

## 2021 National DHIA Scholarship Recipients



**Miriam Cook, Pewamo, MI**

Tom and Dianne Cook

Agriculture Economics at Purdue University

Indiana State Dairy Association

The 2019 Pewamo-Westphalia High School valedictorian, Miriam served as Ionia FFA president and Michigan FFA Region V treasurer. She was named Michigan FFA State Star Farmer, won the State FFA Greenhouse Management award, was a state finalist in FFA Discussion Meet and Extemporaneous Public Speaking, and became an FFA national champion in dairy cattle evaluation and management. At Purdue University, she served as Dairy Club treasurer and National Agri-Marketing Association policy chair. Miriam currently works as a milk testing technician for Indiana State Dairy Association and barn technician at Pine Creek Genetics.



**Jay Dicke, Goodhue, MN**

Lyle and Shannon Dicke

Agriculture Food Business Management

at University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Minnesota DHIA

A member of the state-winning FFA dairy judging team, Jay placed fourth individual overall. His other FFA accomplishments included State Dairy Entrepreneur third place, State Farmer Degree, Outstanding Agriculture Exploration Award and Star Discovery Award. An accomplished musician, Jay was a member of the HVL Conference Honor Band, won the regional Minnesota Music Teachers Association piano performance audition and placed fourth at state. He has a variety of work experiences, including University of Minnesota Meat Lab meat cutting and grinding, and Dicke Century Farms crop production and animal care. His no-till drill ownership brings in income during spring, summer and fall.



**Allen Graulich, Cobleskill, NY**  
David & Suzanne Graulich  
Animal Science at Cornell University  
Dairy One Cooperative Inc.

FFA played a big role in Allen's teen years, leading his FFA chapter as president and treasurer. His ag mechanics team placed first in national competition and he finished second individually at the state ag mechanics contest. Allen earned an FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience grant. With that grant, he purchased a farrowing crate to start a business raising piglets. He also belonged to National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. In college, he participates in Cornell University Dairy Science Club and Alpha Gamma Rho. Allen's career plans include taking over and expanding his family's dairy farm. Also, Allen is a licensed private pilot.



**Jack Hammock, Chatham, VA**  
Nathan and Jackie Hammock  
Dairy Science at Virginia Tech  
United Federation of DHIAs

Leadership exemplifies Jack's character, with high school positions of Academic Team captain, Future Business Leaders of America treasurer and parliamentarian, FFA president and vice president, Spanish Club president and Pittsylvania County School Board representative. He is on track to graduate as class valedictorian. On the family's multi-generation farm, he has fed calves and milked cows. He hopes to join his father, brother, uncles and cousins in the farm partnership. He used PC Dart and DHI records to gather information needed for his capstone research project through the Piedmont Governor's School for Mathematics, Science and Technology.



**Brea Kieffer, Utica, MN**  
Chad and Kendra Kieffer  
Biology and Dairy Science at Iowa State University  
or University of Wisconsin-River Falls  
Minnesota DHIA

Passionate about dairy cattle judging, Brea enjoys it because it involves looking and talking about cows. Giving oral reasons has helped her get past her fear of public speaking. She also helped younger 4-H members learn about what to look for when evaluating dairy cattle. Besides dairy judging, Brea's 4-H experiences included serving as club secretary, treasurer and historian, and exhibiting dairy cattle and sheep. Through the Minnesota Junior Holstein Association, she participated in Dairy Quiz Bowl and Dairy Jeopardy. Brea also belonged to FFA (president, vice president and secretary), National Honor Society and Varsity Soccer.



**Emily Leonard, Young America, MN**  
Timothy and Amy Leonard  
Biology and Animal Science at University of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
Minnesota DHIA

In high school, Emily graduated Magna Cum Laude and achieved First Honor Roll status every year. At the University of Minnesota, she qualified for the Dean's List through the College of Biological Sciences. Emily's high school activities included Southwest Metro FFA, cross country, show choir, marching band, National Honor Society, musical, Peer Mentors, America Reads, Conservation Club and volleyball. For two years, she served as a color guard section leader in marching band. Emily's college activities include Gopher Dairy Club and Lambda Delta Phi sorority, where she serves on the executive team as the Scholastics chair.



**Sierra Omlin, Turlock, CA**

Nelly and Joey Omlin

Dairy Science at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo

Central Counties DHIA

A member of the Reserve Champion National FFA dairy cattle judging team, she placed first individually in Holstein judging. Sierra also judges dairy cattle at the collegiate level. Additionally, she excels at dairy cattle showmanship – winning Junior Grand Champion at the California State Fair and 14<sup>th</sup> place in advanced showmanship at World Dairy Expo. Sierra participated in 4-H and high school sports, including basketball, softball and volleyball. Her work experiences include Diamond ‘O’ Dairy (manage cow records, feed calves and milk cows) and Cal Poly Dairy Unit, where she milks cows, handles herd health and cleans barn.



**Madalyn Palmer, Waukon, IA**

Eric and Stephanie Palmer

Animal Science at Iowa State University

Dairy Lab Services

The top-ranked student academically in her high school class, Madalyn has been involved in the Northeast Iowa Conference Student Leadership Team. This group works to boost student morale and partners with other schools to achieve goals. Her other school activities include Student Council, NDN Student News editor-in-chief, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, Students Working Against Tobacco, Food and Fitness Initiative, band and drumline. Madalyn played in her church’s bell choir for eight years and participated in the St. John’s youth organization. She earned a Varsity Letter in bowling four years.



**Courtney Schrader, Earleville, MD**  
William F. Jr. and Kerry Schrader  
Management and Communications at Salisbury  
University  
Dairy One Cooperative Inc.

Raised on a registered Holstein farm, Courtney developed a passion for helping the homeless in her community. She volunteers at the food pantry, co-founded an annual food drive and works at a temporary women’s shelter. She also assisted at a seasonal homeless shelter, preparing and serving meals, and socializing with guests. In college, she’s involved with Fellowship for Christian Athletes, Society for Human Resource Management, Young Life College and Cru. She played high school sports – soccer, track and field, and tennis. Courtney also served as class secretary, Future Business Leaders of America historian and Chorale alto section leader.



**Adalee Thelen, Saint Johns, MI**  
Jeff and Patti Thelen  
Animal Science at Michigan State University  
Indiana State Dairy Association

The state winner of the Michigan FFA Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Contest in 2020, Adalee was a member of the second-place team at the National 4-H dairy management contest and placed seventh individual, a member of the fifth-place team at the National FFA dairy cattle evaluation and management contest, and a member of the first-place team in the corn division of the Michigan FFA crop management contest. She also participated National Honor Society, LINKS Club and SADD Club, and played volleyball and softball. Currently, she is the Ionia FFA chapter president and an at-large director on the Michigan Junior Holstein Association board.



**Kendra Waldenberger, Spring Grove, MN**  
Ken and Heidi Waldenberger  
Animal Science-Dairy Production and Agricultural  
Communication & Marketing  
at University of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
Dairy Lab Services

Salutatorian of her high school class, Kendra participated in numerous activities, including National Honor Society, jazz band, pep band, color guard, Pep Club, Yearbook Club, choir and FFA, including a year as chapter president. She served as class treasurer and class secretary, and was a member of the Spring Grove High School Trap Team, which won conference. Kendra also belonged to 4-H, serving as Houston County 4-H Federation president and vice president, camp counselor, and 4-H club president, secretary, reporter and historian. Also, she participated in dairy judging and dairy quiz bowl, and attended National 4-H Dairy Conference.



**Bryce Windecker, Schuyler, NY**  
Dale and Deborah Windecker  
Animal Science at Cornell University  
Dairy One Cooperative Inc.

A member of the top National 4-H and Junior Collegiate dairy cattle judging contest team, Bryce placed first place overall individually and was a member of the first-place team at the North American International Livestock Exposition dairy judging contest. For Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, he served as vice noble ruler of scholarship. Bryce belonged to 4-H and served as club president and competed in public speaking competitions. As a New York Junior Holstein Association member, he served on the Junior Executive Committee and as financial secretary. Bryce has skills in business and herd health management, which he gained at Windex Farm.