

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD FOR DAIRY WOMEN WINNER

Connie McDiarmid



Connie McDiarmid of Osgoode, Ontario, was announced as the winner of this year's Outstanding Service Award for Dairy Women, during Holstein Ontario's Annual General Meeting in Barrie, Ontario on February 26, 2025. Karen Velthuis, who is part of the organizing committee and a past winner from 2015, presented the award to Connie. Before announcing Connie as the winner, Karen spoke on all of the contributions Connie has made in support of the dairy industry.

Connie's impressive involvement in the dairy industry starts with her 4-H involvement. Connie was a 4-H Leader for the Vernon Crops and Dairy Club for over 10 years. Here, she helped scores of kids over the years with showmanship, judging and preparing calves for shows. Connie has inspired others in aiding them to exhibit their crops at local Fairs and Seed Shows. She has taught many members how to harvest, clean and prepare their crop samples for showing. Connie also conducted extra meetings where she taught the kids to make wheat, barley or oat sheaves. The results were amazing and several entries went on to do well at the Royal.

Connie served as the Carlton-Russell Holstein Club Secretary for ten years, and planned events such as Twilight Meetings, Car Tours, Breeders Cups and Shows. Her organizational and leadership skills were crucial in her time as Secretary. In addition, Connie served on the EO/WQ 4-H Championship Show Committee, two Provincial Holstein Convention Committees, as well as a National Holstein Convention Committee. Connie is also an annual participant in the Farm Gate Decorating Competition for the Metcalfe Fair and more recently, Connie volunteered to work at "Breakfast on the Farm" presenting farm facts to the crowd of 3000 people.

Connie farms with her husband and 2 of their 4 sons at Midlee Farms in Osgoode. She is actively involved with calf raising and herd health details and does an exceptional job with both. She has large and prolific gardens and flower beds which are a beautiful addition to their homestead. The McDiarmids strive to do a good job with their herd and always welcome visitors and groups who can learn from them. Connie attends many workshops and meetings to further her knowledge and to keep abreast of the happenings of the industry. More recently, in February, Midlee Farms attended the DFO Annual meeting in Toronto where they were awarded for being in the Top 5 Quality Milk Producers in Ontario.

Aside from Connie's involvement on committees and on the farm, she can be found spending time with her five grandkids.

ESTABLISHED IN 2011, AND SPONSORED BY HOLSTEIN ONTARIO, THE ANNUAL AWARD RECOGNIZES THE EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ONTARIO WOMEN WHO HAVE DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO SERVING, PROMOTING, AND ENHANCING THE DAIRY INDUSTRY. THE AWARD IS THE BRAINCHILD OF TARA BULLOCK, A DEDICATED DAIRY FARMER AND MOTHER OF THREE FROM LAKEFIELD, ON. TODAY, THE COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITIES ARE SPEARHEADED BY KAREN VELTHUIS, THE 2015 RECIPIENT.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THIS DISTINGUISHED AWARD INCLUDE HEATHER PARKIN (2011); ELAINE STANDEAVEN (2012); NANCY BEERWORT (2013); SANDY O'HARA (2014); KAREN VELTHUIS (2015); RUTH VOGEL (2016); JANET RINGELBERG (2017); BARB FRASER (2018); DEB KNAPTON (2019); BONNIE DEN HAAN (2020); DIANE JARRELL-RAY & JESSIE WEIR (BOTH IN 2022); PHYLLIS MACMASTER (2023); AND PEGGY BREKVELD (2024).