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Miner Institute Farm Once Again Named A Dairy Of Distinction

Chazy, NY – September 19, 2005 – Out of 25,000 farms in the four-state area covered by the Dairy of Distinction program, Miner Institute is one of only 628 to be named a Dairy of Distinction. The prestigious honor, signified by the red and yellow sign, is awarded annually to farms deemed to be the best representatives of the industry by the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program (NEDFBP).

Farms are judged based on several criteria such as the condition of buildings to include a clean and attractive finish, good physical condition, and a uniform appearance. Grounds and surroundings should be neatly groomed and attractive including roads and lanes, and fences in good repair. In addition, farm operations such as cleanliness of livestock and farm animals including the barnyard, manure handling, machinery, and pollution management are essential components to a farm's overall score. The award is based on the concept that attractive farmsteads will enhance consumer confidence, and encourage public support for the industry.

The Miner Institute farm is a unique working dairy farm in that its principal function is the economic improvement of agriculture through research, education, and demonstration. In collaboration with SUNY Plattsburgh in the fall semester, the University of Vermont in the spring semester, and an intern program during the summer, the Institute is a virtual lab with the latest in technology, equipment, and methodology available to the students and staff who study and work there.

The nexus of this complex is a 272-cow insulated freestall dairy barn built in 2004 complete with a research wing and classroom. Built with an eye on improved cow and employee comfort, this new facility incorporates the latest dairy technology in its innovative design. Other barn facilities include a 160-cow uninsulated freestall barn, an uninsulated freestall dry cow barn, and calf barn. In addition, Miner Institute has an ecosystems study field lab at its Flatrock, Altona property, a library, laboratory complex, computer lab, and dormitory housing for its resident students.

NEDFBP was established in 1983 to recognize the hard work and dedication of dairy owner and operators who maintain attractive, well-kept farmsteads. NEDFBP operates in Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

For further information on Miner Institute or its variety of education and research programs, visit its website at www.whminer.com.

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