TO: Dairy Industry Partners

FROM: Selection Committee, MSU Dairy Farm of the Year

RE: Nominations for 2026

The Department of Animal Science is seeking nominations for the MSU Dairy Farm of the Year. Since 1958, the recognition has been awarded to the dairy farmers who exhibit outstanding management of their dairy farm business and leadership in the Michigan dairy industry or their community. The awardee(s) should be recognized by others in the Michigan dairy industry for the successes of their dairy farm business and for their leadership.

Selection criteria follow below:

1. Nominees must be actively engaged in dairy farming. Where a partnership or corporations exist, two or more individuals may be honored as joint recipients.
2. The nominees should be outstanding managers of a dairy farm operation. Their operation should have statistical averages that are above those of Michigan state averages and be considered by others in the dairy industry as being an elite dairy operation.
3. The nominees should have demonstrated leadership in dairy industry-related or community organizations.

Please complete the form with the expectation that the Selection Committee is not familiar with the nominee. Additional material that strengthens the nomination can be submitted by expanding the space provided or including more pages. The nomination form is a guideline for the information sought, but not all information is required for the nomination. Submit the completed applications by mail or electronically by September 15 to Miriam Weber Nielsen (msw@msu.edu).

(Criteria adopted 3/1982; amended 11/1985; amended 8/2018, 6/2020)

Date:

Farm Name:

NOTE: For multiple nominees from a farm, please complete this page separately for each person that is to be nominated.

1. Personal Data

Nominee:

Address:

County:

Phone #: Email: ­­­­

Length of time Nominee has been involved in operation:

1. Description of Farm Business:

Year Farm was Established:

Number of Acres Farmed:

Crops Grown:

Dairy Herd Data:

 Milking Herd (total cows): Young stock (total heifers):

 Breed(s):

 Other Livestock:

 DHIA or equivalent herd data for current year. Please provide the annual herd average (past 12 months) for the following information. Leave blank if information is not available. DHI herds can provide their herd code and RAC/password if on DRMS system instead of completing this information.

 Bulk tank averages (cows in milk):

 Milk (lbs) Fat % Fat (lbs) Protein % Protein (lbs)

DHIA SCC Average or Bulk Tank SCC Average:

Number of cows culled:

Number of cows that died or were euthanized:

Percentage of herd bred AI:

NM$ of service sires:

Age at first calving:

Percentage of stillbirths (birth - 24hr):

Percentage female calf death loss (24 hr - 12 months):

Percentage death loss in heifers (12 – 24 months):

Pregnancy rate:

Pregnancy rate for most recent month:

 Change in Past 5 Years: Milk (lbs) Fat (lbs) Protein (lbs)

 Monthly averages per cow for each of the past 12 months (can use a separate sheet or include a computer printout):

 Daily milk (lbs):

Fat%:

Protein%

SCC:

1. Industry and community leadership
2. Describe the nominee’s impact in or how the nominee contributes to the dairy industry and to the community.
3. Membership in organizations and leadership roles. List by organization and in chronological order the leadership responsibilities and significant accomplishments attributed to the nominee. List separately for each nominee if nomination includes multiple nominees.
4. Management of Dairy Farm Operation
5. Dairy Herd/Farm Awards (in chronological order):
6. Please provide a brief description of the dairy operation, in 500 words or less.
7. Describe the roles and responsibilities the nominee(s) have in the operation, in 500 words or less.
8. In 500 words or less, how has this dairy farm operation progressed in the past 3-5 years as a result of the management abilities and leadership of the nominee(s)?
9. Please indicate in 500 words or less why you are nominating this individual or these individuals. What is outstanding about management of this dairy farm? How is the dairy farm owner(s) a positive example to others in the industry?
10. Please include the names and contact information for a) local legislative representatives and b) newspaper(s) for use in publicizing the award.

Nomination Submitted by:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Please list 2 references with contact information. Include professionals who work with the nominee such as veterinarians, feed consultants, Extension educators and industry leaders.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email: