



## **Farewell from 2022 New York State Dairy Ambassador Gabriella Taylor**

After ten years of dairy promotion in this program, I cannot believe this is my farewell. I started as an ambassador in the Wayne County Dairy Promotion Program when I was ten years old, but my excitement for the program began long before then. I can proudly say that this program has impacted me the most of the many that I have been a part of. When I was twelve, I heard a guest speaker talk about her career in agricultural communications. Before this, all I wanted as a little girl was to hold the dairy ambassador position forever, but I did not know of a career that mimicked this role. Since that moment, I have been set on a degree in communications to better advocate for our dairy farmers. This program sparked my passion for communicating with consumers about this fantastic industry. I have learned incredibly valuable skills, such as public speaking, written communications, time management, organization, interview skills, and most importantly, how to be a storyteller.

I have had an incredible year representing dairy farmers from across the state. We portrayed farmers' environmental stewardship, care for their cows, and the nutritional value of dairy. This was accomplished through many events, such as Virtual Farm Tours, Beef on Dairy Recipes, the New York State Basketball Championships, the Butter Sculpture Unveiling, and Dairy Day at the New York State Fair. I was able to tell your story in all types of media, from Orchard Park to Glens Falls. With that being said, I have many people to show my appreciation to tonight.

First and foremost, thank you to my family, who have always supported and encouraged me in my dreams. I appreciate all the times you challenged me, proofread my speeches, and acted as my chauffeur. Without you, I would not be in this role, I would not have started a social media dedicated to agriculture, and I would not have the podcast at Bonaventure. You are my biggest cheerleaders and the best people to bounce ideas off.

Thank you to Katie Jasmin and Annika Donlick, truly, two of my best friends. I could not have asked for two better teammates beside me. Our adventures have given us many memories filled with laughter and chocolate milk that I will forever hold dear in my heart.

To Annika and Katie's families, who would always lend a hand when we needed it: Thank you for the car rides, emergency sewing kits, and a hotel room when things went wrong.

To El-Vi Farms and the Andrew Family, who have housed my animals for the past eleven years and allowed me to work on the calf team and the farm newsletter.

To the ADANE team, and especially Beth Meyer, who has helped us at every event and made this program possible.

And lastly, to the farmers. Every year you put your trust in a promoter to spread messages about dairy, and this year I was that person. This program would not exist without the support of its dairy farmers, so I cannot thank you enough for your daily hard work.

Thank you for trusting in me and giving me this amazing experience that I will reflect on in everything I do. I will continue to advocate for the effort you put into this industry every day of the year, no matter the weather or occasion, because I know you will be feeding the world, one gallon at a time.

For the final time, my name is Gabriella Taylor, and it has been an honor to serve as the 2022-2023 New York State Dairy Ambassador.