

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Story

Photo Captions

Dropbox Photos link <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j5eow6m35oo5fb5/kOuMA78SA2>

Contact: Cathy Myers, DHI Provo, 559-289-2585, cathyd@dhiprovo.com
Renee Smith, Virtus Nutrition, 661-699-8552, rsmith@virtusnutrition.com

Story

61 Students from Colleges Participate in 8th Annual Western Regional Dairy Challenge

Sixty-one students from seven western US and one Canadian university traveled to Everett, Washington for the 8th annual Western Regional Dairy Challenge on February 28 – March 2, 2013.

The Western Regional Dairy Challenge is an innovative, three-day educational competition designed to prepare students for dairy careers. Working in mixed-university teams of five or six students, participants assessed all aspects of a working dairy farm, including facilities, nutrition, financials, reproduction, and animal health. Students collaborated on a 20-minute team presentation that detailed their observations and suggestions to a panel of judges. Teams were ranked based on how well their evaluations matched the judges' evaluations of the dairy operation.

Along with the competition, students were treated to educational workshops on silage management and safety by Dr. Keith Bolsen, Professor Emeritus Kansas State University and social media and public relations by Michele Ruby of DMI, Inc on Thursday afternoon.

Jim and Andy Werkhoven welcomed the teams to their farm on Friday and participated in a question and answer session with students. Team-building and fun activities were held through the weekend to encourage networking among students and agribusiness sponsors.

First place teams, which were named for Washington counties:

Team 4 King: Karessa Mast, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Josina Kasper, University of Idaho; Amy Nelson, Washington State University; Marissa Montez, California State University – Fresno; Jonathan Holub, Texas A & M University

Team 6 Thurston: Emma Shoaf, Utah State University; Melisa Stilson, University of Idaho; Micah DeGroot, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Kayla Nielsen, University of Alberta; Trevor Slegers, California State University – Fresno

Team 5 Pierce: Beverly Shirts, University of Idaho; Jami Lady, California State University – Fresno; Anna Gibson, Washington State University; Jared DeGroot, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Lindsay Simmons, Utah State University

Second place teams:

Team 11 Pacific: Josh Veenendaal, California State University – Fresno; Hannah Symonds, Washington State University; James Weber, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Cierra Olmstead, University of Idaho; Jacob Miller, Utah State University

Team 7 Lewis: Briana Arnold, Washington State University; Rob Diepersloot, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Leonardo DeLeon, California State University – Fresno; Brianna Williams, University of Idaho; Shelby Froland, University of Alberta

Team 9 Klikitat: Karly Nieuwkoop, California State University – Fresno; Kelli Carstensen, California

Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Anna Haines, Texas A & M University; Jessica Reynolds, University of Idaho; Boyd Funk, Washington State University; Dallin Buttars, Utah State University

Dr. Larry Fox, Washington State University and a committee of dairy industry representatives organized the Challenge. A long list of volunteers was important to the competition's success. For more information about next year's contest, please contact Chris Dei at csdei@comcast.net.

To become a sponsor, contact Shawna Martinho at SHAWNA.MARTINHO@churchdwright.com. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Contributing sponsor listings are available on the website.

The Western Regional Dairy Challenge is under the guidance and support of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC), which was established in April 2002 as a management contest to incorporate evaluation of all aspects of a specific dairy business. For more information, visit www.dairychallenge.org. The national contest is slated for April 4 – 6, and will be hosted by Michigan State University, Ohio State University and Purdue University in Fort Wayne, IN.

###

Photo Captions

All names listed left to right

First place teams:

Team 4 King: Karessa Mast, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Josina Kasper, University of Idaho; Amy Nelson, Washington State University; Marissa Montez, California State University – Fresno; Jonathan Holub, Texas A & M University

Team 6 Thurston: Emma Shoaf, Utah State University; Melisa Stilson, University of Idaho; Micah DeGroot, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Kayla Nielsen, University of Alberta; Trevor Slegers, California State University – Fresno

Team 5 Pierce: Beverly Shirts, University of Idaho; Jami Lady, California State University – Fresno; Anna Gibson, Washington State University; Jared DeGroot, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Lindsay Simmons, Utah State University

Second place teams:

Team 11 Pacific: Josh Veenendaal, California State University – Fresno; Hannah Symonds, Washington State University; James Weber, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Cierra Olmstead, University of Idaho; Jacob Miller, Utah State University

Team 7 Lewis: Briana Arnold, Washington State University; Rob Diepersloot, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Leonardo DeLeon, California State University – Fresno; Brianna Williams, University of Idaho; Shelby Froland, University of Alberta

Team 9 Klikitat: Karly Nieuwkoop, California State University – Fresno; Kelli Carstensen, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo; Anna Haines, Texas A & M University; Jessica Reynolds, University of Idaho; Boyd Funk, Washington State University; Dallin Buttars, Utah State University

Captions for Candid Photos:

Photo 1

Dr. Keith Bolsen led a rousing session on silage management sponsored by Connor Marketing, Inc. during the Thursday educational program. Winners of the Silage Quiz Competition pictured with Dr. Bolsen (far left) are (L to R) Samantha Peters, University of Idaho; Maaika Clapham, University of

Boisen (far left) are (L to R) Samantha Peters, University of Idaho, Maake Clapham, University of California - Davis; Allison Inlow, California State University – Fresno; Adam teVelde, Texas A & M University; David Vander Schaaf, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo.

Photo 2

Michele Ruby challenged the students to speak up for dairy during her presentation at the pre-competition educational program on Thursday sponsored by DMI, Inc. Michele taught the students how to speak to live media as well as use social networking to tell their dairy story.

Photo 3

A group of students receiving data on the evaluation dairy Thursday night. This was their first glimpse at Werkhoven Dairy production and financial information.

Photo 4

Coaches enjoyed a day of dairy tour and wine tasting while the students visited the dairy to make their assessments.

###