



16th Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge
The University Center on the campus of University of Wisconsin, River Falls
Wednesday, February 12 – Friday, February 14, 2020

On behalf of the Midwest Regional committee of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, it is our privilege to invite you to participate in the 16th Annual Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge. The event will be held February 11-14, 2020 and hosted this year by the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. We thank you for your continued support of the Midwest Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge.

Sponsor Participation: We are building our list of volunteers to help with the event on Wednesday evening thru Friday afternoon. Being involved and working directly with the students gives you a firsthand view of the students in action, plus a large volunteer pool helps the contest run smoothly.

Sponsor Volunteer Registration: Please submit information for each volunteer from your company using this online form. Forms are due **Friday, January 10, 2020**, but will continue to be accepted on an as needed basis. To register, go to https://2020mwdairychallenge_volunteer_registration.eventbrite.com

Schedule: A listing of the scheduled events for this year's contest will be posted on the Midwest Dairy Challenge web page at http://www.dairychallenge.org/mw_event.php Most events will be held at the University Center, 501 Wild Rose Avenue, River Falls, WI 54022 – on UW River Falls' campus. Go to <https://www.uwrf.edu/UniversityCenter/> for more information about the campus and facilities.

Hotel: A volunteer block has been reserved at the nearby Country Inn, 1525 Commerce Court in River Falls, WI. Individuals are requested to call the Hotel directly at 715-425-9500 to make a guest room reservation as part of the 2020 Midwest Dairy Challenge Block. Rooms are \$99.99 and include continental breakfast. **The reservation cut-off date is January 15th, 2020.** See the MW Regional web site for detailed travel information.

Country Inn
1525 Commerce Court
River Falls, WI 54022
Phone: 715/425-9500
Toll Free: 866/860-7916
<https://countryinn-riverfalls.com/>
Double Queen \$99.99/nite
Reservation deadline: January 15, 2020

Meals: Meals will be provided for sponsor volunteers.

Sponsor Display: On Friday you are invited to set up a booth in our Innovation Fair at the University Center. Booths will be open between 8:30 am and 2:15 pm. Indicate your desire to reserve a booth using the online

registration form. There is no charge for booth. Electricity will be available, but you will need to supply your own electrical cords. All sponsors are encouraged to reserve a space to interact with students and University coaches and to view student presentations on Friday. Remember because of the number of teams, presentations will be going simultaneously. This is a terrific opportunity to visit with each participant at the event, particularly if your company is seeking interns or job recruits.

Mentors: We are seeking a large number of volunteers to serve as Team Mentors. This is an important role as Mentors work side by side with the student teams to guide them through the farm analysis process. With enough volunteers, we hope to assign 2 mentors to each team. If you are interested in serving as a Mentor, indicate as such when registering. Please note:

- **Mentors must be available starting with the Mentor Meeting at 4:00 PM Wednesday until after lunch on Thursday. If you are able to stay through presentations on Friday, indicate your availability as such on the registration form.** Staying for the entire event (through presentations on Friday) allows for even more interaction with your team and provides cohesiveness for the team. Mentors will review data with students Wednesday evening, tour the dairy on Thursday morning, offer guidance while assembling their presentation on Thursday afternoon, oversee team prep on Friday, direct your team to their presentation room on Friday, be present during the presentation, and be their guide to debriefing. There are also other areas where assistance is needed Thursday and Friday: Thursday: Resource Room, Hall Monitors, Manager Interviews; Friday: presentation room volunteers. Please indicate your plans on the **volunteer registration form.**
- Mentors must have a camera or camera-capable phone to take pictures for their groups and be willing/able to download the pictures.

We kindly ask each volunteer from your company register separately using the online volunteer registration form. Forms are due back Friday, January 10, 2020, but will continue to be accepted on an as needed basis.

To register, go to: https://2020mwdairychallenge_volunteer_registration.eventbrite.com

On behalf of the steering committee, we thank you for your time, energy and commitment to the Dairy Challenge.

If you have questions about volunteering your company's time at the event, please communicate with Volunteer Coordinator, Michael Goeldi 608-698-8111, Michael.Goeldi@agriking.com

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Many of you have volunteered the time and energy of colleagues and yourselves. Thank you! As we enter the final stages of planning, we are able to identify the areas where assistance is needed. Those areas are: (if you have a volunteer duty preference please complete the information on the form and every opportunity will be made to assign you those responsibilities)

1. **Mentors:** We need volunteers on Wednesday Evening thru the farm visit on Thursday morning to Mentor the student groups and to work with them on the host farms. You will work with your group on Wednesday evening as they start to look through information and prepare for the farm tour. You will then escort this group of students while on the farm tour on Thursday morning. It is critical all volunteers who do want to sign up for this duty are available all of Wednesday evening thru lunch on Thursday. Based on comments we received from Mentors last year, we are hoping to keep at least one Mentor from each team with the students through the end of the event on Friday. If you can stay with your assigned team through 3:00 PM Friday, please indicate that on your registration form.

2. Farm Volunteers: We need people on Thursday morning to help get the students on buses and keep them moving on the host farms.
3. Support Help: Individuals are needed for Thursday afternoon to assist teams in getting support from IT, questions answered, and to assist with farm manager meetings.
4. Resource Room: Individuals are needed for Thursday afternoon to assist teams in providing answers to technical questions for their presentations.
5. Room Monitors: We need 6-12 room monitors for Friday's presentations. These 6-12 volunteers are needed to share the coverage of the three presentation rooms from 7:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Friday.
6. Team Guides: We need 3 volunteers to assist getting students to visit with sponsors and to the industry presentations.
7. Debrief Team: We need 6 individuals to visit with teams following their presentation for 10-minute debriefing sessions on their experience.

Please complete the form. Thank you in advance for your support of the Midwest Dairy Challenge.

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