

## HELP WANTED: Academy Advisors at Dairy Challenge, April 12-April 14, 2018 in Visalia, California

WANTED: Dairy farmers, industry professionals and Dairy Challenge alumni to mentor and coach students at the nation's premiere college dairy event. Academy Advisors will serve a key role in helping develop the students' skills in dairy analysis, teamwork and communication.

Two Advisors will be assigned to a group of eight students, inter-mixed from various schools. Most students are sophomores or juniors at a university, or in their second year at a two-year school. Ideally, the Advisors paired together will have different strengths and expertise to maximize student learning.

### Duties of Academy Advisors:

- 1) Facilitate discussion among students and help them understand how to evaluate a dairy farm business. Guide students to recognize opportunities at the dairy and integrate financial considerations into solutions.
- 2) Provide feedback about how to communicate with herd owners and managers, by providing applicable solutions and financially relevant opportunities, while encouraging and recognizing current strengths.
- 3) Be a sounding board for ideas and options without giving the answers.
- 4) Support positive team dynamics and individual roles within the team. For example, engage students that are uncomfortable with the process.
- 5) Encourage students to network with peers, sponsors and other advisors.
- 6) Provide feedback to the NAIDC Board and committee about concerns and improvements to the activity.

Advisors are expected to stay at the event hotel and participate Thursday evening (April 12, 6:00 p.m.) through Saturday noon (April 14). Advisors are also invited, but not required, to participate in Saturday afternoon activities and the awards banquet on Saturday night. More details will be sent to those who volunteer to serve as Academy Advisors.

**Consider this exhilarating opportunity to help tomorrow's dairy leaders!**

**For details, contact any NAIDC Board member or national event organizer.**

**Confirm participation to Maurice Eastridge at 614-688-3059 or [eastridge.1@osu.edu](mailto:eastridge.1@osu.edu)**



Students at the 2015 National Dairy Challenge in Syracuse, New York