

NORTH AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE Dairy ChallengeTM *Tomorrow's Dairy Leaders* MIDWEST REGIONAL

8th Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge
Ramada Inn and Fulkerson Center
St. Joseph, Missouri
Tuesday, January 31 - Thursday, February 2, 2012

Dear Sponsors and Volunteers,

Thank you for your continued support of the Midwest Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. Planning is well underway for the **8th annual Midwest Dairy Challenge** to be hosted by the Kansas State University in St. Joseph, MO January 31- February 2, 2012. In addition to your monetary contributions many of you have volunteered to help. This letter communicates the areas in which we need assistance and information about this year's Dairy Challenge event.

Once again there will be several opportunities for sponsors and students to interact - during our event on farms, during our evening activities on Tuesday and Wednesday night, and Thursday at our Career Fair or observing presentations at the hotel. We currently have a full contest of 80 students from 18 universities.

As always, we will need your help and support through your participation during the event. Volunteers are needed during the event both **Wednesday & Thursday**. *New this year* is the opportunity for your company to reserve a dinner table where you can interact with students Wednesday evening. On Thursday, we will be having a career fair for the students. This gives you another opportunity to communicate your employment opportunities to students from around the Midwest who have an interest in Agriculture.

Enclosed you will find a listing of the scheduled events for this year's contest. Please RSVP using the enclosed form if you are planning to attend and/or send representatives to the contest, indicating what events you plan to attend. We need this information in advance of the contest so we can plan appropriately for each event.

On behalf of the steering committee, we thank you for your time, energy and commitment to the Dairy Challenge. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



John Goeser
Midwest Dairy Challenge Chair
608.332.3859
jgoeser@vitaplus.com

EVENT LOCATION AND HOTEL INFORMATION

- **Ramada Inn St. Joseph**, 4016 Frederick Blvd., St. Joseph, MO, Phone 816-233-6192
- **Fulkerson Center** on campus of Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs Dr, St. Joseph, MO

This year's event will be held at Ramada Inn St. Joseph and the Fulkerson Center on the campus of nearby Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri (near Kansas City). We have a block of rooms for Tuesday and Wednesday nights of the MW Dairy Challenge. **Please make your reservations by contacting the Ramada Inn at: 816-233-6192.** Room rates for Dairy Challenge attendees are \$67.20 plus tax. All sponsors are responsible for their own lodging expense. Go to <http://www.stjosephramada.com/> for complete hotel information and directions.

MEALS

Meals will be provided to volunteers/sponsors during the contest. **On the following page, please check yes or no if you will be eating a meal on the day(s) you will be attending.** Also, check if you would like to reserve a dinner table in your company's name for the sponsor dinner on Wednesday evening.

CAREER FAIR

The career fair on Thursday gives you the opportunity to communicate your employment opportunities to the 80 college students from 18 universities around the Midwest who have an interest in Agriculture. **Please set-up your display at 7:30 a.m. Thursday at the Fulkerson Center.** You will need to man your display through 2:30 p.m. that day. **We are requesting that each participating company to bring 1-2 door prizes for the students. Please contact Devin or Emily by January 24, 2012 if you will need space.**

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Many of you have volunteered the time and energy of colleagues and yourselves. Thank you! As we enter the final stages of planning, we are able to identify the areas where assistance is needed. Those areas are:

1. **Farm Volunteers/Support Help:** We need people on Wednesday morning to help get the students on buses and keep them moving on the host farms. Individuals are needed for Wednesday afternoon to assist teams in getting support from IT, questions answered, and direct students to meetings.
2. **Room Monitors:** We need 6 room monitors for Thursday's presentations. These six volunteers are needed to share the coverage of the two presentation rooms from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.
3. **Team Guides:** We need 6-8 people on Thursday to assist getting students to presentations, pictures, debriefing and to visit with sponsors.
4. **Debrief Team:** We need 6-8 individuals on Thursday to visit with teams following their presentation for 10 minute debriefing sessions on their experience.

Emily Kurtzleben and Devin Albrecht are also responsible for coordinating volunteers. **Please complete the attached volunteer form and email or fax to Emily or Devin at the email address or fax number below with your commitment to help.** After we receive your commitment to volunteer, we will be sending you an agenda and the task you will be assigned to. If you have any questions, please contact Emily or Devin. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help!

Volunteer Sign-up

***Please complete and return by January 24, 2012 to either Emily or Devin:**

Devin Albrecht
Email: dalbrecht@foxvalley.net
Fax: 847-464-4088

Emily Kurtzleben
Email: k_emily@lilly.com
Fax: 952-513-4741

Tuesday, January 31 Evening: We will be having informal time with students, which will include team building exercises, a panel discussion on on-farm consulting and initial review of contest farm data. Volunteers aren't necessarily needed at this time, but you are more than willing to attend to socialize with the students during the evening activities.

Your Company Name: _____

1) Name: _____ Email: _____
Attending Dinner? Yes No

2) Name: _____ Email: _____
Attending Dinner? Yes No

Wednesday, February 1: We will need volunteers to assist on farms and also to help monitor students as they move from the hotel to the farms in the morning and then during the afternoon as teams prepare their presentations. *New for Wednesday evening* - your company can reserve a dinner table, giving you the opportunity to eat with students who have expressed an interest in your area of expertise. This is an excellent opportunity to visit one on one with students who are potential employers. Tables are \$100 (\$50 for Platinum Sponsors). Please send a check payable to Dairy Challenge with this form or pay at registration.

Yes! reserve a dinner table for my company (\$100 payable to NAIDC - \$50 for Platinum Sponsors)

1) Volunteer's name: _____ Email: _____
Available to help: all day 8am to 12pm 12pm to 5pm other: _____
Attending which meals on Wednesday? Breakfast Lunch Dinner No Meals

2) Volunteer's name: _____ Email: _____
Available to help: all day 8am to 12pm 12pm to 5pm other: _____
Attending which meals on Wednesday?: Breakfast Lunch Dinner No Meals

Thursday, February 2: We will need volunteers to assist with student movement to the preparation and presentation rooms, as well as within the presentation rooms themselves (room monitors, time keepers, etc...). We will also need volunteers willing to debrief each team as they finish presentations and then direct them into the Career Fair.

Yes! reserve a table for my company in the Career Fair (no charge)

1) Volunteer's name: _____ Email: _____
Available to help: all day 7am to 11am 11am to 2pm other: _____
Attending which meals on Thursday?: Breakfast Lunch No Meals

2) Volunteer's name: _____ Email: _____
Available to help: all day 7am to 11am 11am to 2pm other: _____
Attending which meals on Thursday?: Breakfast Lunch No Meals