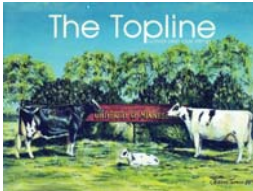




GOPHER DAIRY CLUB • UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



One of the most active student organizations on the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus



Annual GDC yearbook, *The Topline*, highlighting club achievements has been a continuous publication since 1984.

The University of Minnesota Gopher Dairy Club (GDC) is a club founded on a desire for students to be actively involved in the dairy industry through youth education, dairy judging, scholarship, leadership, professional development and team-work.

The University of Minnesota Gopher Dairy Club is proud of its members and their accomplishments. Points of pride include:

- Scholarship awards raised for new student scholarships total an average of \$17,000 yearly
- Student Recognition: 16 GDC members have served on a national office or been selected as the Outstanding Student member of the Student Affiliate Division of the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA). National Dairy Shrine Scholarship awards have been given to GDC members a total of 10 times
- GDC members are selected for some of the top dairy internships in all aspects of the dairy industry- nutrition, animal health, breeding, and communications
- Annual Gopher Dairy Youth Camp
- 28 farms around Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin hosted the 2005 Dairy Judging Teams

RICH HISTORY

Passion for the dairy industry has never been in short supply for dairy students at the University of Minnesota (U of M). The U of M St. Paul campus has been home to dairy student organizations since the Dairy Club was organized in 1916 at the University's School of Agriculture for rural secondary school students. Meetings educated students on dairy issues through speakers and films. With the merger of the School of Agriculture in 1960, college students were members of the U of M St. Paul Dairy Science Club through the 50's and 60's. Activities by the dairy science



and dairy food science students included dairy judging, showmanship and even a few cow milking contests pitting faculty against each other. However, when the animal science and dairy science departments merged in 1966, advisor Dr. Elmer L. Thomas became a part of the food science faculty and advisor Dr. Jesse Williams went out of the country to work. Without any advisors the club dissolved by 1969.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

A 15 year hiatus without an organization for dairy students was too long for some. November 11, 1982 was the first meeting of 25 founding student members and faculty where a constitution and the name "Gopher Dairy Club" were approved. Beginning advisors to the club were Dr. Bill Mudge and Dr. Les Hansen.



A first for the newly formed Gopher Dairy Club was selling ice cream cones at the 1984 Minnesota State Fair from a booth located in the dairy barn.

Today, this highly successful sale of milk shakes and ice cream cones by GDC members at the state fair funds several scholarships for incoming freshmen to the club as well as allowing members to attend regional and national ADSA meetings, in addition to a very unique travel scholarship opportunity for senior members to travel to California. The Gopher Dairy Club has continued to be a strong supporter of youth dairy events. Since 1992, GDC has organized the animals and reasons takers at both the MN State FFA and U of M FFA Invitational dairy judging contests. Also, for three days in June of 2003 club members took part in the inaugural Gopher Dairy Camp created to enlighten young show persons about fitting and showing dairy cattle. GDC members organized and staffed the three day event and are enthusiastically intent



2005 State Fair Gopher Dairy Bar Statistics:

- 47,645 shakes
- 3,024 ice cream cones
- 5,946 glasses of milk

Sold during the 12 days of the Minnesota State Fair at the Gopher Dairy Bar



senior members have a most unique opportunity to travel somewhere warm, explore the dairy industry in other parts of the country and see some of the sights. This trip is an educational reward for active participation throughout their years as a club member. Previous years' senior trip locales have included Washington, Florida and Hawaii. Current and future GDC seniors will tour dairy operations and sightsee in the California sunshine.

on improving the quality every year; the 100 youth openings for the 2006 camp are sure to fill up quickly.

During the cold and snowy January break, GDC



Current Advisors:
Dr. Tony Seykora Dr. Les Hansen

STRONG, PRODUCTIVE FUTURE

With 100 plus members, the Gopher Dairy Club has a confident future ahead of them as the largest campus student organization and by far one of the most active around. The Gopher Dairy Club will continue to leave a legacy of positively influencing students with leadership development and building professional relationships for success in the dairy industry just as they have in years past.



To learn more about the University of Minnesota Gopher Dairy Club email the club at gdc@umn.edu or visit www.ansci.umn.edu/gdc/index.htm.

