



Learning Objectives for Dairy Challenge Academy

Dairy Challenge Academy was established in 2013 as an additional educational experience to help prepare college students for success in dairy careers. The Academy brings together collegiate students and academic and industry professionals throughout North America and is held in conjunction with the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge contest.

The goals of the Dairy Challenge Academy are to provide an opportunity for students to acquire skills and interact with dairy industry professionals in a manner that helps students effectively prepare for their future careers in the dairy industry.

The learning objectives of the Dairy Challenge Academy are:

- 1) Gain a greater understanding of the career opportunities in the dairy industry and network with dairy industry professionals.
- 2) Identify and prioritize strengths and opportunities for a dairy herd based on evaluation of herd management information, interview of the manager/owner, and a visit to the farm.
 - a) Learn to evaluate dairy management practices (nutrition, health, reproduction, genetics, replacements, animal welfare, and waste management) using production records and other supplemental information
 - b) Learn from industry professionals how to look at and evaluate management from on-farm visits.
 - c) Evaluate a dairy farm's financial position using basic financial benchmarks.
- 3) Develop a professional group presentation to provide constructive input with justifications to a dairy producer.
 - a) Demonstrate teamwork and communication skills through working with a new group of peers and industry professionals.
 - b) Exhibit confidence in their ability to seek and share information, brainstorm solutions, and work cooperatively toward solutions for the dairy farm based on the goals of the operation and opportunities for improvement.

Approved February 22, 2016, NAIDC Board of Directors

Mission of North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge:

Develop tomorrow's dairy leaders and enhance progress of the dairy industry, by providing education, communication and networking among students, producers, and agribusiness and university personnel.