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For Immediate Release

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2017 FUTURE LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Cambridge, ON June 2, 2017 – The Ontario Dairy Joint Breeds Committee is excited to announce the recipients of their sixth annual Future Leaders Scholarship. Laura DeKlein and Logan Emiry are the winners of this year's \$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.

Laura DeKlein grew up on a hobby farm in Middlesex County and has involved herself in many off-farm opportunities over the years where she has been able to share her farming knowledge and serve her community. She has been an active 4-H member for the past nine years and has completed 28 clubs during that time. Helping younger members select, train and clip their dairy projects, as well as passing on useful judging tips and skills gained over the years, is something Laura enjoys as President of the Dorchester Dairy Club. Laura attends the University of Guelph and served on the OAC's 2019 class executive as the Communications Minister. She also acted as the Livestock Show Assistant at this year's College Royal, a busy role that saw her organizing 'ag-ucation' stations to educate the public on various animals (including Holsteins and Jerseys), caring for the animals and assisting in emceeding the show. When not attending school, volunteering in her community, participating in 4-H or helping at home on the farm, Laura can be found coaching and playing baseball in the summer and curling in the winter. Her future goals include gaining employment in the dairy industry and working with young calves to ensure they get the best nutritional start possible. "As an active member of the agriculture community, Laura has used her leadership skills as a Jersey Princess, Plowing Match Volunteer, Western Ontario Junior Show Volunteer, local church market volunteer and SFOAC executive member for her first year university class," says Laurie Farquharson, President of Middlesex 4-H. "In each of these situations, she is always promoting the value of agriculture to society [and showcasing] her knowledge and leadership skills."

Logan Emiry was raised on a Northern-Ontario dairy farm and considers himself fortunate to be able to contribute to the dairy industry, his community and his family farm. He has been an avid 4-H member since 2009 and has completed 53 clubs to date, serving as Youth Leader for the past two years on his local Dairy Calf Club. Logan's desire to lead by example and showcase the merits of 4-H led him to become a 4-H Ontario Ambassador in 2016. That same year, he was one of 10 Canadian 4-H members to travel through Ghana as part of 4-H Canada's Going Global Service Learning pilot program. Logan's strong leadership skills apply to all aspects of his life. At the University of Guelph, he is involved in student politics and has been elected Vice President of his class executive for two years running. He was a delegate to the Dairy Farmers of Ontario annual conference and has attended several meetings and conferences in Ottawa and across the province (including Dairy Sen\$e in May) to further his knowledge of the dairy industry and the workings of politics at both the local and national level. Logan understands social responsibility and teamwork, and to this end, has spent time volunteering for a number of worthwhile causes in his community including the Massey Food Bank and the Massey Fair. In the coming year or two, he looks forward to being part of the first team in his region's history to compete at the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic. After graduation, he would like to work as a classifier, breeder or geneticist before eventually returning to farming in the North. "In the years that I have followed Logan's 4-H career," says Paulette Macdonald of the Sudbury District 4-H Association, "I have found him to be a confident young man who lives with integrity, who is loyal to 4-H, who is passionate about farming, and who seeks the betterment of the world around him."