

**Can you make a splash in the
UK dairy industry?**

RABDF/Dairy Crest

**Dairy
Student
Award
2012**



RABDF/Dairy Crest Dairy Student Award 2012

What is the RABDF/Dairy Crest Dairy Student Award?

The Dairy Student Award is run by the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers (RABDF) and Dairy Crest.

The Award is based on the need for modern dairy farmers to understand the industry, its strengths and weaknesses, and how to apply farming methods to achieve optimum results.

Students are nominated by their college or university on the basis of their performance in their dairy module or course. Your lecturer will need to complete an entry form and return it to RABDF. Each candidate must then send their CV and a covering letter.

We are looking for talented and passionate students who care about the future of our dairy industry.

Who can enter?

Any student currently attending an agricultural college or university, up to and including first degree level. There are no age restrictions on this competition.

Stages of the competition

The Award consists of 3 rounds which take place from January to March 2012.

First Round: Practical judging and interview

The first round will assess your practical and business knowledge. After a tour of the dairy unit at Reaseheath College, you will be interviewed by a panel of three judges. They will ask how you think the unit could be more efficient and useful to the dairy industry.



Second Round: Processing plant visit

Successful candidates will then be invited to tour the Dairy Crest processing plant at Severnside. This is a fantastic opportunity to see another side of the supply chain. It is your chance to ask questions and start planning your presentation for the final round of the competition.



Final Round: Presentation and debate

The final round of the competition is held at The Farmers' Club in London. Each finalist will spend 10 minutes delivering a presentation entitled "How do I structure my farm to meet the needs of the processor?".

After each candidate has given their presentation, there is an opportunity to take part in a debate with agricultural journalists. The winner is announced after the debate and all finalists enjoy lunch and refreshments while chatting to the press and representatives from Dairy Crest and RABDF.

Prizes

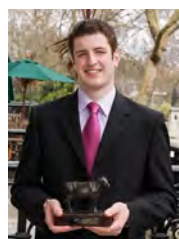
The winner receives a cheque for £1,000 and their college or university will receive £500 to be used towards an educational dairy project. Each runner up receives £100.

Each finalist will also receive a free year of RABDF young membership, which includes one free ticket to Live-stock 2012 Incorporating Dairy Event.

The RABDF/Dairy Crest Dairy Student of the Year 2012 title is up for grabs. We've had a chat with the previous winners to see what they have been up to since winning the Award.

1. Which college or university did you attend? Which subject did you study? When did you graduate?

Richard Young, 2011 Winner: Agriculture with honours in Animal Production Science at Newcastle University. Graduated in July 2011 with first class honours. Also received the Godfrey Turnbull Award, Royal Agricultural Society of England Award and Royal Yorkshire Agricultural Society Award.



Philip Dunn, 2010 Winner: Newcastle University, BSc Agriculture with Hons in Farm Business Management. Graduated 2010 with 1st class honours.

Luke Thompson, 2009 Winner: The University of Brighton, studying at Plumpton College, FdSc Agriculture. Graduated 2010.



Oliver Hall, 2008 Winner: Royal Agricultural College, BSc Hons Agriculture (Animal Management). Graduated 2008.



2. What positions have you taken up since winning the RABDF/Dairy Crest Dairy Student of the Year Award?

Richard Young: Since winning the Award I have taken a position as farm manager at Norbrook's pharmaceutical research farm, Ballyedmond Castle Farms, in Northern Ireland.

Philip Dunn: Since winning the award and finishing my studies I have entered the family farming partnership and taken responsibility for the day to day management of the dairy herd, as well as formulating a long-term expansion strategy for the unit.

Luke Thompson: Currently working in West Sussex as an assistant herd manager. I'm planning to travel to America and/or New Zealand when I have the cash behind me, to look at the different countries' farming systems.

Oliver Hall: After college I returned home to the family dairy farm in West Yorkshire and took over the management, implementing a change in dairy farming policy from a whole farm approach. In January 2010, I set up a business called Evolution Farming Ltd with fellow dairy farmer, Tom Rawson. It works in harmony with our own respective and existing family partnerships and is estab-

lishing a new 700 cow unit in Lincolnshire. We also have our own consultancy business, Evolution Dairy Herd Management, which focuses on all areas on dairy farming with particular reference to milk from forage.

3. How has the Award helped you?

Richard Young: As well as being a great asset on my C.V., the Dairy Student Award has provided me with many contacts throughout the dairy industry in the UK. Participating in the competition has also been a great opportunity to use and improve my interview skills and thoroughly test my knowledge of the UK dairy industry. It was also a chance to discuss future opportunities available to the industry and how best to turn these into practical solutions for problems faced by both farmers and processors alike.

Philip Dunn: It has helped to raise my profile within the industry and provided many opportunities which would not have been otherwise available. I have had various offers of consultancy work for example, which I may choose to pursue alongside the development of my own dairy business. The Award process itself was an incredibly interesting and useful experience, helping to develop confidence and strategic thinking.

Luke Thompson: The award gave me greater confidence to speak up, including at forage society meetings and farm walks. It has opened up doors for me to progress further and faster than any qualification I have gained.

Oliver Hall: It was beneficial in getting me known in the industry. And funnily enough I now supply milk to Dairy Crest from our new farm in Lincolnshire!

4. Why would you encourage other students to enter the Award?

Richard Young: I would encourage any student to enter the award as it gives a unique opportunity to win a nationally renowned prize and to prove to yourself and others that you are the best in your field.

Philip Dunn: I would encourage anyone who is passionate about a career in the dairy industry to enter. The contacts I have made are second to none, and the award is highly recognised by prospective employers. The judging process also enables candidates to gain an insight into the industry beyond the farm gate.

Luke Thompson: The award is recognised by many farmers, companies and people in high places as an almost guarantee that the winner is a hard working individual, who works towards difficult goals and most importantly can overcome and solve problems.

Oliver Hall: It was good to be formally interviewed because this tends not to happen a lot in the dairy sector which comprises mainly family businesses. It was also a good challenge.

How to enter

Students are nominated by their college or university on the basis of their performance in their dairy module or course. Your lecturer will need to complete an entry form and return it to RABDF. Each candidate must then send their CV and a covering letter.

Speak to your lecturer if you would like to be nominated to take part in the competition.

If you have any questions about the Award, would like an application form or full entry details, please contact Emily Rowley on 0845 458 2711 or send an email to emilyrowley@rabdf.co.uk

Dates for 2012 Competition:

- 20th January 2012 - Application forms to be received
- 27th January 2012 - Student CV and covering letter to be received
- 23rd February 2012 - Practical assessment and interview at Reaseheath College
- 16th March 2012 - Visit to Dairy Crest Severnside Processing Plant
- 30th March 2012 - Final round, The Farmers' Club, London

We look forward to receiving your entry and good luck!



The Dairy Student Award is run by RABDF and Dairy Crest.



"Rewarding young people's success and achievement is one of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers' key objectives as a charity, and organising awards such as the RABDF/Dairy Crest Dairy Student of the Year is a great example of this.

"Both the winners and finalists really benefit from the challenge of taking part. They go on to find the accolade provides them with additional credibility and it is pleasing to see so many go on to secure very rewarding careers within the dairy industry.

"Working with Dairy Crest has enabled us to develop the award and maintain its position as the one that dairy students aspire to win." **Nick Everington, Chief Executive, RABDF**

"For our industry to be successful in the future, we need to raise the profile of dairy farming and encourage high calibre young people. The RABDF/Dairy Crest Dairy Student Award is open to all agricultural colleges in the UK and has a key role to play in promoting dairy based courses and the opportunities within our industry to the next generation.

"Today's dairy farmer needs to have a greater awareness of the marketplace and develop a wide range of practical, commercial and managerial skills to meet the many challenges the industry faces.

"We are pleased to continue our sponsorship of this award and hope the visit to our Severnside dairy will provide a valuable insight into dairy processing and the importance of efficiency and innovation throughout the supply chain." **Mike Sheldon, Group Milk Procurement Director, Dairy Crest**