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2016 FUTURE LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Cambridge, ON June 13, 2016 – The Ontario Dairy Joint Breeds Committee is excited to announce the recipients of their fifth annual Future Leaders Scholarship. **Caleigh Van Kampen** and **Erica Sayles** are the winners of the \$1000 scholarships. These are given to young people in the agricultural industry for their involvement, accomplishments and leadership achievements. The winners have begun to take on positions of leadership within various organizations and demonstrated an outstanding commitment and shown potential for future achievement.

These future leaders have focused their post-secondary education in the agricultural field as well as actively participate in community activities where they have taken on a leadership role.

Caleigh Van Kampen has always been very involved in her family's dairy farm (Geordawn Farms) in Amaranth, Ontario. She owns a small herd of Jerseys (which includes one 2E mature cow) and enjoys providing input on breeding decisions and ways to improve the farm whenever possible. Caleigh is entering her third year at the University of Guelph where she is involved in the Dairy Science Club and College Royal. This fall will mark her second year as Class President. In her free time, she enjoys being part of the university's square dancing team, judging club, dairy club, goat and sheep club and beef club. Caleigh's passion has always been cows and after university, she hopes to work in the dairy industry to showcase the importance of cows and farmers feeding cities. An avid 4-H'er, Caleigh is currently President of two 4-H clubs and has held many executive positions in the past. She excels at showing cows and has won many judging competitions in her division. Caleigh has received many top member awards in 4-H over the years and enjoys dedicating her time to helping younger members prepare their calves and organizing meetings. In 2014, she was the proud recipient of the Lieutenant-Governor's Volunteer Award. "Caleigh is a young leader ahead of her age," says 4-H Leader, Lyndon Stewart. "She understands that it takes work and commitment to achieve her goals, and equally important, she understand the impact of a positive attitude and a smile to make the day go well."

Erica Sayles from Ayr, Ontario, is highly involved in her family's Jersey operation (Bridon Farms). She considers herself lucky to have been raised in the dairy industry and hopes to someday work in genetics or nutrition in order to make positive changes to the management of livestock and their output. Along with her brother, Erica recently registered her Classic Genetics prefix and together they own two animals on which they hope to build in the future. Erica is entering her second year of studies at the University of Guelph and is proud to serve as the Class of 2019 Vice President for the second year in a row. Through her involvement in 4-H she has held numerous executive positions including President, Vice President and Secretary. She enjoys her responsibilities as a Junior Leader in the Brant County 4-H Dairy Club and plans to continue as an active 4-H member until the age of 21. Erica shows at the Paris fair every year and has represented Brant County a number of times at the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic. Her list of community involvement is impressive and includes sorting and collecting food for her community's food bank, volunteering with the Paris Fair and running Bingo at a local retirement home. "Erica is always driven to do her best in everything she does," says 4-H Leader, Carman Kyle. "While being fiercely competitive, she remains very accepting when things don't work out and eager to work hard and try again."