



2026 National DHIA Scholarship Recipients

Ashley Brandel, Lake Mills, WI

Matt and Tracy Brandel

Dairy Science at University of Wisconsin-Platteville

AgSource Dairy

The Pioneer Dairy Club Outstanding Freshman Award winner, Ashley Brandel is specializing in dairy cattle reproduction and genetics. Last summer, she worked for Zoetis as a milk quality dairy intern. Ashley worked directly with producers to support on-farm decision-making on milk quality and herd health. Active in the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association, 4-H and FFA, she has worked for Strausdale Holstein LLC as a milker and calf and heifer specialist, and Ocean View Genetics as a cow and heifer assistant. Ashley appreciates the critical role DHIA plays in monitoring herd performance and supporting long-term farm success.

Natalie Clemenson, Zumbrota, MN

Brian and Tiffany Clemenson

Dairy Science at University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Minnesota DHIA

As the 2024-25 FFA State Reporter, Natalie Clemenson served as a Minnesota Leader in Agriculture panelist during the UW-RF Ag Day on Campus. Her other collegiate activities include Collegiate Farm Bureau, Dairy Club yearbook business manager, UW-RF Dairy Judging Team and Rooted in Faith Campus Ministry vice president. Consistently on the Dean's List, Natalie interned with Ag Partners as an agronomy crop scout last summer. In high school, she participated in National Honor Society, band, choir, trap team, volleyball and basketball. Additionally, Natalie served as her 4-H club's secretary, vice president and president.

Sarah Diehl, McVeytown, PA

Joe and Kristin Diehl

Dairy Science at Virginia Tech

Dairy One Cooperative Inc.

Serving as the Virginia Tech Dairy Club president, Sarah Diehl was the intramural Dairy Club sports chair in 2024-25. Her other collegiate activities include Virginia Tech Dairy Cattle Judging Team, School of Animal Sciences Ambassador and Block and Bridle Club. Last year, Natalie was named the Dairy Club at Virginia Tech Outstanding Freshman. She plans to become a large animal veterinarian and return to Central Pennsylvania. In 4-H, Natalie was the Mifflin County 4-H Beef Club president, Mifflin County 4-H Dairy Club secretary and president, and a Mifflin County 4-H Sheep Club member. She works at Musser Run Jerseys as a farmhand.

Alaina Dinderman, Orangeville, IL

Brian and Kristi Dinderman

Animal Science at University of Wisconsin-Platteville

CentralStar Cooperative-DHI Services

A 2025 Illinois State Scholar, Alaina Dinderman ranked first in her high school class. She was a member of FFA, Yearbook Club and National Honor Society (NHS), and played on the basketball and softball teams. Alaina served as the NHS treasurer. At the national level, she was an FFA proficiency finalist in Dairy Production Entrepreneurship and placed second in the Dairy Handlers Contest. In 4-H, Alaina served as club secretary and president, and judged dairy cattle at the All-American Dairy Show and World Dairy Expo as an Illinois 4-H Dairy Judging Team member. She also represented Illinois as a 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team member.

Alaina Fisher, Waconia, MN

Amanda and Brian Fisher

Dairy Science at University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Minnesota DHIA

Alaina Fisher earned a Chancellor's Scholarship, the highest-value merit scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. A Three Rivers Park District volunteer, she also regularly volunteers with her church's youth group, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Alaina's work experience includes Leonard Dairy Farm, where she assists with milking, cattle health and cow care, Belle Creek Cattle, where she focused on regenerative pasture management practices, monitored beef herd health, moved cows and assisted with hay production, and Whickenhauser Organic Dairy Farm, where she handled feeding, milking, barn cleaning and calf health.

Logan Harbaugh, Marion, WI

Lynn and Sara Harbaugh

Animal Science and Ag Food and Business Management at University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

CentralStar Cooperative-DHI Services

As an FFA member, Logan Harbaugh served as chapter president, vice president and treasurer. Additionally, he won first place in the Wisconsin Dairy Judging Career Development Event and third place in the Wisconsin FFA Creed Speaking State Leadership Development Event. Logan belonged to National Honor Society and played on the Varsity Basketball team – serving as captain. From 2024-25, he served on the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council where he participated in monthly conference calls with government officials and agricultural professionals. Each call highlighted different careers and opportunities in agriculture.

Nicole Hauschildt, Zumbro Falls, MN

Stephanie and Chad Domke

Biomedical and Health Science at University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Minnesota DHIA

An American FFA Degree recipient, Nicole Hauschildt carried out several leadership roles, including president, vice president and secretary. In 4-H, she took projects related to agriculture, leadership and community involvement. Nicole was a member of her high school's Trap Team, serving as secretary. As the Wabasha County Dairy Princess, she represented the dairy industry in public outreach and promotional events. Nicole reached the "top 10" when competing for the Princess Kay of the Milky Way title. Her collegiate activities include Dairy Club, Pre-Vet Club and Block and Bridle Club. Her dairy farm experience includes milking, feeding and calf care.

Chloe Lawrason, Beaverton, MI

Jared and Lisa Lawrason

Animal Science at Michigan State University

CentralStar Cooperative-DHI Services

During her senior year, Chloe Lawrason did a work study on a 1,200-head dairy farm, which opened her eyes to the dairy industry's importance. "Working on this dairy and learning about the science and management behind dairy production showed me how nutrition, animal care and efficiency all connect to produce a safe and sustainable food supply," she wrote in her application. "This experience, combined with my years in 4-H and livestock showing, inspired me to continue my education at MSU to become a dairy nutritionist." As a 4-H member, Chloe served as club president and on the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council.

Lily Marshman, Oxford, NY

John and Sheila Marshman

Dairy Science at Cornell University

Dairy One Cooperative Inc.

The Class Valedictorian, Lily Marshman serves as the National Honor Society president and Executive Council president. Also, she was the Mock Trial lead council member and developed a STEM Night for middle and primary school students. Her other activities include New York Junior Holstein Association Executive Committee, Chenango County 4-H president, Oxford Academy FFA president, Varsity Softball, Varsity Soccer and Drama Club president. In addition to studying dairy science, Lily plans to pursue a minor in policy so she can advocate for farms through policy development. In the future, Lily plans to manage her family's dairy farm.

Keegan Medeiros, Laton, CA

Melvin Jr. and Christina Medeiros

Ag Business at Cal State University-Monterey Bay

Central Counties DHIA

Keegan Medeiros ranked first in her high school class of 500, along with playing Varsity Basketball and Varsity Softball. She served as Varsity Basketball team captain and Class of 2025 class president. Also, she was a Math Team and National Honor Society member. Keegan is proud of her family's dairy legacy. Both of her grandparents and father own successful dairy businesses. "I'll be the fourth generation that can make a huge impact on the dairy industry," she wrote. "I want to educate individuals about our milk and food production, and ultimately push fluid milk purchases – instead of plant-based milk and the current popular energy drinks."

Ella Raatz, Colby, WI

Al and Teri Raatz

Animal Science at University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

AgSource Dairy

A former Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council member, Ella Raatz participated in several FFA activities, including chapter president, Leadership Development Event Job Interview Contest and Dairy Judging Career Development Event (10th place team at the national level). Also, she belonged to National Honor Society and Colby Future Business Leaders of America. Ella's non-school activities include 4-H club president and vice president, Clark County 4-H Leaders Federation Board youth rep and camp counselor, and Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association Dairy Bowl. She was named a Wisconsin Holstein Distinguished Junior Member in 2024.

Lindsey Rotz, Pelican Rapids, MN

Paul and Carolin Rotz

Dairy Production and Animal Science at South Dakota State University

Minnesota DHIA

At the top of her high school class academically, Lindsey Rotz earned “Academic All-State” for track and field, basketball and cross country. She belonged to National Honor Society and served as the leadership speaker during the NHS Induction Night. Plus, she was in concert band and pep band. At SDSU, Lindsey is involved with Pre-Veterinary Club and Dairy Club, and is a member of the track and field, and cross country teams, Philanthropy and Youth (past co-president) and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Lindsey plans to become a large animal veterinarian and return to her family’s farm, Twin Oaks Dairy, to work part time along with being a veterinarian.