



Media Release

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Alltech Wisconsin announces dairy farm Most Valuable Employee Award winner

[JUNEAU, Wis.] – Alltech Wisconsin is pleased to present the 2022 Most Valuable Employee (MVE) Award to Derek Dusek of Dusek Family Farm in Pepin, Wis. This award recognizes the value of a dairy farm employee with exceptional work ethic, that exhibits integrity and engages in their responsibilities on a dairy farm in the region, which includes Wisconsin, Minnesota and northern Illinois. Nominations are made by a farm manager, dairy owner, farm consultant, or nutritionist based on areas such as perseverance, honesty and integrity, and the finalists were honored during the annual Alltech Dairy School on Thursday, Dec. 1, in Green Bay, Wis.

“Alltech understands that dairy farmers face many challenges and in situations such as Derek’s, they must wake up the next morning and continue to milk cows even after losing a loved one,” said Jorge Delgado, manager of the Alltech Training, Talent Development and Retention Program for Dairy Workers (Alltech T²R Program). “We are proud to honor Derek as this year’s Most Valuable Employee Award winner and to thank him and his family as they continue to work hard on their family’s dairy farm every day.”

From an early age, Derek had a desire to be involved on his family’s dairy farm. At the age of 3, he would sneak out in the morning to help his father and grandpa do chores. As he got older, he could not wait to get home from school and help with whatever farm activity was happening and he would even try to convince the bus driver to drop him off at the field they may have been working in at the time. When Derek was in high school, he and his father Mark began to make plans to build a new parlor and grow their dairy herd from the 84-stall barn they were currently milking in.

In the fall of 2018, Mark was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. While Mark was undergoing treatment there were several challenges facing Derek. With determination and long hours, he was able to overcome limited labor. When Mark passed away on August 30, 2019,

they sold several cows to get the herd size down to 84 cows to reduce the workload. After all the adversity, Derek was faced with a decision to quit farming or carry on his father's legacy.

Choosing to do what he loved, Derek began to rebuild the herd. In February 2022, they leased a nearby dairy facility with a parlor and freestall barn and are now milking about 160 cows. Derek has become the father figure to his 14-year-old sister and works closely with his brothers to complete the day-to-day tasks on the farm.

"I chose to nominate Derek because he's very deserving of this award from what he's been through and how he's excelled with everything that he has done," said Lee Kloeckner of AgPartners. "He went from working with his father to being the person in charge, Derek does it all."

The other finalists honored during the Alltech Dairy School included Mitch Guyette of Norm-E-Lane Dairy, nominated by Jim Barmore of GPS Dairy Consulting; and Angel Sánchez and Estela Melenudo of Zirbel Dairy Farm, nominated by Kris and Chelsea Scheider of Zirbel Dairy Farm.

"The best employees add value to the dairy by thriving in their roles, maintaining their responsibilities, creating a safe and positive work environment for their co-workers, and speaking highly of their employers, both on and off the farm," said Delgado. "When dairy farms and their employees develop long-term relationships and celebrate each other's hard work, everyone involved reaps valuable benefits."

For more information about the Alltech Wisconsin MVE award, visit this [link](#) or contact AlltechWisconsin@alltech.com.

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Video: <https://bcove.video/3Y44XKz>

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Photo Caption: Alltech Wisconsin honored Derek Dusek of Dusek Family Farm with the 2022 Most Valuable Employee (MVE) Award.

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About Alltech:

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We are a global leader in the agriculture industry. Our team produces specialty ingredients, premix supplements, feed and biologicals, backed by science and an unparalleled platform of services.

Strengthened by more than 40 years of scientific research, we carry forward a legacy of innovation and a unique culture that views challenges through an entrepreneurial lens. As a private, family-owned company, we adapt quickly to our customers' needs and focus on advanced innovation.

We believe agriculture has the greatest potential to shape the future of our planet. Our more than 5,000 talented team members worldwide share our purpose of **Working Together for a Planet of Plenty™**. Together, we can provide nutrition for all, revitalize local economies and replenish the planet's natural resources.

Headquartered just outside of Lexington, Kentucky, USA, Alltech serves customers in more than 120 countries, has five bioscience centers, and operates more than 80 manufacturing facilities across the globe.

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