



## 2025 National DHIA Scholarship Recipients

### **Lillian Agueda, Hickman, CA**

Tony and Diane Agueda

Liberal Studies at California State University-Stanislaus

Central Counties DHIA

A California State FFA Degree recipient, Lillian Agueda served as the Hughson FFA president, secretary and reporter. Her FFA awards included Sectional Job Interview winner, Star Chapter Farmer and Star Greenhand. Also, Lillian excelled academically – earning 4.0 Academic Scholar all four years of high school. She served as the Hughson Varsity Cheerleading Captain. Lillian plans to pursue a career in elementary education because she wants to be a support system for her future students. During high school, she found a passion for educating youth by coordinating an Agriculture Day with local elementary schools – raising awareness of agriculture.

### **Jon Chapman, Turlock, CA**

Katherine Teixeira and Jon Chapman

Agriculture Systems Management at Merced College and Modesto Junior College

Central Counties DHIA

In 2024, Jon Chapman's team won the World Dairy Expo Post-Secondary Judging Contest. He placed eighth individually. Two years ago, Jon served as an ag engineering teaching assistant at Turlock High School. As an FFA member, he participated in dairy cattle judging and job interviews. Jon placed sixth at the state level in dairy judging. He earned the American FFA degree in 2024. Active in the Junior Holstein Association, Jon serves on the Holstein USA Junior Advisory Committee and as the California Junior Holstein Association president. He owns and operates Chapman Welding, which provides mobile ag welding services and custom fabrication.

### **Claudia Frenchick, St. Martin, MN**

Amanda Frenchick

Animal Science at University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Minnesota DHIA

With a goal of becoming a large animal veterinarian, Claudia Frenchick has always cared about animals and wants to improve her knowledge of practical care methods. Active in the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, 4-H, FFA, National Junior Holstein Association, American Jersey Cattle Association and Meeker County Dairy Association, Claudia served as 4-H president and FFA secretary. Also, she was the Meeker County Dairy Princess. A member of the winning state Dairy Bowl team, Claudia earned the opportunity to compete at the National Dairy Bowl competition in Louisville, KY. The team finished fourth.

### **Alexis Hoefs, New Prague, MN**

Jim and Lisa Hoefs

Animal Science at University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Minnesota DHIA

In high school, Alexis Hoefs participated in tennis, weightlifting and FFA. In FFA she served as reporter, secretary and president, and dairy cattle evaluation team member. In 2023, her dairy cattle evaluation team won the state contest and earned Gold at the national contest. In 4-H, she was club president, county ambassador, dairy bowl member, dairy judging team member and youth dairy superintendent. She served as the Minnesota Junior Holstein Association president during 2024-2025. As a Gopher Dairy Club member, Alexis has served as the judging contest co-chair and is now serving as the Food Animal Networking Evening co-chair.

### **Blake Jauquet, Luxemburg, WI – Joe Drexler Scholarship Recipient**

David and Stacy Jauquet

Agricultural Business at University of Missouri

CentralStar Cooperative-DHI Services

The current Luxemburg-Casco FFA president, Blake Jauquet served as FFA vice president his junior year in high school. In 4-H, he held the posts of club president and vice president. Blake earned the Kewaunee County 4-H Key Award and Intermediate Champion Hog Showman title. His high school extra-curricular activities included Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, baseball, basketball and Leo's Club. Also, Blake has held several jobs, including calf and cow care work at Jauquet's Hillview Dairy, hay raking, corn silage harvest and forage transportation for Wanish Custom Cropping, and umpiring softball and baseball.

### **Katie Ketchum, Altura, MN**

Mike and Mary Ketchum

Agricultural Education at University of Wisconsin-River Falls

AgSource Dairy

For Minnesota FFA, Katie Ketchum served as the 2023-24 state president. Prior to that, she was the Region VIII FFA vice president and secretary. In 2019, she placed sixth overall in the State FFA Dairy Judging Contest. At the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, she is the Dairy Club treasurer and past yearbook editor. In high school, Katie was a National Honor Society and Student Council member, class secretary and class vice president. Also, she earned Academic All State honors for volleyball and softball. Katie's career goal is to teach agriculture so she can educate the next generation of leaders, agriculturalists and youth.

### **Sam Miller, Viola, WI**

Kathryn and Stuart Miller

Animal Science at University of Wisconsin-Platteville or University of Wisconsin-River Falls

CentralStar Cooperative-DHI Services

From FFA to school musicals to sports, Sam Miller's resume describes a diverse background. He performed in three musicals – Bye Bye Birdie, The Little Mermaid and The Music Man. Sam also plays in the marching band, pep band, concert band, polka band and jazz band. Plus, he plays piano. As a cross country runner, his team won the conference meet. Sam went to state as a track team member – participating in the 4 x 800. Sam is also a National Honor Society member. At his church, he serves as a greeter and liturgist, coordinates plays and shares his musical talents during worship services. Sam's career goal is to become a large animal veterinarian.

**Jacob Mitchell, Freeport, IL**

Matthew and Stephanie Mitchell

Agribusiness Management at Highland Community College

CentralStar Cooperative-DHI Services

A State FFA Degree recipient, Jacob Mitchell is working toward earning his American FFA Degree. He has served as FFA chapter chaplain, sentinel and president, and earned the Star Greenhand award. Jacob expanded his FFA experiences by participating in several Career Development Events, including ag mechanics, ag sales, agronomy and dairy cattle evaluation. He was also a percussionist in the Illinois FFA Band. During his senior year, Jacob is participating in the Agriculture Science Industry Capstone at Highland Community College in Freeport, Ill. Ultimately, he wants to farm alongside his dad and grandpa on the family's dairy farm.

**Ainsley Noble, Lancaster, WI**

Troy and Jaime Noble

Agricultural Education at University of Wisconsin-River Falls

AgSource Dairy

A member of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dairy Judging Team, Ainsley Noble is also the UW-River Falls Dairy Club president and past yearbook business manager. She received the dairy club's Overall Outstanding Member Award in 2023. Ainsley earned the Wisconsin FFA Degree and American FFA Degree. As a Platteville FFA member, she served as president and vice president, and placed third in Wisconsin's Extemporaneous Speaking Contest. Ainsley was the Platteville High School Class of 2022 commencement speaker and was involved in Student Council – serving as class vice president. She also played basketball in high school.

**Annabelle Pronschinske, Rollingstone, MN**

Kim and Kimberly Pronschinske

Agriculture Equipment Mechanics at Ridgewater College

Minnesota DHIA

Ridgewater College (RC) Agricultural Ambassador Annabelle Pronschinske has embraced her technical college experience by getting involved in the Professional Agricultural Student Organization (PAS). She placed first in the Minnesota and National State PAS Career Planning - Animal Systems competitions. In 2024, she earned the Outstanding Student Award from the RC Agriculture Department. Last May, Annabelle earned a degree in farm operations management. After developing a strong attraction to the college's hands-on culture, she pursued another degree in ag equipment mechanics. Annabelle plans to return to her family's dairy farm for her career.

**Abigail Roskom, Lena, WI – Joe Drexler Scholarship Recipient**

Scott and Jackie Roskom

Veterinary Technology at Fox Valley Technical College

CentralStar Cooperative-DHI Services

The Oconto County Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator, Abigail Roskom belongs to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Oconto Falls FFA Alumni and Supporters, and is a handbell ringer for Oconto Presbyterian Church's Rejoicing Ringers. As an FFA member, she served as reporter and president, earned the Wisconsin FFA Degree and FFA Three-Star Leader Award, and finished fifth in Wisconsin FFA's Dairy Production - Placement Supervised Agriculture Experience project. Annabelle volunteers for the Oconto Area Humane Society and works for Buckfoot Farms and Berryland LLC (seasonal strawberry and pumpkin patches).

**Liviya Russo, Lunenburg, VT**

Samantha and Stephen Russo

Molecular Genetics at University of Vermont

Lancaster DHIA

Named to the Honor Roll all four years of high school, Liviya Russo plans to become an animal geneticist due to her passion for reproduction and genetics. She shows Ayrshires through 4-H and on an international level. In 4-H, Liviya served as 4-H club president and was a Vermont and National 4-H Livestock Ambassador. For two years, she was her FFA chapter's president. At Auburn Star Farm Inc., Liviya feeds and waters cattle, cleans pens and washes and sanitizes milking equipment. Liviya credits DHIA for helping her learn important skills, such as picking the best bulls as mating sires, making culling decisions and formulating rations.

**Ella Saal, West Salem, OH**

Mark and Carolyn Saal

Animal Sciences at The Ohio State University

Dairy One Cooperative Inc.

A National Honor Society officer, Ella Saal was also involved in FFA, Drama Club, marching band, concert band and Students Taking Action Responsibly during high school. In 4-H, she served as club secretary, treasurer and vice president. Additionally, she volunteered as an English as a Second Language tutor, for Blessings in a Backpack and the Grocery Bag Ministry. At The Ohio State University, Ella belongs to Buckeye Dairy Club and Cru, which includes weekly meetings and weekly Bible studies. After graduation, she plans to become a dairy farmer. "I hope to share my love of the industry with others as part of the farm operation," she stated.

**Alexis Schultz, Marion, NY**

Shane and Shandele Schultz

Agricultural Business Management (undecided for university)

Dairy One Cooperative Inc.

The class salutatorian, Alexis Schultz served as National Honor Society president, color guard captain and senior class vice president. Her scholastic honors are numerous and include American Chemical Society Chemistry Achievement Award, Academic Excellence in Mathematics, Academic Excellence in Animal Science and Certificate of Excellence in German. As a 4-H member, Alexis participated in dairy quiz bowl and dairy judging, where she was a member of the winning World Dairy Expo team and placed first individual overall. In 2023, Alexis was a National Junior Holstein Association Distinguished Youth finalist.

**Sophie Stelling, Millville, MN**

Brent and Tricia Stelling

Dairy Science Management at University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Minnesota DHIA

A Wabasha County Dairy Ambassador, Sophie Stelling earned her Minnesota State FFA Degree in 2022. She served as her FFA chapter's vice president and reporter, and participated in dairy cattle evaluation. Additionally, Sophie's high school activities included National Honor Society and soccer. As a 4-H member, she served as club president and 4-H Federation vice president and treasurer, and showed dairy cattle. An active member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Youth Group, she has helped with several activities, including highway cleanup, meal preparation and gift box assembly. After graduation, Sophie plans to return to her family's farm.

### **Jellie Waterlander, Pine River, WI – Joe Drexler Scholarship Recipient**

Harmen and Edna Waterlander

Animal Science at South Dakota State University

CentralStar Cooperative-DHI Services

Jellie Waterlander achieved several awards through 4-H dairy cattle judging, including first place individual for oral reasons at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, first place team at the State Fair of Texas and second place team at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition. Not only was Jellie class valedictorian, she was also the Student Council class representative, FFA chapter treasurer and president, and a National Honor Society member. Through the University Interscholastic League, she gained skills in literary criticism, current issues and events, physics, science, social studies and copy editing. Jellie's career goal is to become a veterinarian.

### **Connor Weltzien, Arcadia, WI**

Keith and Karen Weltzien

Ag Business at University of Wisconsin-River Falls

AgSource Dairy

An American FFA Degree recipient, Connor Weltzien served as his FFA chapter's treasurer, vice president and president. Connor also excelled at sports – earning first team all-conference in baseball and basketball. Plus, he played basketball and did trap shooting. Connor's work experience includes cleaning animal facilities, mixing feed, feeding calves, milking cows, maintaining equipment and conducting fieldwork. His lifelong goal is to become the fourth generation to operate Weltzien Farms. "I hope to successfully manage the farm with my brothers and possibly expand the dairy herd and land base," he wrote on his scholarship application.

### **Matthew Winch, Fennimore, WI**

Peter and Christina Winch

Animal or Dairy Science at Iowa State University

AgSource Dairy

The National Honor Society president, Matthew Winch earned Academic All State from the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association. In FFA, Matthew served as the president, secretary and historian. His FFA Career Development Events included dairy judging (first place team and seventh place individual at the state level, third place team and second place individual at the national level, and first place team at the international contest in Ireland) and veterinary science (first place team at the state level and sixth place team at the national level). In 4-H, he held the posts of president, vice president and reporter. Matthew plans to attend veterinary school.