

Dairy NORTH **Challenge** AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE *Tomorrow's Dairy Leaders*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Successful 2019 Midwest Dairy Challenge® in the Books

FREEPORT, ILL., February 13-15, 2019—The Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge has wrapped up for 2019. The successful event began on Wednesday, February 13th with 97 students from 19 schools, coaches and volunteers traveling to Freeport, Ill. The first day included educational sessions for the students to provide financial, benchmark, PC Dart, DairyComp 305 and general farm visit information that they can use over the next three days. The students were able to meet and bond with their teammates and mentors through dinner and trivia. The night concluded with teams reviewing data packets and refreshments.

The second day kicked off with farm visits to one of three farms: Hunter Haven Farms, of Pearl City; Willow Valley Farm, of Kent; and Mitchell's Dairy, of Winnebago. All students were able to walk through the whole operation in order to evaluate and make recommendations with the guidance of an industry mentor. The main focus areas include: nutrition, reproduction, milking procedures, animal health, cow comfort and financial management. In the afternoon, students worked on their presentations until dinner. The dinner, which highlighted all the sponsors who have made this event possible, was complimented with a keynote speaker, Dr. Frank M Mitloehner, of UC Davis, that spoke about "Climate Smart Dairy: Global and Regional Perspectives."

On the final day, the students gave their 20-minute presentations on the strengths and areas and opportunity to the panel of judges and farm owners. Students also had the excellent industry networking opportunities with companies at an innovation fair while the results were being tabulated. Then the three-day event concluded with a banquet and awards.

The judges awarded the following teams with the first and second place ranking among the eight total teams participating on each farm.

Farm 1, Hunter Haven Farms

First Place: Team 1, Jordan Agrimson- University of Minnesota, Payton Duitscher- Iowa State University, Molly Henschel- Lakeshore Technical College, Beau Cartwright- College of the Ozarks

Second Place: Team 8, Sam Johnston- University of Guelph - Ridgetown, Matthew Lansing- Iowa State University, Erin Will- Purdue University, Julia Mitchell- University of Wisconsin - Platteville

Farm 2, Willow Valley Farm

First Place: Team 10, Mark Nyentap- Iowa State University, Emily Unger- University of Guelph - Ridgetown, Jenna Van Wky- South Dakota State University, Tyler Vande Wetering- University of Wisconsin - Madison

Second Place: Team 14, Dean DeGroff- Michigan State University, Ryan Hafften- University of Wisconsin - River Falls, Emerald Hastreiter- University of Wisconsin - Platteville, Allison Helmke- Wilmington College

Farm 3, Mitchell's Dairy

First Place: Team 23, Rachel Duesbury- University of Guelph - Ridgetown, Shumin Li- Kansas State University, Hunter Meese- The Ohio State University, Alexis Remmers- University of Illinois

Second Place: Team 24, Alexander Beaudeette- University of Guelph - Ridgetown, Eric Helmer- University of Wisconsin - River Falls, Sierra Swanson- University of Minnesota, Megan Whalin- The Ohio State University

The Midwest event is one of four regional contests sponsored each year by North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge® (NAIDC). These regional contests – plus a national event for about 250 dairy collegiates – are funded through generous support by 130 agribusinesses and dairy producers. Dairy Challenge has helped prepare over 5,000 students for careers as dairy owners or managers, consultants, researchers, veterinarians or other dairy professionals.

The 2020 Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge will be hosted by University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

About Dairy Challenge

NAIDC is an innovative event for students in dairy programs at North American post-secondary institutions. Its mission is to 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. The 2019 national event will be March 28-30 in Tifton, GA; details are at www.dairychallenge.org.

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PHOTOS

Team 1.jpg

During the Midwest Dairy Challenge, Team 1 was awarded the top ranking for their evaluation at Hunter Haven Farms. Molly Henschel- Lakeshore Technical College, Payton Duitscher- Iowa State University, Jordan Agrimson- University of Minnesota, Beau Cartwright- College of the Ozarks

Team 10.jpg

Team 10 captured first place on Willow Valley Farm. Mark Nyentap- Iowa State University, Emily Unger- University of Guelph - Ridgetown, Jenna Van Wky- South Dakota State University, Tyler Vande Wattering- University of Wisconsin - Madison

Team 23.jpg

Taking top honors for their assessment of Michell's Dairy was Team 23. Rachel Duesbury- University of Guelph - Ridgetown, Shumin Li- Kansas State University, Alexis Remmers- University of Illinois, Hunter Meese- The Ohio State University