

Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF)

66th Annual Awards Weekend – Jan. 24-26 2020

At Avalon Hotel & Conference Center Chippewa Falls, WI

Winner: **Philip & Laura Finger** Oconto, WI. Philip Finger is a fifth generation farmer on his family farm which has been in existence since 1872. When Philip and Laura married, Laura bought into the family farm as well. Finger Family Farm currently includes a total of 1900 crop acres and 540 cows. The Fingers work together as a team, as Philip's passion is genetics, while Laura's passion is calves, complimenting each other along the way. The Fingers will be hosting their county Breakfast on the Farm in 2022 which is the 150th Anniversary of their family farm. Philip & Laura are sponsored by Genex, Valley Vet and Vita Plus. Phone: 920.604.0764 cell; 920.834.9663 home

1st Runner Up: **Katy Schultz** Fox Lake, WI. Katy is a partner in Tri-Fecta Farms, Inc., which is sponsored by Ballweg Equipment, Compeer, Vita Plus and Waupun Equipment. Phone: 920.210.9661

2nd Runner Up: **Jeremy & Heather Natzke** Green Leaf, WI. Jeremy is a fifth generation farmer at his family farm Wayside Dairy and are sponsored by CP Feeds, GPS Dairy Consulting, GreenStone FCS, Luxemburg-Casco Jaycees and Riesterer & Schnell. Phone: 920.371.1968

"Speak up for Agriculture" award Winner, sponsored by *The Country Today*: **Katy Schultz**, Fox Lake, WI. Katy has had the opportunity to travel abroad immersing herself in the culture of many countries while educating them on America's diverse agriculture. Katy Schultz is sponsored by Ballweg Equipment, Compeer, Vita Plus and Waupun Equipment. Phone: 920.210.9661

The winners, Philip and Laura Finger, will be nominated to attend the national OYF to be held in Appleton, WI February 4-8, 2021.

Other finalists in the state OYF event:

Kelly Fruit, Viola, WI. Kelly was sponsored by Advanced Dairy Solutions, Compeer, McNess, and Nelson Agriculture Center.

John "JJ" & Chase Pagel Kewaunee, WI. Pagels were sponsored by Boehringer-Ingelheim, GPS Dairy Consulting, Greenstone, Lallemand, Luxemburg-Casco Jaycees, Micro Technologies and Riesterer & Schnell.

Laura & Tyler Raatz Oconto Falls, WI. Laura and Tyler are sponsored by CP Feeds, Greenstone, Oconto Falls Insurance Center and Riesterer & Schnell .

Judges for the event include: Steve Bodart, Elk Mound, WI, a Senior Dairy Consultant with Compeer Financial with clients across the United States; Lyssa Seefeldt, Eau Claire, WI, the Agriculture Agent for UW-Extension in Eau Claire County; and Sam Zimmerman, Ringle, WI, past Wisconsin OYF State Winner and National OYF Winner, who operates On-Q Holsteins LLC, near Wausau. **The Awards Banquet emcee** was Scott Schultz, Farm Broadcaster with WAXX radio.

An Ag Forum training session for the candidates was led by Trisha Wagner and area Ag Agents/Educators with Daphne Holterman, past Wisconsin OYF State Winner and National OYF Winner on Friday afternoon. **Candidates also toured area businesses including:** Seibel's Organic Dairy in Bloomer and Leinenkugel's Brewery in Chippewa Falls.

Diamond Sponsors of the OYF event were: Compeer Financial, GreenStone FCS, Lallemand Animal Nutrition, Micro Technologies, USAgNet, Vita Plus, Wayside Dairy/Dan & Barb Natzke and Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin who awarded the finalists a membership and registration to the annual business conference. **Platinum sponsors:** Blain's Farm & Fleet, BMP Harris Bank, Citizen's State Bank, GPS Dairy Consulting, Ken & Ann Reckelberg, Kuhn North America, Inc., Lloyd & Daphne Holterman, Nelson Agri-Center True Value, Robert & Karyn Schauf, and The Country Today. **Gold**

Sponsors: Advanced Dairy Solutions, Culver's of Chippewa Falls, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association, Forest Construction, Fruit Family Farm/Kelly & Rachel Fruit, Marieke Gouda LLC, Oconto Falls Ins. Center, Riesterer & Schnell, Valley Vet Clinic and Wisconsin Farmer Union. **Silver Sponsors:** Ballweg Implement, Boehringer-Ingelheim, CP Feeds, Durst-Larse Farm/Jamie & Angela Larse, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, Evan Hilan, Kwik Trip, Furst McNess Company, Harold & Cindy Matton, Luxemburg-Casco Jaycees, Northwestern Bank and Waupun Equipment. **Bronze Sponsors:** Vern & LaVonne Acker, Animart LLC, Genex, Johnson Litho Graphics, Lakeshore Farm Management, Sam's Club, and Walmart.

Next month the national OYF Congress will be held in Westbrook, CT. Adam & Chrissy Seibel, Bloomer, WI, will be representing Wisconsin as one of the Top 10 Finalists for the National OYF Award. Good Luck to Adam & Chrissy.

For more information:

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