

**MICHIGAN BREED ASSOCIATIONS TO MEET AT 2009 GLRDC;
NEW PROGRAM TARGETED TO YOUTH IN DAIRY FIELD**

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The seventh annual Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference (GLRDC) welcomes renowned Holstein breeder Bob Miller, Mil-R-Mor Farm, Orangeville, Ill., as its breed program guest speaker. Miller and his granddaughter, Lorilee Schultz, the next generation to manage the famous herd, will keynote the Saturday, Feb. 7 schedule. Their talk begins at 8 a.m.

The 2009 GLRDC – of which the Michigan dairy breed association program is a part – is scheduled for Feb. 5-7 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center (28th Street) in Grand Rapids.

Known as the breeder owner of “Queen of the Breed” Mil-R-Mor Elevation Roxy, EX-97, Miller will share memories and tales of his life as a Registered Holstein breeder. Schultz will look ahead, commenting on changes the farm has implemented since she came onboard, which included relocating the farm from Dundee to Orangeville (former location of Carrousel Farms).

Following the breeder program, all attendees are invited to listen in as Dr. Joe Domecq, academic specialist and coordinator of the Institute of Agricultural Technology Dairy Management Program and Michigan 4-H dairy youth specialist, leads the All Breeds Bulletin. This session features updates and information on events, activities and news affecting the entire dairy industry. Brunch follows the conclusion of this session.

Following brunch, several Michigan breed associations will meet: the Michigan Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association, the Guernsey Breeders Association, Holstein Association and Jersey Cattle Club. Youth will split into their own meeting.

Amanda Nolz, an agricultural communications student at South Dakota State University, will headline this new youth segment which will run concurrently with the breed association meetings. Nolz, who is also presenting two talks during the Partners Program earlier in the conference, will hold a session called, “Youth in Agriculture: The Future is Bright!”

Some may know Nolz as the 2006 National Beef Ambassador who organized the 500 person strong walkout of a sold-out Carrie Underwood concert during the 2006 Future Farmers of America national convention in Indianapolis. Today she is the author of the blog, “Chewing the Cud” and Web editor for the daily blog for BEEF magazine; she also hosts her own radio program.

The youth program, open to all ages, will also include presentations on dairy processing and “Cheeses from around the world,” featuring 10 to 15 cheeses to taste sample.

Teresa Crook, Frankenmuth, is coordinator for the new youth event. She says the purpose of the program is to create a venue for young people to meet others their own age.

“Nolz will bring energy to the program,” she says. “She really enjoys talking to young people about agriculture, especially how it’s important to be proud of your agricultural roots and to share your story with others who don’t know where their food comes from.”

The \$25 registration fee for youths (\$35 after Jan. 29) includes brunch, meeting materials and a t-shirt.

The adult registration fee (\$35 per person until Jan. 29, \$50 per person after Jan. 29) includes the breed program, association meetings and brunch. Farm rates are also available.

Attendees need not be members of a breed association to take part in the Saturday program or activities.

For complete registration and schedule information for the 2009 GLRDC, visit www.glrhc.msu.edu, or call Megghan Honke, education program coordinator, at 517-353-3175, ext. 229.

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