



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Contacts:

Kay Johnson Smith, AAA, (703) 562-5160

Christopher Galen, NMPF, (703) 243-6111

Ag Communicator Emily Meredith Honored as 30 & Under 'Rising PR Star'

ARLINGTON, VA – Emily Metz Meredith, vice president for animal care at the National Milk Producers Federation, was honored today as a Rising PR Star by a leading newsletter for communications professionals.

Meredith, who until recently was vice president of communications and membership for the Animal Agriculture Alliance, was recognized in the 30 and under category at *PR News*' annual PR People Awards lunch, held Tuesday at the National Press Club in Washington. Meredith, shown at right, was one of 32 cited in the Rising Star category. *PR News* said all the honorees "took chances and made tremendous strides in their communications efforts."



Meredith was nominated for the award by the Animal Agriculture Alliance, where she increased mentions of the organization in the media 75 percent in one year and 365 percent in another. In two years with the Alliance, she was interviewed by organizations ranging from *Al Jazeera* to *The Washington Post* and appeared on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*.

Alliance President and CEO Kay Johnson Smith praised Meredith's vision, passion and commitment to excellence in her work. "Emily's approach to everything is strategic, proactive and bold," Smith said. "That's why in two years she became the de facto issues management coordinator for the entire animal protein industry." The Animal Agriculture Alliance is a coalition of producer organizations and individuals that communicates the importance of livestock agriculture to the public.

At the National Milk Producers Federation, Meredith oversees an animal care program known as Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM). While she has only been with the organization a short time, NMPF President and CEO Jim Mulhern said she has already put her considerable advocacy skills to work on behalf of dairy farmers.

- More -

NEWS RELEASE///PAGE TWO

“With a strong livestock agriculture background, Emily is taking the FARM program forward,” Mulhern said. “She’s increasing support for the program among producers while she educates processors, retailers, media and others about dairy farmers’ commitment to high-quality animal care.” NMPF is the voice of more than 32,000 dairy farmers in Washington.

Meredith is a Wisconsin native with a degree in mass communications and international affairs from The George Washington University. She also has a law degree from Seton Hall University. Before joining the Animal Agriculture Alliance, Meredith was a litigation assistance in the New York Attorney General’s office and served as a speech writer at the Department of Agriculture.

In addition to the PR News “Rising Star” award, Meredith was recently named one of “40 under 40 in Agriculture” by Vance Publishing Co., publisher of *Dairy Herd Management* and other agribusiness publications.

#####

The [Animal Agriculture Alliance](#), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is a broad-based coalition of individual farmers and ranchers, producer organizations, veterinarians, scientists, suppliers, packer-processors, private industry and retailers. The Alliance’s mission is to communicate the important role of animal agriculture to our nation’s economy, productivity, vitality, security and that animal well-being is central to producing safe, high-quality, affordable food and other products essential to our daily lives. Find the Alliance on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#).

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), based in Arlington, VA, develops and carries out policies that advance the well-being of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. The members of NMPF’s cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of more than 32,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. For more on NMPF’s activities, visit our website at www.nmpf.org.