

What Do Students Have to Say?

"I really enjoyed the Dairy Challenge competition. It was a great experience because I got to know my professors, industry professionals, and my fellow students on a deeper level. I also got a lot of hands on experience that I would not have gotten in the classroom. "

Rachel Smith
Virginia Tech



"I would have to say that the National Dairy challenge was a great experience for me because I have not come from a dairy background. I was able to see all aspects of the dairy as a career option. This was a very informative trip that I would recommend for anybody interested in dairies to attend."

Abby Burns,
North Carolina State University

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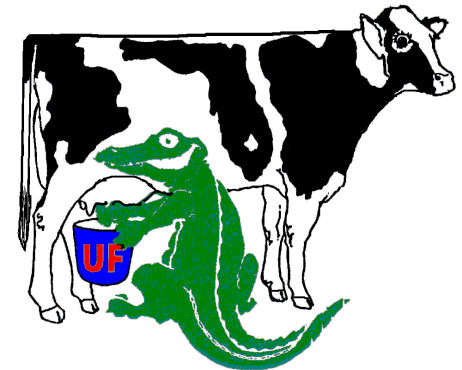
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NORTH AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE
Dairy CHALLENGE
SOUTHERN REGIONAL

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Hosted in 2011 by the
University of Florida



November 17-19, 2011
Live Oak, FL

What is Dairy Challenge?

Dairy Challenge contests allow college students from across the U.S. to compete in analyzing the production and management practices of a commercial dairy and present their findings to a panel of experts. You can learn more about the Dairy Challenge at :

www.dairychallenge.org

The goal of this not-for-profit contest is to create an intercollegiate event for developing the future leaders of the dairy industry and to allow industry personnel to see them perform in real-life situations.



What Happens at the Dairy Challenge?



Teamwork Happens

At the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge competition, students from the southeast region of the United States will gather for a weekend. First, students are assembled into composite teams of four to six people. Instead of competing with the team they arrived with, the students will be on teams with members from various schools. Students then participate in icebreaker and team-building activities, so that they can get to know their new teammates.

Learning Happens

Student participants are teamed up based on experience levels, so those students with less exposure to the dairy industry can learn from the students with more training and experience. Participants also learn through practice, as they see and experience dairy farms firsthand.

Confidence Happens

At breakfast on Day One, each team receives production and farm management information on a local dairy. Following a farm visit, teams develop a comprehensive evaluation with recommendations for various aspects of management.

Day Two is presentation day, where team members present their observations and recommendations to a panel of judges. Team members must field questions from these judges and team presentations are evaluated based on their analyses and recommendations.



Relationships Happen

At the Dairy Challenge, students make lasting relationships with others interested in the dairy industry. Some students network with potential employers and graduate level instructors, while others just form friendships with fellow participants. In any case, these relationships are valuable to both the individuals and to the dairy industry.



Opportunities Happen

At an event such as the Dairy Challenge, students are afforded a multitude of opportunities. They have the opportunity to learn about the dairy industry. They have the opportunity to find potential employers within the industry. They have the opportunity to meet people who can help them further their education. They also have the opportunity to create lasting friendships with other young people interested in the dairy industry.