

## Dr. Heersche Receives Hoard's Award

---

George Heersche, Jr. is the 2008 national recipient of the Hoard's Dairyman Youth Development Award presented by the American Dairy Science Association.

Dr. Heersche is Professor and Extension Dairy Specialist at the University of Kentucky. His primary responsibilities are to provide high quality extension educational programs for 4-H youth in dairy cattle and in dairy cattle reproductive management. His dairy youth programs focus on conducting excellent quality 4-H dairy educational programs and managing the statewide 4-H educational programs so they are conducted to the greatest benefit to the youth participants.

As stated by one of his nominators for the Hoard's Award, " Dr. Heersche is a consistent source of knowledge, wisdom, and encouragement for students of all ages with an interest in dairy cattle. He has the unique ability to relate to students from all backgrounds. He has been an invaluable mentor to me, both personally and professionally."

George is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert in dairy youth development. He is one of three people who started the 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl held in conjunction with the North American International in Louisville. This educational event celebrated its 25th year in 2004. The 1998 World

Guernsey Conference wanted their keynote address to be on youth programs and they selected Dr. Heersche to deliver the keynote address. George assisted with the National FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event from 1999-2005. Dr. Heersche received the Honorary American FFA Degree in 2004. He is also chairman of the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Management Committee. George was the Youth Committee Chairman for the 1998 National Holstein Convention and the 1996 National Poultry Science Association Meeting. He was superintendent of the Youth, Post-Secondary and Collegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contests at the NAILE for nine years and currently serves as co-superintendent of these high quality contests.

George has coached three national championship 4-H dairy cattle judging teams which have participated in international competition in Edinburgh, Scotland. He also coached the high individual in four national competitions.

He was raised on the Heersche Bros. Holstein farm near Mulvane, Kansas. George has worked for the following dairy herds: Carnation Milk Farms, Pleasant Valley Holsteins, Ros-La-Mar Jerseys, Heersche Bros. Holsteins, and Kansas State University. He earned degrees in Agriculture, Dairy Science

and Reproductive Physiology from Kansas State University. He and his wife, Kathy, have one son, two daughters, two grandsons and were foster parents for 20 years.

---

**Kentucky Dairy Notes September 2008**



---

*Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.*



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification