

Ron, Jeannie, and Marv Miller

The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) will honor Ron, Jeannie, and Marv Miller and Enchanted Dairy as recipients of the 2014 Dairy Appreciation Award.

The Dairy Appreciation Award was created in 2011 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the dairy industry and supported the college's education and research missions. Individuals are nominated by members of the Dairy Production Medicine Group and the recipient is selected by a vote.

The Millers operate the 1600-cow dairy farm near Little Falls, Minnesota. The dairy is a former recipient of Minnesota's Dairy Producer of the Year by the Minnesota Milk Producers Association. Enchanted Dairy has been an important partner to the College of Veterinary Medicine for nearly a decade, collaborating with the college to educate both veterinary students and post-graduate continuing education students. The family has hosted teaching exercises at their dairy and provided access to their dairy for research studies to develop better systems to manage and support health initiatives on dairies.

For many students, their experience at Enchanted Dairy marks their introduction to dairy production medicine. According to John Fetrow, CVM Professor of Dairy Production Medicine, "The Millers have patiently answered students' questions, endured their intrusion, and have been positive and supportive examples of the best in the dairy industry."

Ron Miller appreciates the opportunity to work with veterinary students. "It has been a real privilege over the years of working with the College of Veterinary Medicine. We have found so much energy in the students and their passion for their careers. The knowledge they bring and their enthusiasm is uplifting."

The award will be presented to Enchanted Dairy on May 22, 2014 during the Minnesota Dairy Health Conference at the Doubletree/Hilton Hotel Park Place, Minneapolis.

The farm was started by Ron and Marv Miller's grandfather, who purchased the land in 1947. When Ron and Marv's parents came home from the service in 1955, they purchased a farm site across the road and began farming on their own. Their father was a full-time carpenter so the dairy only developed as Ron and Marv began to take interest in it. Ron began dairying with his father in 1981. Five years later, Ron and Jeannie were married, Marv returned to the farm and their father retired. At that time, Ron, Jeannie and Marv formed a partnership and have been operating the dairy business ever since, growing from the original 75 cows to more than 1,000 by 2005, when the veterinary college first began to work with the dairy.



R. Sorge, G. Cramer, E. Royster, **R. Miller, J. Miller**, M. Boyle, S. Godden, J. Fetrow
(Photo: Dairy Star/Peggy Coffeen)