

2010 St. Albans Young Cooperator Program

The Young Cooperator program continues to be an important aspect of the Cooperative. Our Young Cooperators have served this past year as spokespersons for the Cooperative and ambassadors for the dairy industry.

St. Albans Cooperatives Young Cooperators are dairy producers between the ages of 18 and 40 years old with our primary mission being to foster interaction between other young cooperators, to learn about the dairy industry; to share knowledge and develop leadership skills; and to understand the value and philosophy of our cooperative, enabling young cooperators to improve our industry, our cooperative and our lives.

During the year the Young Cooperators visited with legislators in Montpelier, held ten executive committee meetings, sold dairy products at the Vermont Maple Festival, hosted a softball game and picnic for Co-op members and won 2nd place at the June Dairy Days Parade to mention just a few activities.

In June 2010, the Young Cooperators awarded \$2,250 in scholarships to six individuals that were all members of the St. Albans Co-op farm family or a St. Albans Co-op farm member employee's family. The winners were Anna Laggis of East Hardwick, Vermont, Chantal Lussier of Enosburg Falls, Vermont, Johnathon Mason of Enosburg Falls, Vermont, Sara Vosburg of Swanton, Vermont, Kaitlin Deuso of East Berkshire, Vermont and Chelsea Vaillancourt of Enosburg Falls, Vermont. Winners were selected to receive the scholarship based on their academics, community involvement, agricultural commitment, leadership and character. The Young Cooperators appreciate the past support from members and the industry on this effort.

In December 2010, the Young Cooperators held a successful Annual meeting in St. Albans, which included the "Telling Your Story" training offered by dairy promotion, and a plant tour of Franklin Foods in Enosburg Falls.

The Young Cooperators will have another busy year in 2011 with several state and national legislative issues to provide input on. The Cooperative invites members to support and participate in the Young Cooperator's activities. We thank all the individuals on the YC Executive Committee for their past years of service and contributions to the Cooperative.

