

# NORTH AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE Dairy Challenge

*Tomorrow's Dairy Leaders*

September 16, 2015

RE: NAIDC 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Regional Dairy Challenge  
November 15 – 17, 2015 in Abingdon, Virginia

Dear Dairy Challenge Coach:

Based on your previously expressed interest and on behalf of the Southern Regional Committee of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, it is our pleasure to invite your school to participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Regional Dairy Challenge. The event will be held in Abingdon, Virginia on November 15 -17. This year's event will be hosted by Virginia Tech.

This letter contains important information about participation in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge. Please review it carefully.

#### **New this year:**

- Registration is now online. This is the only method of registration. Registration fees can be paid using a credit card at the time of registration, or there is an option to pay with a check as in years past. **Team registration closes October 16.**
- Coaches *do not* have to collect and submit student forms. This year, students will be responsible for completing a single form online - a Student Information form. **Students must submit this form by October 30.** This form is available on the Dairy Challenge web site at: <http://2015southernregionaldairychallenge-studentinfo.eventbrite.com>. The signing of the Contestant Liability Waiver, Contest Information Release Waiver, and the Contestant Honor Code will be handled on site at the event.

#### **Like last year:**

- Students will be allowed to use the internet during the Southern Regional contest.
- Students will be allowed to use their own computers. As such, each student is encouraged to bring their own computer for their use during the event.

Note: Each school is asked to bring at least ONE (1) university laptop computer. University computers will be loaded with the herd data in both PCDART and DairyComp 305 programs and will be used by aggregate teams and judges panels; students may use their own personal computers to prepare presentation material and load material from Contest Data USB. Please review the Computer Requirements posted on the Southern page before you come for additional details.

- This year's contest is being held Sunday-Tuesday.
- An awards program will be held immediately following end of the contest. As such, contest activities will end by 3:30 pm on Tuesday giving schools the opportunity to travel home on Tuesday night. If your school is not able to complete your trip home, funds will be available to defray the cost of your rooms on Tuesday night. Please indicate your need for Tuesday night hotel funds by checking "Tuesday" by "Room Nights Needed" in your registration..
- We will be using one farm with 2 panels of judges.

## Participation

- This event is open to all schools in the Southern region and adjacent states.
- Priority will be given to schools whose faculty advisors have expressed interest in participating. Completed entries will receive priority by registration date/time if contest size limits are reached.
- Schools are limited to up to 6 participants but 2 alternates may be identified should we have fewer than 75 students.
- Due to deadlines imposed by the hotel for rooming lists and to ensure the contest flows smoothly, no changes may be made to students participating after October 16, 2015. Please note this date and plan accordingly.
- Students will again be presented with the goals or changes the farm is considering; student recommendations should reflect these goals/changes. The students also need to assess whether these are the best goals for this particular farm.

## Registration

Registration forms and entry fees are due by **Friday, October 16, 2015**.

- Online Registration: <http://2015southernregionaldairychallenge.eventbrite.com> Be prepared with your students' email addresses when you begin registration
- Upon completion of the team registration, the system will send you a confirmation and an email to each of the registered students with a link to the student information form.
- Student Information Form (completed **after** team registration): <http://2015southernregionaldairychallenge-studentinfo.eventbrite.com>
- Entry Fee: \$50
  - If paying with a check, make checks payable to: North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge or NAIDC

## Housing

Room reservations will be made by Dairy Challenge upon receipt of the entry form. All participants will be staying at:

### Comfort Suites

1093 Ole Berry Drive, Abingdon, VA, 24210.

(276) 698-3040

<https://www.choicehotels.com/virginia/abingdon/comfort-suites-hotels/va492?source=gglocaloz>

Rooms will be provided at no extra charge for each participating team:

1 room(s) for female participants

1 room(s) for male participants

1 room(s) for coach(es)

*Please note, in order to keep costs down and to facilitate interactions, participants may be placed in rooms with participants (same gender) from other schools. Coaches may also be similarly paired.*

- Room reservations will be for the nights of Sunday, November 15 and Monday November 16. If your school is not able to complete your trip home on Tuesday November 17, funds will be available to defray the cost of your rooms on Tuesday night. Please indicate your need for Tuesday night hotel funds by checking "Tuesday" by "Room Nights Needed" on the online registration form.
- Hotel check-in begins at 3 p.m. and registration will be from 4-5 p.m.
- You should plan to arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. The committee is asking your team to deliver computers to the hotel between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. so computers are ready for data distribution at approximately 8:30 p.m. Sunday night activities begin at 6:00 pm with dinner, contest welcome, group activity and data distribution.

**Transportation**

If you consider flying to the Southern Dairy Challenge, your best options are:

- 40 minutes: Tri-Cities regional Airport (TRI), TN
- 2 hours: Roanoke (ROA), VA
- 2 hours 15 min: Knoxville (TYS), TN
- 2 hours 40 min: Piedmont triad (GSO), NC
- 3 hours 10 min: Charlotte (CLT), NC

Ride share options: Contact us if you would like help connecting with other universities who might have room in their van. Funds for travel assistance are usually not provided but can be considered if a hardship exists and sufficient funds are available. The Regional Steering Committee will decide how funds are distributed. Please notify us if your school is in need of travel assistance. Please indicate your need for Tuesday night hotel room funds on the attached entry form.

**Meals**

Meals will be provided for one coach and officially registered team members:

November 15 (Sunday): Dinner

November 16 (Monday): Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

November 17 (Tuesday): Breakfast and lunch

Additional meals for extra people will have to be paid for at the time of registration. Should you have a member needing a special diet, please include this information with the contest entry form.

Communications will follow after registration closes with additional information, and in early November with last minute details. We look forward to your participation in this exciting and innovative contest.

Sincerely,

Steve Washburn  
Southern Regional Dairy Challenge  
Schools Contact

Dave Whitlock  
Southern Regional Dairy Challenge  
Steering Committee Chair