at 2 year dairy programs. NDS proudly sponsors the National 4-H Dairy Conference and supports the National Dairy Quiz bowl, both activities help encourage and educate young dairy minds.

National Dairy Shrine is building a presence on social media with a Face Book page that has nearly 2500 followers. Since the younger generation continually makes use of these types of communication, NDS is moving forward with creating a larger social media footprint. Even for some of our older members communication has changed. Now over half of the 7000 members receiving the Chronicle get it delivered via email. This saves greatly on the costs of printing and mailing, freeing up even more dollars for scholarships. If you would like to receive the Chronicle by email please send your email address to our office and request the switch. Likewise if you know of someone who is not receiving the Chronicle please get us their current postal or email address. Unfortunately we have many members who do not receive the Chronicle as the office no longer has a valid address.

The National Dairy Shrine Museum and Dairy Hall of Fame are continually being updated to allow easier access to a trove of dairy information for even the most enthusiastic visitor. The displays are not just photos of the great dairy leaders but now you have finger tip access to their biographies and in some cases videos of these great leaders discussing their part of dairy history. What a valuable and irreplaceable resource for future generations. Other improvements with displays and explanatory information only enhance the viewing experience. If you are ever in the area, plan on making time to visit the NDS Museum and National Dairy Hall of Fame.

Our organization has been blessed with dairy leaders willing to volunteer their time and talent to promote the ideals of National Dairy Shrine. If you look at the individuals that have served as NDS Presidents or Board members it is literally a Who’s Who of the dairy industry. Additionally, many dairy leaders and members have generously donated funds to help with the expenses of NDS recognition programs. These funds are vital to maintaining critical programs. We are also reaching-out to individuals to include National Dairy Shrine in their estate planning. Remember, all donations large or small are a great way to pay forward for the next generation.

The current National Dairy Shrine Board is comprised of talented dedicated dairy leaders who represent all facets of this great industry and have a shared passion to make the future even brighter. Our Board is continually seeking out new avenues to enhance revenue, control expenses and maintaining a strong investment fund balance while keeping the fundamental mission of honoring the past & present and encouraging the future as the ultimate goal.

If you would like to join this effort please volunteer to serve on an NDS selection committee, provide suggestions to the office or current board members, sign up a new NDS member, encourage students to apply for scholarships, and always promote the future of the dairy industry. By utilizing the best ideas of the past and enhancing the present with new improvements, together we can build a brighter future.

National Dairy Shrine is a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the strength of the dairy industry through recognition, encouragement, promotion, education and preservation of the dairy history of previous generations. Founded in 1949, the National Dairy Shrine has thousands of lifetime members consisting of dairy producers, scientists, students, educators, marketers, sales people, consultants, journalists, cheese makers and other dairy enthusiasts who are passionate about the dairy industry.
Thanks from Dairy Students

Dear National Dairy Shrine,

Thanks you very much for the Lancaster Sophomore Merit Scholarship of $1000. I am very honored to receive this money to use for my education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to receive this scholarship and attend the Award’s Banquet during World Dairy Expo. It was amazing to be alongside successful dairy industry leaders and fellow dairy students. Thank you again for supporting the future of the dairy industry.

Sincerely Elisabeth Regusci

Dear National Dairy Shrine,

I am Sophia Apteker from New Salem, Massachusetts. I have been in 4-H for many years but this is the first time I have been to the National 4-H Dairy Conference. The tour and the lunch at the National Dairy Shrine was one of the trip’s highlights. I appreciated the complete meal and the National Dairy Shrine itself was very educational. I learned a lot about the changing industry. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely Sophia Apteker, Mass. Delegate

Dear National Dairy Shrine,

Thank you for your generous support of the 4-H program and your contributions to World Dairy Expo 2017. We genuinely appreciate your sponsorship of the dairy judging contest. It was truly a life changing opportunity to stand on the colored shavings and represent the state of California. There is definitely an energy and excitement that goes with the experience which cannot be explained by words. We have many fond memories that will be with us forever that have now become a part of who we are. Please know that your support is greatly appreciated and beneficial for the future of agriculture. Thank you again for making it possible for all competitors at World Dairy Expo 2017 to learn, grow and experience one of the greatest spectacles in agriculture.

Sincerely J.T. Leonardo, Laila Rollin, Margarita Gonzalez, Siena Rollin and Coach Donnie Rollin California State 4-H Dairy judging Team 2017

Dear National Dairy Shrine,

Thank you so much for helping National 4-Hers to receive such an amazing opportunity doing and competing in something we love. The experience at the National 4-H Quiz Bowl has brought me closer to the people in my county, but also to people from around the country.

Sincerely, Emily Queen, Oconee County, GA.
The National Dairy Shrine is again seeking nominations for its most prestigious awards: Guest of Honor, Pioneer, Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder, Progressive Commercial Dairy Manager, and Graduate Production Award.

The Guest of Honor is given to a contemporary dairy leader for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the dairy industry. It has been awarded every year since 1949 when Dean H. Kildee was named the first Guest of Honor. Also each year, three to four living or deceased Pioneers of the dairy industry are honored by for their service and leadership in the dairy industry. Meanwhile, the Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder is an award which recognizes active, progressive dairy producers who, through their expertise in managing a dairy breeding herd based upon sound genetics and business principles, serve as a model of success for fellow breeders throughout the country. All these award winners' accomplishments are on permanent display in the National Dairy Hall of Fame at the National Dairy Shrine Museum in Fort Atkinson, Wis.

One of the newer awards is the Progressive Commercial Dairy Manager recognition, which is given to producers ages 21 to 50 who have introduced and applied effective management and business practices that help achieve more profitable dairy businesses, as well as contributing leadership to dairy organizations. The Graduate Dairy Production Award recognizes and assists qualified two-year and four-year agricultural college graduates efforts to pursue a career in commercial dairy farming and to gain ownership of dairy cattle with the intent of growing their dairy herd. The applicant must be employed in a herd management role on a commercial dairy when completing the award application. The winner will receive a $2,500 award.

Nominations or applications must be submitted on official forms found on our website by March 15.
Applications due for Guest of Honor, Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder, Pioneer, Dairy Manager Grant and Graduate Production Awards. Applications can be found at www.dairyshrine.org

All student applications will be accepted for the various National Dairy Shrine scholarships. Please refer to www.dairyshrine.org for more information, procedures and application forms for all scholarships.

National Dairy Shrine Annual Meeting, Reception and Awards Banquet in Madison, Wisconsin.