

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FARM

My name is Victoria Vendetta and I'm the new year-long dairy intern. I graduated in 2016 from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science and a minor in Dairy Management. I grew up in a rural town in northern Connecticut, always involved with the care and training of horses. In 2010 I began working as a veterinary technician for a local vet clinic, and my love for veterinary medicine blossomed. Throughout the past 7 years I've been a technician for two different hospitals, one small animal and one mixed animal practice.

While working I also attended UConn as a pre-veterinary student. However, as I got involved with the dairy cattle on campus, it soon became clear that dairy was my passion. I was in awe of what metabolic marvels cows are; how they can turn feed into milk, the most wholesome, nutritious food product. This led me to pursue Dairy Management. I also lived at my university's dairy, working in return for housing. While milking, feeding calves, giving shots, and delivering calves among other tasks, I fell in love with the lifestyle of hard work and long hours, and gained an even larger appreciation for dairy producers. They work tirelessly every day, taking pride in making sure their animals are comfortable, healthy, and producing a safe and nutritious product for the public. I knew that this was an industry I wanted to be a part of for the rest of my life.



Throughout college, Dairy Challenge played a major role in my education. I attended 4 Northeast Regionals, 1 National, and 1 Academy. In 2013, Regionals were hosted at The Miner Institute, and as soon as I got here I knew I needed to come back! In 2016 I spent my spring semester at Miner Institute as an Advanced Dairy Management student, and now one year later I'm back again. I truly consider this place my home!

After a few weeks I've already learned so much from the wonderful farm staff. I'm excited to have the opportunity to continue to develop my herd health and management skills which I'll be able to take with me as I find a job as a herds person and further pursue a career as a large animal veterinarian.

— Victoria Vendetta
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NEW FEATURE! ... DID YOU KNOW?

At the end of each year we like to pull together some numbers to reflect on how we did and to set goals for the coming year. We thought we would take the opportunity to share some interesting facts about Miner Institute with you.

In 2016, our staff fed **11,200 tons** of TMR to our dairy herd, which resulted in more than **12 million pounds** of milk and more than **six million gallons** of manure spread on Miner Institute's fields!

In 2016, **168 articles** were written for the *Farm Report*, many of which were re-printed in other dairy newsletters.

In 2016, **50,000 milk samples** were processed in our milk lab and **400 cows** per week were blood sampled. Additionally, more than **860 hours** were spent by our research team on cow watch.

In 2016, **5,200 bales** of hay were unloaded into the hay loft of our historic barn to feed our herd of Morgan horses!

Big kudos to all of the hard-working staff at Miner Institute!



Learn more about
Miner Institute's Morgan Horses
Visit whminer.org/equine.html

