

# Southeast Dairy Producer's Check-Off Program Research Summary

## Milk Check-Off Veterinary Student Scholarship

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**Funding Year:** 2022

**Amount Awarded:** \$1,000

### Executive Summary

This is an on-going, annual scholarship supported by the Milk Check-off, Dairy Research and Education Projects supporting outstanding students who make a difference in the dairy industry.

### Methods

#### Objective:

The objective is to encourage and recognize veterinary students who have shown outstanding leadership qualities, scholastic abilities and proficiency in dairy cattle production medicine and research.

#### Background:

The Food Animal Reproduction and Medicine Service (FARM Service) in the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has developed a Certificate in Food Animal Veterinary Medicine (FAVM), which is offered to encourage the development of students capable of providing professional service and clinical research to the area of food animal medicine upon graduation. Students participating in the certificate program are mentored through didactic, clinical and clinical research activities that provide a strong entry level training in applied food animal veterinary medicine. Faculty mentors play an important role in helping students clarify and pursue their career goals and set the path for their completion of certificate requirements.

Students who successfully complete the certificate program receive a University of Florida certificate and accompanying transcript annotation that documents their directed training in FAVM. The certificate identifies a new graduate veterinarian as capable and ready for an entry-level position in a food animal practice or a food systems profession. The certificate provides students an edge in employment readiness because of their dedication, work ethic and commitment to the certification process. They are better prepared to provide leadership and applied clinical research in the area of food systems veterinary medicine. This process also prepares the way for specialty training in an internship and (or) residency program and (or) advanced training in a graduate education (MS, PhD) program. This scholarship is awarded to a certificate candidate who has met the following criteria.

### Criteria:

The award is made to veterinary students who have shown outstanding leadership qualities, applied clinical research, scholastic abilities and proficiency in dairy cattle production medicine. Special consideration given students that have an interest in practicing in Florida.

### Justification:

This award is in support of an annual scholarship in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida to individual-s expected to have a positive impact in the dairy industry over the course of their professional career.



Recipients of the Veterinary Student Scholarship for 2017-2021 are labeled.

2017: Kailey Ann McDougald

2018: Kelly Mills

2019: Wayne Garcia

2020: Jonathan Smith

2021: Alexandra (Alex) Swets

# Milk Check-Off Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipients

## Recipient for 2022:

**Catalina Mejia Bonilla** (Class of 2022)

- Zoetis Scholarship recipient
- Cornell Summer Dairy Institute participant
- Numerous dairy externships Florida and the western USA.
- Research/Presentation: Calcium supplementation in post-partum dairy cows- a meta-analysis
- Employed: The Dairy Authority, Greeley, CO

## Recipient for 2021:

**Alexandra (Alex) Swets** (Class of 2021)

- Active and leader (vice president) in the UF CVM Food Animal Club.
- Numerous dairy externships Florida, Virginia
- Presentation: Dairy hospital SOPs and protocols.
- Research Project: Risk factors associated with neonatal weak calf syndrome.
- Employed: Farm veterinarian Alliance Dairy, Trenton, FL.

## Recipient for 2020:

**Jonathan Smith** (Class of 2020)

- Active and leader (vice president) in the UF CVM Food Animal Club.
- Numerous dairy externships Florida, Kentucky, Colorado
- Recipient of the Waltham Leader Award.
- Presentation: Dairy reproduction: identifying problems and solutions for your herd.
- Research Project: Productivity of cows that had otitis media as a calf.
- Employed: Okeechobee Livestock Veterinarians, Okeechobee, FL.

## Recipient for 2019:

**Wayne Garcia** (Class of 2020)

- Active and leader in the UF CVM Food Animal Club and the UF Dairy Science Club.
- Dairy externships in New York, New Mexico, Florida
- Recipient American Association of Bovine Practitioners Amstutz and Zoetis Veterinary Scholarships.
- Participated in the US Dairy Education and Training Consortium
- Participated in a dairy research project, • Using honey to treat udder cleft dermatitis (2017)
- Participant in the Regional and National Dairy Challenge (2016)
- He currently practices in a predominantly small animal practice in Alexandria, VA.

## Recipient for 2018:

**Kelly Mills** (Class of 2019)

- Active supporter of food animal club. Florida native
- Numerous externships to large animal practices, dairy specific
- Participated in several dairy research projects, • Improving the performance of dairy cattle with a xylanase-rich exogenous enzyme preparation and Utility of ATP-bioluminescence measured by a hand-held luminometer as a tool for monitoring hygiene of milk replacer feeding systems for dairy calves
- Participant AVMA Animal Welfare Assessment team (2016)
- Participant Navajo Mission, Veterinary Christian Fellowship and Project HEAL, Ecuador outreach
- She practices in a predominantly large animal practice in Parkton, NC.

## Recipient for 2017:

**Kailey Ann McDougald** (Class of 2018)

- Active, strong supporter of food animal programs in CVM. Florida native
- Club vice-president, active in club events, lectures, labs; student delegate to the AABP
- Completed a dairy research project, • Factors associated with prevention of Cryptosporidiosis in dairy calves.
- Employed: State Line Veterinary Services, Milton, WI, an all-dairy veterinary practice.