Call for Nominations:
Indiana Dairy Producer of the Year
and
Indiana Young Dairy Producer of the Year

Again in 2027, Indiana Dairy Producers will be awarding the Indiana Dairy Producer of the Year and the Indiana Young Dairy Producer of the Year Awards. These awards are to recognize outstanding accomplishment, professionalism, and leadership among Indiana's dairy producers. Award recipients will be announced at the Indiana Dairy Forum in French Lick, Indiana on January 27, 2027.

The Indiana Dairy Producer of the Year is awarded to a dairy producer who has portrayed the dairy industry in a positive light and has been successful in the dairy industry over a period of time. Past recipients were Fred Beer (2007), Tom Neuenschwander (2008), Doug Leman (2009), Dave Forgey (2010), Brian Rexing (2011), Leontien Van de Laar (2012), Derek Herrema (2013), Michael and Jan Heckaman (2014), Henk and Linda Sevenhuysen (2015), David and Kathy Ring (2016), The Family of Merrill Kelsay (2017), Dominique and Mary Hulsbosch (2018), John and Cynthia Adam (2019), Bob McKaig (2020), Maurice Loehmer (2021), Alan Kuehnert (2022), Charles and Margaret Carter (2023), Tony Golstein (2024), Sam & Pamela Jones (2025), and Daniel Hague (2026).

The Indiana Young Dairy Producer of the Year is awarded to a dairy producer, 35 years of age or younger, who is actively involved in a successful dairy farm and shows promise as a leading dairy producer for this industry's bright future in Indiana. Past recipients were Lukas Hively (2007), Joe and Amy Kelsay (2008), Max and Carrie Jo Bollenbacher (2009), Nathan and Sarah Kuehnert (2010) Kerry and Christiana Estes (2011), Kelly MacKennon (2012), Brian Houin (2013), Lance Sommers (2014), and Luke and Kim Minich (2015), Orville Haney (2016), Michael Clay (2017), Kylie Huber (2018), Ben Dirksen (2019), Steve Hein (2020), Johan and Dejanne de Groot (2021), Greg Brawner (2022), Steve and Abbie Herr (2023), Abbie McKaig (2024), Caleb Herrema (2025), and Alex and Abby Lueken (2026).

IDP is seeking nominations for the Dairy Producer of the Year and Young Dairy Producer of the Year awards. Nomination forms are included with this announcement. Nominations may be submitted to Jackie Boerman, Purdue University, 3020 Creighton Hall, 270 S Russel Street W Lafayette, IN 47907, jboerma@purdue.edu. Nominators can self-nominate or submit a nomination for a worthy fellow dairy farmer. Dairy industry representatives are also encouraged to submit nominations. Membership in IDP is not required to submit nominations for these awards. Nominations are due by December 18, 2026. Winners will be selected by academic and industry advisers of Indiana Dairy Producers based on nominations submitted.

Scroll Down for Nomination Forms

Nomination Form
IDP--Dairy Producer of the Year

(due December 18, 2026)

Person Being Nominated _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Farm Description _____

_____

_____

_____

Reason for Nomination _____

_____

_____

_____

Involvement in Leadership, Community, Agriculture Activities

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Submitted by _____ Telephone _____

Organization (if any) _____

Send nominations to Jackie Boerman, Purdue University, 3020 Creighton Hall, 270 S Russel St, West Lafayette, IN 47907, jboerma@purdue.edu.

Nomination Form

IDP--Young Dairy Producer of the Year

(35 years of age or younger)

(Due December 18, 2026)

Person Being Nominated _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Farm Description _____

_____

_____

Reason for Nomination _____

_____

_____

_____

Involvement in Leadership, Community & Agriculture Activities _____

_____

_____

_____

Submitted by _____ Telephone _____

Organization _____

Send nominations to Jackie Boerman, Purdue University, 3020 Creighton Hall, 270 S Russel St, West Lafayette, IN 47907, jboerma@purdue.edu.