

## **RULES & PROCEDURES**

### **Steering Committee**

The steering committee is made up of representatives from universities with agricultural programs throughout the northeast and representatives from the dairy industry. The committee is responsible for preparation, presentation, application, and evaluation of the event.

### **Superintendent**

The superintendent shall have complete charge of the contest. The superintendent shall see that all rules and regulations governing the contest are duly carried out and that the contest is conducted with fairness and justice to all concerned. The superintendent shall decide all questions that may arise in connection with interpretation of the rules. The Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge Host School Chair for the 2014 contest is Dr. Bruce Richards, [Bruce.Richards@delval.edu](mailto:Bruce.Richards@delval.edu), with Northeast Superintendents, Suzy Demeester, [Suzanne.demeester@novusint.com](mailto:Suzanne.demeester@novusint.com), and Mark McCullouch, [mark.mccullouch@merck.com](mailto:mark.mccullouch@merck.com),

### **Teams & Entries**

Teams will be made up of five participants based on each team member's knowledge and proficiency area, and grouped in aggregate fashion. (i.e. – A team may be made up of students from UVM, VTC, Cornell, Cobleskill and U Mass). Each team member will have a specialty area, i.e. – UVM-Milk Quality, VTC – labor management, Cornell – milking management, Cobleskill – nutrient management, and U Mass - business and financial management. Colleges are not limited to a certain number of students they can bring. However, the event is capped at 120 students and colleges will be placed on a first come, first serve basis. Due to the aggregate approach, colleges can still participate even if they do not bring five students.

### **Travel, Food and Lodging Expenses**

Lodging expenses at the Best Western Premier in Harrisburg, PA will be paid by the contest for students. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday will be provided by the contest through generous support of the dairy industry. If you plan to stay overnight on Saturday, please indicate this on your registration form and we will make that reservation for you. Your expense will be \$90.95/night + tax and fees for the extra night/room. If there is more than one coach/school, the cost for that additional coach will be \$150 to cover meal costs for the entire event.

### **Eligibility of Contestants**

Each participant must be an undergraduate student in an educational institution, international or domestic, that offers a full degree in agriculture. A contestant must be enrolled in a program of study to meet the requirements for a degree. They must have completed no less than one year of course work or equivalent. In accordance with the National bylaws, students who have participated in the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (national contest) are not eligible to participate in the Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge. Students who have participated in two previous regional Dairy Challenges are not eligible to participate in an additional regional Dairy Challenge. Please call 518-846-7121 x117 if you have any questions regarding eligibility of a contestant.

- All students must have completed at least one year of approved dairy science relevant course work and/or practical dairy work experience as determined by the coach of each student's respective college.
- Stage 1
  - Each college is allocated at least 5 slots, but may bring less than 5 students if appropriate
  - 2-year college/programs will be entitled to send 50% of their eligible 2<sup>nd</sup> year students enrolled.
  - 4-year college/programs will be entitled to send 50% of their eligible 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year students enrolled.
- Stage 2 (if necessary to meet established enrollment goal for the challenge)
  - Through mutual agreement of participating college, all remaining slots will be filled.
  - Preference should be given to seniors who will not have a future opportunity to participate or first time students.
  - The goal will be to fill the remaining students with a balance from each college.
    - *\*\* Recognizing the diversity of the dairy programs of the participating colleges, and in the attempt to be as equitable as possible, student selection will be done in accordance in keeping with the "spirit of the Dairy Challenge."*

### **Aggregate Team Concept and Group Participation**

The concept of aggregate teams is being used to eliminate competition between colleges, facilitate a powerful learning environment, and create a "real world" situation for students. It is very highly recommended that each student become extremely engaged in the concept of being part of a team!!!

### **Judging System**

A panel of five judges (selected by the steering committee) will hear all of the presentations and make the final rankings. The judging panel shall consist of members who have dairy expertise in the fields of dairy production, nutrition, reproduction, genetics, housing, finance, on-farm consulting and milking procedures.

The judging panel will use the Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge Scorecard to arrive at the final rankings. The judging panel will provide a team evaluation for each team immediately following their presentation.

### **Dairy Challenge Scorecard is at the end of this document**

### **Data and Materials**

Each team will work independently with no aid from coaches or other sources, however, students may contact the Dairy Challenge Central 'Help Desk' during the contest for assistance. Students are not allowed to use cell phones or other methods to contact outside sources during the contest.

Students will not have internet access to get help from outside sources. Calculators, measuring tapes, and clean notepads are the only equipment allowed to be taken onto the farm. No other equipment will be allowed. The contest has digital cameras available for each team to utilize. The data will be the real on-farm data. The data may consist of farm goals, financial statistics, cost details and estimates, ration formulations for all feeding groups, feed inventories, housing dimensions and characteristics, milking procedures and equipment specifications, reproduction data, ancestry identification if available, production records, and herd summaries, with a history of production characteristics for the last 2-3 years. The data will be provided on hard copy using standard industry formats and/or in selected computer formats.

### **Honor System**

Event staff has elected to let participants use the honor system. This simply means, “Follow the guidelines and rules presented to you by contest management.”

### **Structure of Visits**

The teams will be handled in groups, 8 teams per farm visit. Advisors (coaches) are allowed to visit the farms, but must not assist the teams in any way. Each farm visit will consist of 120 minutes, with each team deciding how to allocate their members to cover all areas of the farm. There will be assistant superintendents at the farm to monitor students and provide direction when needed. For bio-security purposes, all equipment must be disinfected prior to the visit. Each team will be allowed to question the farm manager and employees as time and availability permit. Teams will return to the Best Western in Harrisburg, PA to prepare for farm manager interviews and their presentations. The judge’s panel will remain on the farm to have a separate interview with the manager to determine their official recommendations.

### **Team Manager Interviews**

On Friday afternoon, each team will designate a representative to engage in a group facilitated question and answer period with the farm manager for up to 30 minutes to get additional information about data already provided and their visit. There will be four groups/30 minute time period. A timekeeper will monitor this. Moderators or judges will be present during the session to exclude questions that call for a conclusion on the part of the manager.

### **Presentations**

Presentations will take place on Saturday at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel and Conference Center.

Each team will complete their presentations on Friday and will deliver their copies and all presentation materials to contest management. Teams will work in assigned individual hotel rooms to prepare their presentations. Presentation order will be scheduled and each team will be assigned to morning or afternoon presentation sessions. On Saturday, one hour before their assigned presentation time, teams will be able to receive a printed copy of their PowerPoint presentation. Each team will be required to perform a presentation to a panel of five judges. The presentations should be designed as if the team was making a presentation to the farm owner or manager. It is not necessary to describe the farm to the person who owns the farm as an introduction. Begin discussing benchmarks or important outcomes of your evaluation as soon as

possible. The presentation must recommend improvements to the operation of the dairy and its finances.

Each team will be allowed 20 minutes for their presentation and an additional 10 minutes for questions from the judge's panel. 10 minutes will be allotted for judges to provide immediate feedback and evaluation to each team. Total presentation time is 40 minutes. Each team member must take part in the presentation. Presentations will be held in a classroom setting. Only individual team members coaches/advisors, members of the host farm, members of the judge's panel, members of the participating team, sponsors, and event management are allowed in the room during each team's presentation. Audience members will not be allowed to enter or leave the room until the entire presentation is complete. After each presentation, the judge's panel will privately rate each team. After all presentations are given, a final rating will be given to each team. In addition, each team will be provided with the judge's comments identifying areas of strength and opportunity immediately after their presentation.

### **Bio-Security**

- All contestants are required to wear plastic boots for each farm visit and clean clothing.
- Any individual who has been in contact with infected farms or animals should have no contact with wild or domestic animals at least 10 days before arriving at the contest and should be wearing protective clothing different from that worn on the infected farm.
- All equipment that teams bring to the contest must be disinfected. A thorough disinfectant wash with a substance that kills major disease causing agents is acceptable.

### **Benefits and Awards**

Teams will be ranked in each host farm division. First and second place teams will be announced, other teams will be recognized in random order.