



# EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTION

## The 2011 DCRC Reproduction Award Winners

Since 2009 the Dairy Cattle Reproduction Council (DCRC) has annually recognized dairy producers who excel in herd reproduction through the Reproduction Award program. New in 2011, the DCRC Reproduction Award program separated Holstein and non-Holstein herds into two categories to more effectively recognize the accomplishments of all dairies, keeping in mind breed fertility differences.

In a very competitive third year, the program received 74 nominations from dairies across 17 states. Nominees were analyzed by both a panel of industry judges and an independent analytic program to further evaluate raw data on every cow that calved between January 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010. After comparing the reproductive performance on the dairies, finalists were ranked based on various reproductive parameters and selected to receive a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Honorable Mention award.

In 2011, 19 dairies have been recognized for their herd's exceptional reproductive performance. The top four herds will receive platinum honors and will participate in a panel discussion at the 2011 DCRC Annual Meeting, November 10 – 11, in Kansas City, Missouri. Highlighting their on-farm reproductive success, the four Platinum Award winners provide insight into their herd reproduction program in this roundtable discussion.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS IN THE 2010 DCRC REPRODUCTION AWARD PROGRAM!

PLATINUM			
<b>Hourigan Family Dairy</b> Syracuse, New York	<b>River Ranch Dairy</b> Hanford, California	<b>Rock Bottom Dairy</b> Rock Rapids, Iowa	<b>Watts Brothers Dairy</b> Patterson, Washington
GOLD	SILVER		HONORABLE MENTION
<b>Breitenmoser Farms</b> Merrill, Wisconsin	<b>Beck Farms</b> Freeville, New York	<b>Hochkammer Dairy Farm</b> Manitowoc, Wisconsin	
<b>Collins Dairy</b> Greenleaf, Wisconsin	<b>Frazee Farms</b> Fabius, New York	<b>Pete DeHaan Dairy</b> Salem, Oregon	
<b>Crosswind Dairy</b> Elkton, South Dakota	<b>Michel Ranch and Dairy</b> Waterford, California		
<b>Curtin Dairy LP</b> Cassville, New York	<b>Schilling Farms, LLC</b> Darlington, Wisconsin		
<b>Majestic Meadows Dairy</b> Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin			
<b>Synergy Dairy, LLC</b> Wyoming, New York			



**HOURIGAN FAMILY DAIRY**, established in 1950, is located in Syracuse, New York. Mike Hourigan along with his sons Andy, Dave and Richard work collaboratively on the dairy alongside 20 employees. Hourigan Family Dairy is milking 1,150 Holstein cows with a rolling herd average of 29,850 pounds; they also farm 3,000 acres of cropland.



**RIVER RANCH DAIRY**, a 5,300-cow Holstein operation located in Hanford, California, is owned and operated by Jack de Jong. The herd is milked three times a day, with a rolling herd average of approximately 27,600 pounds. All replacement heifers are raised on-farm. River Ranch Dairy employs 60 people.



**ROCK BOTTOM DAIRY**, located in Rock Rapids, Iowa, is owned by Bernie Bakker and managed by brother Dan Bakker. Bernie purchased an existing 100 cow dairy in 2002, and has since grown the dairy to its current size of 1,100 Jersey cows. Currently, 100 acres of cropland are owned with the remainder of the forages purchased from neighbors. There are 13 employees working in various areas throughout the operation. Rock Bottom Dairy maintains a rolling herd average of 17,800 pounds, while milking twice each day. Heifers are raised on farm until 4 months old, then sent to a heifer grower.



**WATTS BROTHERS DAIRY**, started in the fall of 2006, is located in Patterson, Washington. Owned and operated by Watts Brothers Farms, the operation consists of approximately 20,000 acres of rotational crops and 2,750 Jersey cows. The operation's closed herd is fed rations formulated primarily with farm-grown feeds. Additionally, all young stock are raised on site. They have a rolling herd average of 20,410 pounds and employ 35 people.