



Farewell from 2022 New York State First Associate Dairy Ambassador Katie Jasmin

It's hard to believe this year is coming to a close. It feels like yesterday I was sitting at breakfast talking to two girls I didn't know very well. Little did I know they would become lifelong friends. This year has been interesting for everyone involved. We decided to make a change and experiment with new ideas and activities. The common nickname the three of us were given was "the guinea pigs!" At first I'll admit I was pretty nervous, however looking back at those first few weeks I am beyond proud. This organization gave me more confidence than anything else in my life. I jumped into something new and just ran with it!

Despite the hard work and dedication I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Monanfran Farms! My extremely supportive family offered to sponsor me at the beginning of my journey to New York State. The long nights at the dinner table working on speeches, product knowledge and even fake interview questions led me here. I am forever thankful for their time and opened minds to all of my questions! My aunt Amy and cousin Justine truly shaped my career and taught me all the tricks of the trade! Anytime a question arose I knew exactly who to turn to!

If there is one point I always wanted to get across during my time as top 3, is to simply have fun! There was not a single time us girls weren't caught dancing, laughing, drawing pictures during long shows, or taking a funny selfie of two! What we do is so important and monumental to other young voices in the industry, and along with that comes a lot of responsibility. During our seminar where we got everyone prepped for their year to come I don't think there was a single time I wasn't trying to make someone laugh! I hope that the future group will understand the weight that they hold with their voice, but also the impact they have with their smile. In light of having fun, one of the best memories I shared with Annika Donlick and Gabby Taylor was the duck claw machine! It was the morning of the NYSPHAA basketball championship and we were all out to breakfast at a cute local coffee shop. After we finished eating, the glisten of the beautiful machine caught my eye. That's when I realized I was going to spend any cash in my pocket to win a sparkly rubber duck! In total we won 5, Annika was the proud owner of Flash the duck, Gabby had Herbie, and I was left with the red, white and blue sparkly trio. We laughed so hard and took these rubber ducks everywhere we went!

Herbie even had a debut later that morning on the basketball court! Needless to say the moments we spent laughing together will forever be in my heart.

To the industry that made all of this possible, I am in your debt. There wasn't a day that went by that I wasn't a proud advocate to the people that nurture our land, care for our animals and provide a delicious and nutritious product. If it wasn't for each and every farmer behind the scenes I would not be able to look back at these past few years and smile widely! Their hard work and dedication is what led us all here today. Everyone on the stage tonight, and in the crowd supporting, knows that this is an important story to be told. These driven men and women provided a beautiful program that now boys and girls can be a part of and learn the ways in best supporting them. The connections I have made and the activities along the way are why I am who I am today.

Lastly I would like to thank my mom Monica Jasmin, who not too long ago was on this stage as New York State Dairy Promoter. If it wasn't for her honest and loving support I would not be as successful in my life as I have been. It was actually my cousin Justine Kelsey and my brother Zach Jasmin who got me into the program. I was nervous at first because I knew the big shoes I would be filling, however when I came to my mom and expressed my interest the look on her face was what made me realize I needed to do this. Also a big thank you to my father Tim Jasmin, who not only made sure my car was in tip top shape before I left for every event, but also shared words of wisdom to help me get through tricky situations. During this year Monica has been much more than a mother but a best friend to wake up at 5a.m. to help me curl my hair to be ready for the exciting day ahead! Her kind heart and beautiful personality is what I strive to have in the years to come. Us girls have our whole life ahead of us, and I am so thrilled to see what we make of them and where we end up during and after our college career. When we look back at our story and how it came to be, I feel assured in knowing this program and industry had everything to do with it!

Signing off for the last time as your 2022-2023 New York State First Associate Dairy Ambassador, my name is Katie Jasmin, and I have everyone in this room to thank for the most memorable year of my life!