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Professional Dairy Producers Foundation awards grants for education projects in 2013

Juneau, Wis.—The [Professional Dairy Producers Foundation](#) (PDPF) board of directors has made its funding decisions for 2013 education projects for dairy producers and their communities.

The Foundation will continue support for three programs run by [Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin](#) (PDPW): **Youth Leadership Derby**, **Dairy Mentor Program** and the **Agriculture-Community Engagement** Twilight Meetings. In addition, the Foundation will support PDPW's **Visible Voice** program, a new leadership and communications training curriculum for dairy producers.

[Western United Dairymen](#) will receive funds for their Dairy Leaders program, a six-session program designed to build dairy producers' skills through leadership trainings.

[The Dairyland Initiative](#) was awarded funds to continue enhancing their web-based resource providing educational material, networking, virtual tours and contacts to ensure that dairy producers have all the necessary information they require to construct welfare friendly facilities for their livestock.

[North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, Inc.](#) received support for Dairy Challenge Academy, a new annual educational program for collegiates to work along-side industry professionals. Participants learn first-hand how to evaluate dairy profitability and work as a team to address dairy issues.

[The New York State 4-H Foundation](#), Inc. for the New York State Junior DAIRY LEADER Program, a year-long program to give teens the opportunity to learn career options in agriculture while building personal, professional and leadership skills.

The Indiana Dairy Youth Academy, run by the [Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service](#), which reaches out to high school students and builds their skills through a series of workshops that focus on specific facets of the dairy industry and leadership skills.

“These programs are the cream that rose to the top in terms of having a positive impact in our industry,” says Logan Bower, dairy producer and chair of the Foundation Board. “People are what makes our industry strong and sustainable, and we feel these programs will grow our leaders of today and tomorrow.”

The Professional Dairy Producers Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations who share the Foundation's passion and vision for education in dairy communities. Grant dollars are available to those organizations with unique ideas in the following two focus areas: 1) Building producer professionalism, or 2) Maintaining public trust.

The next granting period begins now, with grant applications due **June 1, 2013**. Organizations may apply for grants of up to \$5,000. The maximum amount given to any one organization will be \$5,000. For grant criteria and an application package, visit www.dairyfoundation.org.

The Professional Dairy Producers Foundation was established by Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin in 2002 as a way to raise funds and awards grants for educational programs. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) entity. For more information on programs funded and ways to donate, visit www.dairyfoundation.org.

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