



Image: A farmer walking through the land where his flock of sheep are grazing



Award Scheme

2019 Winner

Cornell's Summer Dairy Institute: A Brit's perspective

RUPERT SHEPPARD (ASSISTANT VETERINARY SURGEON, SOUTH WALES)

“Attending Cornell's Summer Dairy Institute was a truly unique experience for me... the memories that have stayed with me the most are the ones of unbridled optimism from farmers, vets, nutritionists, and processors...”



The six-week residential Summer Dairy Institute (SDI) programme based at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine has run every summer for the last 14 years. Over 350 dairy vets have now been through the programme and there is a thriving SDI alumni network in place. Cornell is regularly ranked in the top five vet schools in world and is one of only two Ivy League institutions with a veterinary department. Their Teaching Barn is home to a herd of 220 Holsteins, milked and housed in a state of the art newly built dairy. 26 delegates signed up for the 2019 programme, representing the USA, UK, Germany, Canada, Portugal, Chile and South Africa.

Born and raised on a mixed livestock and cropping farm in Shropshire, Rupert graduated from Bristol Veterinary School in July 2017 and took a job with ProStock Vets in Carmarthen, an independent dedicated livestock practice. Most of their work involves looking after dairy herds throughout the counties of West Wales. In attending the six-week residential Summer Dairy Institute (SDI) programme hosted by Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA, Rupert hoped to further develop his skills and knowledge to better help his herds back home.