



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Cornell University to host Fourth Annual Northeast Dairy Challenge**

The Fourth Annual Northeast Dairy Challenge will be held October 19-21, 2006 in Waterloo, N.Y. Mike VanAmburgh from Cornell University's department of animal science is leading this year's Northeast Dairy Challenge.

VanAmburgh plans to welcome students from colleges and universities across the Northeast for the three-day program. As this year's host college, Cornell University is campaigning to involve 120 student participants. "In 2005 we had capacity for 120 students and 110 participated. We intend to maximize our program at 120 students in 2006," explained VanAmburgh, "The Holiday Inn Hotel in Waterloo, N.Y., will accommodate Dairy Challenge participants and we have worked collaboratively with area agribusiness people to secure three host farms."

"Our success in 2005 inspired us to believe we can reach our goal of 120 participants," stated Event Superintendent Barry Putnam of Genex/Cooperative Resources International. "Already, there are more than 100 students from 13 universities committed to participating in this year's Dairy Challenge."

The Northeast Dairy Challenge is designed to create an educational environment and facilitate a real-world dairy team situation. To accomplish this, students are placed on mixed-university teams. "Putting students with different skills from different schools on a team to work together in finding solutions is a very important learning experience," said Host Farm Selection Committee member John Lehr of First Pioneer Farm Credit. "On today's dairies, it takes a team of outside professionals working together to make a difference. Students need to practice teamwork. Additionally, the Dairy Challenge is a tremendous opportunity for participating dairy farms to receive consulting advice and for agribusiness sponsors and students to meet and discuss prospective working relationships."

Students arrive on the afternoon of day one and participate in event orientation and team-building activities. Day two begins with each five-person team receiving information about a real-life dairy, including production and farm management data. Following an operation evaluation, teams develop a comprehensive program including recommendations for nutrition, reproduction, milking procedures,

animal health, housing and financial management. The second day concludes with an informal dinner attended by sponsors, students and advisers. Day three is presentation day, where team members present recommendations to a panel of judges. Participants' knowledge is tested and they field questions from judges. Presentations are evaluated based on student analysis and recommendations. The evening of day three concludes with a reception and awards banquet.

The Northeast program is under the guidance and support of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC), which was established in April 2002, as a management contest to incorporate evaluation of all aspects of a specific dairy business.

NAIDC and Northeast Dairy Challenge are fully funded through contributions from the dairy industry. The third regional contest was made possible through generous contributions from Alltech Inc., Agway Foundation, Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement Program, Cargill/Agway Animal Nutrition, Northeast Dairy Producers Association, AgChoice Farm Credit, Blue Seal Feeds, Farm Credit System Foundation, Genex Cooperative Inc., I.L. Richer Feeds, Marshman Farms, Northeast Ag & Feed Alliance, Poulin Grain Inc., Select Sire Power, ABS Global, Accelerated Genetics, Bourdeau Brothers, Brandow's IBA, Dairylea Cooperative, Elwyn G. Voss & Associates, Intervet, NBT Bank, Schering-Plough Animal Health, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Taylor Excel Food Solutions Company, Vermont Feed Dealers and Manufacturers Association, Vermont Jersey Breeders, Cornell University Dairy Club, DairyBusiness Communications, Dairy One, Dairy Records Management Systems, First Pioneer Farm Credit, Granite State Dairy Promotion, Holtz-Nelson Dairy Consultants LLC, Linwood Management, Mercer Milling, Morrisville State College Computer Service Center, Morrisville State College Dairy Club, New York Holstein Association, Scolaro, Shulman, Cohen, Fetter & Burstein PC, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Vermont DHIA and Whitman's Feed Store.

Monetary and in-kind sponsorships are welcome. Defined monetary levels are \$500 for Bronze, \$1,000 for Silver, \$2,500 for Gold, and \$5,000 or more for Platinum. If a company wishes to provide Platinum in-kind sponsorship they must contribute at least one-half of their sponsorship in cash or reduce NAIDC expenses by \$5,000 or more. Bronze, Silver and Gold sponsorships for in-kind contributions do not need to have cash as a portion of the sponsorship, but must be valued at designated levels. To become a sponsor, contact Jan Bitter of First Pioneer Farm Credit at 800-392-3276 or [jan.bitter@firstpioneer.com](mailto:jan.bitter@firstpioneer.com). All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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