



AfiMilk Winners Cindy Todd (left) and Janet Higginson with PDO Chairman Gerrit Wensink

U of G Students Take Home Top Honours

University of Guelph graduate students took home top honours at the First North American Conference on Precision Dairy Management in Toronto.

Janet Higginson, a PhD candidate in the Department of Population Medicine, received the AfiMilk Young Scientist Award for her presentation "Validation of a New Pedometry System for Behavioural Research and Lameness Detection in Dairy Cattle." Her colleague in the department, PhD candidate **Cindy Todd**, was the runner-up for her work, "Effects of Free-Access Feeding and Milk Replacer Acidification on Calf Performance and Development of Digestive Anatomy."

The awards, each of which comes with a cash prize, are given to encourage excellence in dairy research and communication of results by young investigators.

"Both Janet and Cindy did an excellent job and the University of Guelph was well represented," said Dr. Ken Leslie, Population Medicine, one of the organizers of the inaugural conference.

The event highlighted technologies such as robotic milking equipment and sensor-based tools to improve cow health, welfare and productivity.

Founding partners of this year's conference were: Canwest DHI, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, Progressive Dairy Operators and the University of Guelph.