During the month of June 2020, STgenetics will donate $1 from the sale of all units of semen sold to each respective U.S. breed association youth programs.
Tell us about your involvement in the Brown Swiss Youth Association.

I have been active in the Brown Swiss Association for 9 years. I served as Vice President of the Wisconsin Brown Swiss Juniors Association from 2018-2019. Through the Brown Swiss Association, I have exhibited at the Kewaunee County Fair, Northeastern Wisconsin High Protein Show, Wisconsin Brown Swiss State Show, Wisconsin State Fair, World Dairy Expo and the North American International Livestock Exposition.

What have you gained through being a member of the Brown Swiss Youth Association?

Through being a member of the Brown Swiss Youth Association, I have gained many friendships that will last me a lifetime.

Tell us about your involvement in the dairy industry.

I am the 4th generation on my family’s dairy farm, Payacres Dairy Farm, in Casco, Wisconsin. On our farm we milk around 80 cows and crop about 450 acres of land. My duties on the farm consist of feeding calves, milking, and assisting my father with breeding cows. I help him watch for heats, keep track of shot cycles, and even A.I. When I am not helping out my father, I am taking care of my own Brown Swiss herd. I grew up with Holsteins but when I turned 12 years old, I became infatuated with the Brown Swiss Breed. In 2012 I began my swiss herd by buying 2 calves and have been hooked on the brown beauties since! Growing up competing in dairy judging has helped me to gain the skills and knowledge to help me improve my herd with each generation. I am going into my senior year at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls where I major in Dairy Science. At River Falls, I am extremely active in the Dairy Club and will be serving as the Treasurer for this upcoming school year.

What is your favorite part about being in the dairy industry?

One of my favorite parts about being in the dairy industry is all the people you get to meet and learn from. In these friendships that I have formed I enjoy hearing about what they are doing to make their herds successful. I love learning about ways to improve my herd and strongly believe that without the help and guidance of my peers I would not be where I am today.

Tell us about your ST sired heifer! What are your accomplishments with her and what are your favorite memories with her?

Leif Thompson and I purchased Jewell at Kruse’s GK Spring Opportunity Sale in May of 2019. Before we purchased Jewell, she placed 2nd at the Midwest Spring Show. Some of our accomplishments include placing 5th and 2nd junior at Wisconsin Brown Swiss State Show, placing 3rd at the Youth Dairy Classic, placing 5th and 3rd Junior at the International Brown Swiss Show, and placing 3rd Junior at the North American International Livestock Exposition. Kruse’s GK Famous Jewell was Honorable Mention Wisconsin Bell Ringer and received an All-American Nomination. My favorite memories with Jewell are placing 5th and 3rd Junior at World Dairy Expo and receiving my first ever All-American Nomination! Jewell is an awesome heifer to work with and I am very excited to see what this upcoming show season has in store for us!
Youth Spotlight

STgenetics® is proud to support the youth in the dairy industry.
Meet a Milking Shorthorn enthusiast!

TAYLOR GRAVES
DANVILLE, KENTUCKY

Tell us about your involvement in the Milking Shorthorn Association:
I have been a member of the American milking shorthorn association and the Kentucky milking shorthorn association for 11 years. I am currently serving as the 2019-2020 Kentucky Milking Shorthorn Queen and served as the 2018-2019 Kentucky milking shorthorn queen.

What have you gained through being a member of the Milking Shorthorn Youth Association?
Being a member of the Milking Shorthorn Youth Association has allowed me to meet others that are involved in the milking shorthorn industry and form relationships with them, these relationships will be beneficial even once we age out of the youth program, and will allow all of us to better not only our cattle but also ourselves. I have also been fortunate enough to receive a scholarship from the Milking Shorthorn Youth Association which went towards my tuition so that I can obtain a degree in animal science next May.

Tell us about your involvement in the dairy industry (family farm, organization participation, etc.)
I have exhibited and owned dairy cattle for over 11 years. We are a small family farm that raises Milking Shorthorn cattle. We exhibit them across the state and numerous national shows including WDE, NAILE, and the All American Dairy Show. We have raised and exhibited several All-American cattle, including a unanimous all-American. I also had the privilege to compete on our state 4H dairy judging team several years ago. I am currently studying animal science with hopes of finding a job within the industry once I graduate. I have recently started working at the university helping with a beef reproduction study. I have always been interested in genetics, especially for my show cattle, because genetics are the base of a good show heifer and cow. My family has always tried to utilize AI for our cattle and have also used Embryo Transfers to try and better the genetics of our small herd.

What is your favorite part about being in the dairy industry?
My favorite part of the industry is the cattle. I consider myself an introvert and would much rather spend my time in the barn than anywhere else. Working with these cattle everyday makes them feel more like a family member then a job, which is something I wish more people could experience so they could better understand this industry. I plan to be involved in this industry for the rest of my life because of both the relationships with the people and the cattle.

Tell us about your ST sired heifer! What are your accomplishments with her and what are your favorite memories with her?
This year I exhibited 2 bred and owned Ricochet Heifers.
Molehill Ricochets Miracle: Nominated All-American Fall Calf & 2nd Fall Calf NAILE
Molehills Ricochets Zuri: Nominated Jr All-American Winter Calf & 1st Winter Calf JR Show at the All-American Dairy Show
My favorite memory with Zuri was winning Supreme Heifer at one of our district shows in the state, this was my first time winning supreme heifer and the first time a milking shorthorn has won supreme heifer at a district show!

STgenetics® is proud to support the youth in the dairy industry.
For every unit of semen sold from June 1st - June 31st, STgenetics® will donate $1 to the Milking Shorthorn Association.

Contact your STgenetics® representative or the Dairy Call Center today.
**Youth Spotlight**

**STgenetics® is proud to support the youth in the dairy industry.**

**Meet a Jersey enthusiast!**

**OLIVIA LESHER**

BERNVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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Tell us about your involvement in the Jersey Association:

I have been involved in the Jersey association in many ways. I have gone to many of the state and national jersey conventions to compete with speech and dairy jeopardy. I have also shown jerseys at the state and national level ever since I was eligible. Showing at All-American and Farmshow was my favorite thing to do. Hosting one of the state jersey conventions would also be a top favorite of mine.

What have you gained through being a member of the Jersey Youth Association?

I have gained so much from being part of this loving Association. I have had the opportunity to travel to the fun conventions with my best friend Stephanie Younker, and see my long distance jersey friends that I got to compete with. I also had the opportunity to buy one of my first 4-H project jerseys to help me build my own herd. I enjoy going to the convention sales to see all the beautiful jerseys there and see who would look like the perfect addition to my herd. I have gained so much from meeting new friends, to learning opportunities, and of course by adding more to my herd. I really enjoy the networking, and making new life long friends. I will spend the rest of my life with in this amazing industry.

Tell us about your involvement in the dairy industry (family farm, organization participation, etc.)

My involvement with the dairy industry includes living on a 300 cow dairy farm with registered Holsteins and jerseys in Bernville PA. My family has always been an active member with the Jersey association but I had grown a lot more love for jerseys then anyone else in my family. I had bought my first jersey at the Silver Spring Sale in New York. My first 4-H jersey has taken me many places and I couldn’t be more grateful for all we have accomplished. And ever since I have been adding onto my herd and investing into my own grown genetics from where it had all started for me.

What is your favorite part about being in the dairy industry?

My favorite part of being in the dairy industry would be the people. We work in such a small world and meet so many new people that easily become lifelong friends. Networking is so easy with new technology and events that are held almost every day. Dairy advocates are always so welcoming and we are constantly growing and striving to share our message with the consuming public. Reaching out to consumers to teach them about our hard work and safe dairy products, and then have them take something positive away from that is all we ask for.

Tell us about your ST sired heifer! What are your accomplishments with her and what are your favorite memories with her?

I have a few Tequilas in my herd but my first favorite would have to be the second natural born out of my first 4-H cow I had great success with. Her name is Way-Har Tequila Tessley out of 93E Look-Out BlackStone Trick or Treat. Tessley was born in March and had taken me very far with junior champion at counties and held up pretty well at the state level at the PA Farmshow and All-American as well. She had then calved in with a heifer this spring and I am very excited for how she has turned out as a cow as well. My favorite memory with her would be, being able to go into the show ring as a damn and daughter and winning that class. To me that is an accomplishment as growing a good, correct herd.

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**STgenetics® is proud to support the youth in the dairy industry.**

For every unit of semen sold from June 1st - June 31st, STgenetics® will donate $1 to the Jersey Association.

Contact your STgenetics® representative or the Dairy Call Center today.
Tell us about your ST sired heifer! What are your accomplishments with her and what are your favorite memories with her?

Warwick Manor Latimer Chubs! One of my favorite heifers I have ever showed. Last year I showed her as a spring yearling. She was first at the national junior show and first in the open show at Harrisburg. My favorite memory with her was when I was showing in the open show. In the first pull I was first and then the second pull I was in second. The judge kept staring at first and second and the moment he told me to go in first It was a moment I will never forget.

Tell us about your involvement in the Guernsey Association:

My involvement in the association is exhibiting at national guernsey shows and every summer I help out at Ag Progress days to raise money for the Guernsey Youth Association.

What have you gained through being a member of the Guernsey Youth Association?

Being a part of the youth association has taught me how to breed and raise high type and production cows, I also have the ability to compete in the junior shows.

Tell us about your involvement in the dairy industry (family farm, organization participation, etc.)

The dairy industry is very important to me, I was born and raised on our farm Warwick Manor. I work at the farm every day and have taken on more responsibilities as I have gotten older. It takes a lot of time and work, but I love every second of it.

What is your favorite part about being in the dairy industry?

My favorite thing about being in the dairy industry is being able to do what I love most with the people I love. Working every day with my family and going to shows all together are moment I will remember forever. Keeping the tradition of the farm which started three generations ago is very important and I am very excited to make the four generations in the future.
Tell us about your involvement in the Red & White Association:

My involvement in the Red Association has been mostly all in the show ring.

What have you gained through being a member of the Red & White Youth Association?

I have gained the ability to show my red and whites at the highest levels, which has led me to meeting some of my better friends.

Tell us about your involvement in the dairy industry (family farm, organization participation, etc.)

My involvement in the dairy industry includes working on our farm Heart and Soul Holsteins. I also work for Pioneer seeds as a sales rep.

What is your favorite part about being in the dairy industry?

Being able to show is my favorite part, but also all of the great people I have met.

Tell us about your ST sired heifer! What are your accomplishments with her and what are your favorite memories with her?

My favorite ST sired heifer would have to be Cherry Lor Absolute Lilly. She was Reserve Intermediate at Premier National in 2017 and first in the All American dairy show that year also. She was fifth at Madison that fall also and was nominated both Jr and open All-American.
MEGAN DAVENPORT
LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Tell us about your involvement in the Ayrshire Association:

I have thoroughly enjoyed representing this incredible breed of dairy cattle as I showed my family’s registered Ayrshire cows at local fairs, national shows such as the Eastern States Exposition, and at the International World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI.

What have you gained through being a member of the Ayrshire Youth Association?

Through my many years of raising and showing Ayrshires, I’ve gained a great appreciation for the dairy industry as a whole, but especially the history of the Ayrshire breed. My great grandfather, Preston Davenport, started our family farm in the 1930s in Litchfield, CT. Over the course of the next 90 years, my family has been proudly carrying on the legacy he started by raising high quality Ayrshire cattle and showing them at various local, state, national and international shows. I have never been prouder to be the 4th generation of Davenports to carry on this legacy by continuing to raise our favorite breed of cattle. “Ayrshire” cattle and “Davenport” farmers and showmen go hand in hand, the Ayrshire Youth Association has allowed me to not only carry on my family’s legacy, but also to meet so many other passionate Ayrshire owners and learn about how important one breed of cattle is to their family history as well.

Tell us about your involvement in the dairy industry (family farm, organization participation, etc.)

Like previously mentioned, I am a part of the 4th generation of my family’s involvement in raising and showing registered Ayrshire cattle. From my humble beginnings of showing my first heifer, Toll Gate Sakic Marshmallow in 2008, I’ve developed a love for the dairy industry that only grew with each heifer I worked with. I then joined 4-H and was heavily involved for 8 years, serving as the Club President for my final year. I also competed on the CT 4-H State Dairy Judging Team that competed at the World Dairy Expo. 4-H opened my eyes to a whole community of passionate youth agriculturalists. I then joined the Woodbury FFA Chapter, I competed and won 1st place individual on the 1st place team in the CT FFA State Dairy Judging Competition and then went on to compete and win 10th place individual and 7th place gold team at the National FFA Dairy Judging Competition. My team and I were then invited to participate in a 2 week agritourism of dairy operations in Scotland, England and Ireland and then went on to win 1st Place in our division of the International Dairy Judging Competition at the Royal Highland Show in Scotland. For my last year in high school and first years of college, I then went on to serve as the CT FFA State Sentinel (2017-18), State Vice President (2018-19) and CT’s National FFA Officer Candidate (2019). All of these incredible opportunities and experiences I’ve had through my time in 4-H, FFA and the dairy industry, I have fallen in love with dairy science and agriscience education and am currently pursuing a degree in Animal Science and Agricultural Education at the University of Connecticut.

What is your favorite part about being in the dairy industry?

Hands down my favorite part of all of this is meeting new people who share the same passion and drive as I do. Within every agricultural community, local, county, state and national, every individual is willing to lend a helping hand as well as support in many forms to those who need it. Every dairy farmer I have met has been so incredibly compassionate, caring, hardworking and proud of their herds and livelihoods, and each has been so kind and generous to their fellow farmers and other interested community members. The agricultural industry, especially the dairy sector, is composed of some of the humblest yet driven people I’ve ever met.

Tell us about your ST sired heifer! What are your accomplishments with her and what are your favorite memories with her?

Toll Gate Predator Harbor - 1st Place Winter Calf & Reserve Junior Champion at 2018 Eastern States National Jr. 1st Place (Jr) and 3rd Place (Open) Winter Calf at 2018 WDE. Honorable Mention All-American and Unanimous Jr. All-American Winter Calf in 2018.

My favorite memory was when I was showing Toll Gate Predatory Harbor at the World Dairy Expo, leading her around the famous colored shavings, and being pulled to 3rd Place Open and 1st Place Junior of the 2018 Winter Calf class. I had never been more ecstatic to receive such a feat and had never been prouder to represent the Davenport “Toll Gate Farm” legacy my family had carried on through generations.

STgenetics® is proud to support the youth in the dairy industry.

For every unit of semen sold from June 1st - June 31st, STgenetics® will donate $1 to the Ayrshire Association.

Contact your STgenetics® representative or the Dairy Call Center today.
Tell us about your involvement in the Red & White Association:

My families farm has been in the states Association for a long time so I am able to breed and show cows.

What have you gained through being a member of the Red & White Youth Association?

I have learned so many things working with my cows and my farm.

Tell us about your involvement in the dairy industry (family farm, organization participation, etc.)

I am full time on my families farm, we milk 180 Holsteins.

What is your favorite part about being in the dairy industry?

Working with my friends and family. Also working with my registered Holsteins.

Tell us about your ST sired heifer! What are your accomplishments with her and what are your favorite memories with her?

I showed Eagle since she was a calf, I have shown her mother, and her daughter. My favorite memory with Eagle was being Grand Champion of the New York State Fair and showing her at Madison.
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