



Empire Farm Days: August 7-9, 2018
Rodman Lott & Son Farms, Seneca Falls, NY
877-697-7837, www.empirefarmdays.com



Photo (empirefarmdays.com/newsroom): Junior Dairy Leaders Class of 2018 with Program Coordinator Deborah Grusenmeyer, front row 2nd from right, and Advisor David Grusenmeyer to her right. Photo: Junior DAIRY LEADER Program

PRESS RELEASE: May 2018

Celebrating Farm Youth at 2018 Empire Farm Days: 31 Junior DAIRY LEADERS from 2 States to Graduate August 8

Seneca Falls, NY – The dairy industry will celebrate the graduation of 31 Junior DAIRY LEADERS, representing New York and Vermont, on Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at 1:30 pm in the Dairy Profit Seminar Center at Empire Farm Days. The event that is the Northeast's largest outdoor farm show is held at Rodman Lott & Son Farms, 2973 Route 414, Seneca Falls, NY.

The Cornell PRO-DAIRY Junior DAIRY LEADER is a statewide program for youth between the ages of 16 and 19 with an interest in learning more about career opportunities in the dairy industry and gaining hands-on experience in the field.

The 2018 class of Junior DAIRY LEADERS and Program Coordinator Deborah Grusenmeyer will welcome sponsors, families and visitors to the graduation ceremony that includes a presentation by the students. The annual graduation at Empire Farm Days provides the Junior DAIRY LEADERS with the opportunity to highlight their year-long experiences, demonstrating the dynamic aspects of dairy education and career options.

The 2018 Junior DAIRY LEADER class members from New York State are:

- Columbia County: Lydia Chittenden and Caroline Lafferty, both of Schodack Landing
- Chautauqua County: Austin Bratton, Cherry Creek; Heidi Moss, Conewango Valley
- Clinton County: Grace Harrigan, Chateaugay
- Delaware County: Devin Kuhn, Grand Gorge
- Erie County: Angela George, Strykersville; Morgan Depue, Hamburg

- Franklin County: Austin Gokey, Malone; Garrett Johnston, Burke
- Herkimer County: Bryce Windecker, Frankfort
- Lewis County: Ethan Sherman, Turin; Kiersten Hancock and Danielle Thomas, Carthage
- Montgomery County: Laura Littrell, St. Johnsville
- Oneida County: Lucas DiNitto, Marcy; Abigail Wratten, Oriskany Falls; Kathleen Gallagher, Waterville
- Onondaga County: Kyra Phelps, Fulton
- Ontario County: Elizabeth Maslyn, Farmington; Rachel Rouland, Corrine Brown, Lucas Smith, and Lindsey Weykman, all of Clifton Springs
- Otsego County: Rileigh Mumbulo, Edmeston; Meredith Hammond, Otsego
- Saratoga County: Johnathan King and Christine Putman, both of Schuylerville
- Schoharie County: Allen Graulich, Cobleskill
- Tompkins County: Derrick Fouts, Cortland
- Washington County, VT: Isabell Hall, East Montpelier, VT.

The August 8 ceremony will also recognize the 2018 Junior DAIRY LEADER class sponsors: PRO-DAIRY, the Northeast Agricultural Education Foundation, Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement Program, Cargill Animal Nutrition, Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance, DEHM Associates, Genex/CRI, Select Sire Power, NYS Agricultural Society Foundation, Cornell University Department of Animal Science, and New York's dairy producers.

The 300-acre Empire Farm Days features the latest farming techniques, tractors, trucks, and implements of all sizes and uses; crop and equipment demonstrations, Dairy Profit and other educational seminars, equipment and truck test driving opportunities, live cattle and horse demonstrations, farm safety and family life displays, and information booths by hundreds of agriculture-related vendors, organizations, colleges and associations.

Show hours are 9am-5pm on Tuesday, August 7 and Wednesday, August 8, and 9am-4pm on Thursday, August 9. Parking is \$10 per vehicle. For daily schedules and more information visit www.empirefarmdays.com or call 877-697-7837.

More Info:

The Junior DAIRY LEADER Program begins in late September with a seven-day trip to Madison, WI, to tour dairies and agribusinesses, followed by attending the annual National 4-H Dairy Conference. Throughout the year, class members participate in eight workshops, focusing on team building, personality styles, resume development, change, and leadership skills development, as well as facets of dairy production, tours, and exposure to numerous career options in the dairy field.

Hands-on workshops offer learning opportunities on specific facets of the dairy industry, including veterinary science, dairy nutrition, production management, and on-farm production analysis, plus interaction with dairy producers, industry professionals, and other dairy-interested young people. Building communication and leadership skills enhanced by a team approach to problem solving, adds to the Junior DAIRY LEADERS' personal and professional development.

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