



MEDIA RELEASE

Gardiner Foundation Nurtures Young Scientists

Two hundred and twenty dairy industry delegates at the Dairy Research Foundation's *2011 Dairy Science Symposium* saw Helen Golder and Joe McGrath emerge as winners of the Gardiner Foundation sponsored "Emerging Dairy Scientists Award"

The annual Symposium is the signature event of the University of Sydney's Dairy Research Foundation. The Symposium is widely recognised throughout the Australian dairy industry as a showcase of dairy science in application – that brings together the farm and dairy science communities with a special focus on nurturing and developing young and emerging scientists – and linking them with the farm sector.

The format of the 2011 Symposium was a combination of conference and farm – with Day 2 set aside for a full day of presentations in workshop format. Delegates rotated around 8 Platform Stations, spending 40 minutes per station. It was here that nine young dairy scientists showcased projects in what was a unique "professional development" opportunity.

Helen Golder won the award for the highest ranking judged by a panel of dairy industry scientists. Helen is fast approaching the halfway mark of her PhD as a joint venture through the University of Sydney and the bovine research and consultancy company SBScibus based in Camden. Helen's major areas of interest are dairy health and nutrition with a focus on acidosis.

Joe McGrath's presentation won the award for the highest ranking by Symposium delegates. Joe is studying at the University of New England in Armidale. His area of study is based on the manipulation of Ca and P metabolism in cattle with Vitamin D. The work involves trying to develop an alternative prevention technique for the control of clinical and sub-clinical hypocalcaemia with a combination of Vitamin D and anionic salts.

2nd place in this category went to **Claire Kentler**, researching her PhD at La Trobe University with a focus on aspects of neonatal survival including management, nutrition and immunity and supporting the calf through critical periods of growth and development. 3rd place in this category went to **Nic Lyons** undergoing his Master's degree at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, within the Future Dairy Project. His interest is in Dairy Systems performance and management and he is currently doing a research project within pasture-based automatic milking systems.

Dr Pietro Celi, Senior Lecturer in Ruminant Production and Health at the University of Sydney said "*I believe that the emerging scientists were the highlight of the program and they all did a fantastic job*".

Paul Ford, Gardiner Chief Executive said "*The Foundation has invested \$850k in dairy related projects at the University of Sydney. Past projects have included*

- *molecular genetic profiling for high genetic gain;*
- *sex preselection of dairy cattle sperm;*
- *development of a commercial prototype genetic DNA-based platform for the prediction of total genetic merit and superior selection of dairy cattle (University of Sydney-CRC-IDP), and*
- *development of mycoplasma mastitis diagnostic tests and incidence in dairy herds.*

We are delighted to have been a sponsor of the "Emerging Dairy Scientist Awards". Attracting, retaining and developing new science capability is a defining issue for the dairy industry."



Photo captions:

1 - **Joe McGrath** – Highest ranked by Symposium delegates.

2 - Emerging Young Scientists:

Front (l. to r.): David McGill, Rene Kolbach, Mary Abdelsayed

Back (l. to r.): Michael Campbell, Dr Pietro Celi (University of Sydney), Wolfie Wagner

(Gardiner Foundation), Tori Scott, Nico Lyons, Helen Golder, Claire Kentler, Joe McGrath and Paul Ford (Gardiner Foundation)

3 – **Helen Golder** – Highest ranked by dairy industry panel

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