



15th Annual Southern Regional Dairy Challenge

September 22 – October 22, 2020 — held virtually

Hosted by University of Florida

On behalf of the Southern Regional Committee of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, it is our privilege to invite you to participate in the 15th Annual Southern Regional Dairy Challenge. This year's event will be held virtually and will be hosted by University of Florida.

VIRTUAL CONTEST OVERVIEW: Rather than our traditional 2 ½ day event, this year's virtual contest will consist of four online educational and mentoring sessions held weekly September 22 – October 13. During this time, teams (by university rather than aggregate) will be given the farm data and will be tasked with developing a farm evaluation with the guidance of their university coach and a volunteer mentor. Teams will record their presentation for upload by October 18. Judges will be given time that same week to review and score the presentations and develop a list of questions. Teams will meet with judges online on Presentation Q&A day, Thursday, October 22, for a presentation question and answer session.

SPONSOR PARTICIPATION: We are building our list of volunteers to help with the virtual educational and mentoring events and Presentation Day activities. Being involved and working directly with the students gives you a first-hand view of the students in action, plus a large volunteer pool helps the contest run smoothly. Volunteer opportunities range from serving as a team mentor or judge to serving as a presenter or timekeeper in a presentation room. You can indicate your interest on the [volunteer registration form](#).

SCHEDULE: A listing of the scheduled events for this year's contest is posted on the Southern Dairy Challenge web page at http://www.dairychallenge.org/so_event.php

SPONSOR VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION: Please submit information for each volunteer from your company using the online Sponsor Volunteer Registration form posted at http://www.dairychallenge.org/so_event.php Forms are due Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

SPONSOR ROOMS: On Thursday, October 22 - Presentation Q&A Day – sponsors are invited to host a virtual booth (via Zoom room) in our online Career & Innovation Fair. Sponsor booths

will be open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Indicate your desire to reserve a space using the [volunteer registration form](#). There is no charge for rooms. Teams will have scheduled blocks of time to meet with sponsors following their presentation Q&A. We encourage you to plan an activity, presentation, etc. for up to 14 school teams each lasting between 3-5 minutes. Once school and this volunteer registration closes we will have a better idea of participation and will share more concise details regarding size and time with teams. We appreciate the recruiting challenges COVID has presented for companies hoping to hire. This is a great recruiting and networking opportunity to interact with students and university coaches, and view student presentations.

If you have questions about volunteering your company's time at the event, please communicate with volunteer coordinator Stephanie Ward, (919) 602-1100, shward@ncsu.edu

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Register: using the online Sponsor Volunteer Registration form posted at http://www.dairychallenge.org/so_event.php There you can indicate your interest in serving as a volunteer, have a table in our career fair, and more. Forms are due **Tuesday, September 15, 2020.**

If you have questions about volunteering your company's time at the event, please communicate with volunteer coordinator Stephanie Ward, (919) 602-1100, shward@ncsu.edu