The Distinguished Supporter Award is presented annually to recognize an individual or company, who is not a dairy farmer/producer who through their work has supported and enhanced the work and goals of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association. We recognized this individual at our recent state annual meeting and they will be recognized again at our 2022 state convention.

Our 2021 recipient is an individual who has loved farming his entire life. He and his family milked cows on the farm until the state took the property through eminent domain, and in 1972 they moved to a new farm and a new milking parlor. For three years straight, he never missed a milking, and grew to love studying genetics and improving the dairy herd. This years recipient is Dean Hartman, of Sinking Spring, PA.

After he married, they moved to the farm they live at now and their son came along in 1992. In 1995, they left the family farming operation and went into beef and crop farming, but he never lost his love for the Holstein cow, or the many friends and connections he had made with his cattle.

Although Dean has not actively owned Holsteins since 1995, he has continued to support and work to promote the industry he grew up in. He works tirelessly for the good of the Berks County Holstein Association and has served in several state leadership roles as well.

For the last 20 years, he has served as chair of the county fall and spring cheese sales. Under his leadership, the county has sold more than 126,500 pounds of cheese. He has served as chair for district convention committees. From the 1980s until the last county sale, he served as chairman, working as a driving force for the success of the sale.

In 1997 Dean and his wife Darene served as chair of the PA State Convention, and worked with fellow breeders to showcase the Holstein genetics in the Southeast District and have fun with Holstein members from across the state.

Dean has represented Berks County and the Southeast District three separate times as an Executive Board Member and has been devoted to representing his membership. A thoughtful leader, he will voice his opinion and actively argue his point to see what is best for the membership and for the continued growth of the organization.

Congratulations to Dean Hartman, Sinking Spring, PA, our 2021 Pennsylvania Holstein Association Distinguished Supporter Award Recipient.