

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Story**

### **Photo Captions**

### **Dropbox Photos link**

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### **Story**

## **54 Students from Colleges Participate in 11th Annual Western Regional Dairy Challenge**

Fifty-four students from five western US and one Canadian universities and colleges traveled to Tulare, California for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Western Dairy Challenge on February 25 – 27, 2016. Headquarters for the contest was the College of the Sequoias (COS) Tulare campus.

The Western Dairy Challenge is a three-day educational competition designed to prepare students for dairy careers. Working in mixed-university teams of four or five 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.

On Thursday students listened to a financial seminar on how to read balance sheets and income and expense statements given by David Hill and Landon Fernandes of Farm Credit West. They also participated in a team building activity led by Dairy Challenge alumni. As part of the team-building, students assembled children's wagons, which were later donated to the local Lighthouse Rescue Mission.

Manuel, Alda, Jonathon, and Jessica Lawrence welcomed the teams to their dairy on Friday and participated in a question and answer session with students. Several sponsors attending the event networked with and mentored the students over the weekend.

Students made observations and presented them to a panel of judges made up of a nutritionist, a veterinarian, a financier, and a dairy producer who ranked them on their conclusions and performance.

### **Platinum teams:**

Team Lassen: Randy J. Edwards, Antoinette M. Silva, Cal Poly State University; Lindsey Richmond, Washington State University; Allison V. Stevens, University of Idaho; Sarah Pletts, University of Alberta.

Team Santiago: Annalicia M. Luis, Collin P. Fernandes, John A. Schoneveld, Cal Poly State University; Zachary D. Reynolds, University of Idaho; Maite Muse, Washington State University.

Team Diablo: Kathleen A. Migliazzo, Marlena M. Wagner, Cal Poly State University; Brennan Ribeiro, Texas A&M University; Kimberly R. Ware, University of Idaho; Chance Boyer, Utah State University.

### **Gold teams:**

Team Eagle Peak: Justine V. DeVries, Jacquelyn D. Kasbergen, Cal Poly State University; Lani Martin, University of Idaho; Quincy Sadowski, Utah State University; Casey Morey, University of Alberta.

Team Telescope Peak: Francesca A. Gambonini, Alison S. Sherman, Cal Poly State University; Lauren DeJong, Texas A&M University; Cody McCary, Utah State University; Kathleen Murphy, University of Alberta.

Team Boulder: Davis L. Neary, Marilyn W. Van Beek, Cal Poly State University; Mai Nguyen, University of Idaho; Melanie Boros, University of Alberta; Austin Sears, Utah State University.

A committee of dairy industry representatives organized the Challenge. A long list of volunteers was important to the competition's success. To volunteer or become a sponsor for the 2017 contest, contact Cathy Myers at [cathyd@dhiprovo.com](mailto:cathyd@dhiprovo.com) or Renee Smith at [rsmith@omegabalancer.com](mailto:rsmith@omegabalancer.com). All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Contributing sponsor listings are available on the website.

The Western 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](http://www.dairychallenge.org). The regional event leads to the national contest of the same format, held April 7 – 9, 2016, in Syracuse, NY.

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## **Photo Captions**

**Photo 1** – Students listened to a financial seminar on how to read balance sheets and income and expense statements on Thursday afternoon, given by David Hill and Landon Fernandes of Farm Credit West.

**Photo 2, 3, 4** – A team building exercise Thursday evening challenged students to assemble a children's wagon, which was then donated to the local Lighthouse Rescue Mission.

**Photo 5** – Students, organizers, mentors at the Lawrence family dairy near Hanford, CA.

**Photo 6, 7 – Presentation Planning** – Students finalize their recommendations for the dairy and prepare a presentation for the judges.

**Photo 8** - Platinum Team Lassen: Antoinette M. Silva, Cal Poly State University; Lindsey Richmond, Washington State University; Randy J. Edwards, Cal Poly State University; Sarah Pletts, University of Alberta; Allison V. Stevens, University of Idaho.

**Photo 9** - Platinum Team Santiago: John A. Schoneveld, Collin P. Fernandes, Cal Poly State University; Maite Muse, Washington State University; Annalicia M. Luis, Cal Poly State University; Zachary D. Reynolds, University of Idaho.

**Photo 10** - Platinum Team Diablo: Brennan Ribeiro, Texas A&M University; Marlena M. Wagner, Cal Poly State University; Kimberly R. Ware, University of Idaho; Kathleen A. Migliazzo, Cal Poly State University; Chance Boyer, Utah State University.

**Photo 11** - Gold Team Eagle Peak: ; Lani Martin, University of Idaho; Justine V. DeVries, Cal Poly State University; Casey Morey, University of Alberta; Quincy Sadowski, Utah State University; Jacquelyn D. Kasbergen, Cal Poly State University.

**Photo 12** - Gold Team Telescope Peak: Lauren DeJong, Texas A&M University; Francesca A. Gambonini, Alison S. Sherman, Cal Poly State University; Cody McCary, Utah State University; Kathleen Murphy, University of Alberta.

**Photo 13** - Gold Team Boulder: Davis L. Neary, Cal Poly State University; Austin Sears, Utah State University; Marilyn W. Van Beek, Cal Poly State University; Mai Nguyen, University of Idaho; Melanie Boros, University of Alberta.