

NORTH AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE Dairy Challenge™ *Tomorrow's Dairy Leaders*

February 7, 2014

Dear Coaches,

On behalf of the National Program Committee of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, it is our privilege to invite your university to participate in the 13th Annual NAIDC. The event will be held again in Fort Wayne, Indiana on April 3 – 5, 2014 hosted by Michigan State University, The Ohio State University and Purdue University.

The North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge offers a two-day competition that enables four-person teams to evaluate a well-managed dairy farm business and then recommend management enhancements to a panel of judges comprised of industry and academic professionals. We believe this to be the premier dairy event in the country for undergraduate students and work hard on behalf of the students to support the program.

Participation

- This event is limited to the first 32 teams who register and teams are limited to 4 students that have not previously participated in the National Contest. Completed entries will receive priority by date, time of receipt and previous participation in the contest.
- If we do not meet the 32 team maximum, aggregate teams will be formed. If you do not have enough students to create a team, please complete an entry form for those interested in being placed on an aggregate team. If you have a team, and are interested in possibly having a fifth student participate on an aggregate team, please include their information on the entry form as instructed.
- The rules of the competition are available online at www.dairychallenge.org.
- For those of you who have or are planning to participate in a regional contest, you will be familiar with the contest materials on a USB thumb drive rather than printed in a binder. If your team is not participating in a regional event, you may obtain a copy of the thumb drive material from a regional event to familiarize yourselves with the content and layout.

Registration

Please complete the entry form by February 21, 2014.

- Return to: North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge
3310 Latham Drive, Madison, WI. 53713
Attn: Ann Marie Magnochi, PH: 608/224-0400, FX: 608/224-0300,
Email: amagnochi@wdexpo.com
- Entry Fee: \$50.00

Make your check out to the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge.

Travel Information:

- The student/coach hotel is the Hilton Fort Wayne and the Grand Wayne Convention Center, 1020 S. Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, IN. Phone: (260) 420-1100.
Website: <http://www.hiltonfortwayne.com/>.

- **New this year:** Schools should plan to make their own hotel reservations for participating contest students, Academy students, and coaches using the housing reservation form that will be sent with your entry confirmation. This will also be posted on our web site at www.dairychallenge.org. Reservations should be made by the university after the entry is completed and returned with payment to the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, 3310 Latham Drive, Madison, WI 53713.
 - Schools are asked to make their own reservations. The number of student rooms being paid for by NAIDC is based on the total number of Contest and Academy students attending from a school. **Contest and Academy students from a single school may share rooms.** Refer to the accompanying Housing Information packet for instructions for making your reservations.
 - **Rooms for coaches are the school's responsibility,** as well as any additional charges including additional student rooms outside the block allocation. If you are interested in sharing with a coach from another school, indicate as such on the special notes box on the hotel housing form.
 - Rooms at the Hilton Fort Wayne are **\$89/night** plus tax single occupancy. When checking in, we kindly ask that you confirm the rooms that will be for your students (paid for by NAIDC), and the room that will be for you as the coach (paid for by the individual).
- A Pre-Contest seminar and farm tour will be offered again this year on Thursday before the contest begins. If your team is participating, you may wish to arrive in Fort Wayne on Wednesday night. Thursday's program begins with an educational seminar from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., followed by lunch and the tour which runs 1:00 -4:00 p.m. Please indicate on the attached Entry Form your plans for participating in Thursday's activity. You must register in advance.
- Teams are responsible for their own transportation to the farms on Thursday. We encourage carpooling on Thursday to minimize the number of vehicles traveling to the farm.
- Schools should plan to arrive **no later than 9:00 a.m. on Thursday morning, April 3 if you plan to participate in Thursday's pre-contest seminar and farm tour.** Registration and computer check in will be Thursday morning from 9:00-9:30 a.m. Because of distance, we anticipate many schools will need to arrive on Wednesday. NAIDC will pay for Wednesday night student rooms in Fort Wayne for those schools needing it.
- Schools not participating in Thursday's seminar and farm tour should arrive **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 3.** All computers must be turned in by this time. Registration will be open at this time as well. After turning computers in and completing your registration, feel to grab supper. All teams must be back and present by 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening for a group photo, followed by data distribution and review of contest procedures beginning at 8:00 p.m.
- Teams should plan to depart either after the banquet on Saturday, April 5 or on Sunday, April 6.
- Travel assistance amounts are based on distance to the contest site. This year, teams that are flying may receive up to \$600 of travel reimbursement for the entire team. Teams that are driving may receive up to \$600 of travel reimbursement (round trip) at \$0.50 per mile for the entire team.
- For those planning to fly to the Dairy Challenge, the nearest airport is Fort Wayne International Airport. For a list of airlines and rental car agencies that serve that airport, go to: <http://www.flyfwa.com/>.

The Hilton Fort Wayne offers shuttle rides to the airport as well as van rides to popular select venues within a five-mile radius.

Meals

- Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided for one coach and up to four team members on the days of April 4-5.
- Should you have an individual needing a special diet, it is important that you include this information on the Contest entry form so we can alert the catering staff.
- Teams that bring more than one coach will need to pay the full price for the additional meals (\$170) in advance of the contest or at registration.

Please complete the attached entry form and return it to NAIDC by **February 21, 2014** with a check payable to North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. Completed entries will receive priority by date and time of receipt and previous participation in the contest if contest size limits are reached. A confirmation letter with more contest details will be sent upon receipt of your registration material.

Special Note: A Contest and Academy Student group photo will be taken Thursday, April 3rd at 7:15 p.m. Please advise your students to all wear the same school colors for the photos. Students should **not** wear clothing with a university's name or logo at any other time during the contest.

A final confirmation letter will follow after February 21st. New this year, individual student forms are being distributed at the same time as team entry forms. These completed forms are due by **March 7, 2014**. We look forward to your participation in this exciting and innovative contest.

Sincerely,

Dave Winston
Program Committee Chair

Enclosures:

- Entry Form
- Contest Schedule
- Travel Information
- Personal Info & Liability Waivers
- Housing Information