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Outstanding Individuals to Be Honored at All-American Dairy Show

Award Winners to be Honored during the Premier National Junior Show on Sept. 14

Harrisburg, Pa. (September 8, 2026) – Distinguished individuals will be recognized for contributions that have shaped the All-American Dairy Show. Dale Olver of State College will receive the Obie Snider Award, and Tom and Joy Crothers of Quarryville will receive the Image Award.

The Obie Snider Award, established in memory of All-American Dairy Show founding father Obie Snider, recognizes an individual who values service to the dairy industry and community and displays high standards of conduct.

This year's recipient, Dale Olver, has made a lifelong commitment to dairy education, youth development and the dairy industry, leaving a lasting impact on generations of students and dairy youth.

Olver grew up on a small family dairy farm in Honesdale, where he was active in 4-H, including dairy judging. After earning a degree in dairy production from Penn State, he spent 10 years with Atlantic Breeders Cooperative as a progeny analyst under the guidance of Harry Roth.

In 1989, Olver began his career at Penn State, where he has educated and mentored students for more than three decades. He has coached the Penn State Dairy Judging Team and co-advises the Penn State Dairy Science Club with Chad Dechow. Under Olver's leadership, the dairy judging team has captured three national championships and earned more than 30 top-10 finishes at the national contest, helping Penn State rank second among universities in all-time national contest winning percentage.

Olver's influence extends beyond the judging team. As co-advisers, he and Dechow have guided the Penn State Dairy Science Club to exceptional success. For the past six years, the club has been recognized as an Outstanding Chapter by the American Dairy Science Association.

Throughout his career at Penn State, Olver has taught or co-taught nine courses, sharing his knowledge of and passion for animal science and the dairy industry with countless students.

His commitment to youth development also reaches throughout Pennsylvania and beyond. In addition to his responsibilities at Penn State, Olver works closely with the Pennsylvania 4-H dairy program and supports events such as the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show and the Junior Dairy Management Contest at the All-American Dairy Show. He also helps coordinate dairy quiz bowl and dairy jeopardy competitions for Pennsylvania's Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey associations.

Olver's dedication to education and youth development has earned him significant recognition, including the Hoard's Dairyman Youth Development Award and the Purina Teaching Award, both presented through the American Dairy Science Association.

Through teaching, coaching, advising and service to the dairy community, Olver has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to developing the next generation of dairy leaders. His influence is evident in the accomplishments of the teams and organizations he has guided and in the students and young people he has encouraged throughout his career.

The Image Award is presented annually to an individual who has enhanced the image of the All-American Dairy Show through notable contributions to its reputation, prestige and welfare.

The 2026 recipients, Tom and Joy Crothers, are longtime supporters whose service has touched nearly every part of the All-American Dairy Show. Over the years, they have volunteered with judging and showmanship contests, the ultrasound booth, Guernsey and Brown Swiss check-in, Guernsey class organization, housekeeping awards and youth events.

For the past four years, the Crotherses have served on the Hospitality Committee. Each morning, they help prepare and distribute coffee, doughnuts and milk throughout the barns, offering exhibitors a warm welcome as the show comes to life. Joy has helped secure funding for milk through Allied Milk while coordinating supplies, monitoring inventory and ensuring equitable distribution.

Whether working behind the scenes, supporting exhibitors and board members or greeting others with a friendly face, Tom and Joy consistently help maintain the welcoming spirit and positive image of the All-American Dairy Show.

The Image Award will be presented during the Brown Swiss fall calf class at the Premier National Junior Show on Monday afternoon, Sept. 14. The Obie Snider Award will be presented during the Premier National Junior Show Supreme Champion Pageant at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 14 in the New Holland Large Arena. Both presentations will take place at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg.

For more information, contact the All-American Dairy Show at 717.787.2905, or by email at aads@pa.gov, or visit the website at allamericandairyshow.com.

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Photo caption: Dale Olver of State College, Pa., will receive the Obie Snider Award on Monday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m., during the Premier National Junior Show Supreme Champion Pageant at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center, Harrisburg.



Photo caption: Tom and Joy Crothers of Quarreyville , Pa., will receive the Image Award during the Brown Swiss fall calf class at the Premier National Junior Show on Monday afternoon, Sept. 14. at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center, Harrisburg.

