



September 16, 2021

RE: NAIDC 16th Annual Southern Regional Dairy Challenge Contest
Hosted by the Tarleton State University and Texas A&M University November 14-16, 2021 in Granbury, Texas
To register your team go to: <https://2021southerndairychallenge.eventbrite.com>

Dear Dairy Challenge Coach:

On behalf of the Southern Regional Committee of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, it is our pleasure to invite your school to participate in the 16th Annual Southern Regional Dairy Challenge. This year's event will be held at the Lake Granbury Conference Center and LaQuinta Inn in Granbury, Texas November 14-16, and hosted by Tarleton State University and Texas A&M University. Note the program runs Sunday evening through Tuesday afternoon to minimize days away from campus.

After months of online programming and events, the Southern committee is excited to return to meeting in person. This letter contains important information about participation in the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge. Please review it carefully.

- Registration is online. This is the only method of registration. Registration fees can be paid using a credit card at the time of registration, or there is an option to pay with a check. **Team registration closes Friday, October 8.**
- Students will be responsible for completing a single form online - a Student Information form that includes Contestant Liability Waiver, Contest Information Release Waiver, and the Contestant Honor Code. Once you have received confirmation from us, on or about October 15. Students will have until October 25 to complete this form. This form will be available on the southern tab of Dairy Challenge web site at <http://www.dairychallenge.org/contests>
- Students should also prepare a resume for upload by October 25. The upload link will be available on the southern tab of Dairy Challenge web site at <http://www.dairychallenge.org/contests> Resumes will be distributed to sponsors for the Southern Region for recruiting purposes. In addition, students should bring copies with them for handing out and for a resume workshop being offered on Tuesday.
- **Student information forms must be submitted, and resumes must be uploaded by the October 25 deadline.** Students who miss the deadline without prior permission will be canceled from the event.
- Students will be allowed to use the internet during the Southern Regional contest.

- We will be using one farm with 2 panels of judges.
- Participants should plan to use their own computers for the contest. It is important that each school team have at least 2 computers to work with. Note, Mac's do not work with the dairy software, so schools may need to make arrangements for students who have Macs. See computer requirements https://www.dairychallenge.org/pdfs/2021_Southern/2021-SRDC-Computer-Requirements.pdf for complete details.
- Dairy software (PCDART and Dairy Comp) will be available for downloading from the [Southern web site](#). Students should download the software to their computers BEFORE coming to Texas. Support is available if needed.
- Similar to last year's virtual contest, all contest materials will be posted to a secure web site only accessible to registered participants. Students will have access to the contest data once onsite in Granbury Sunday evening. We are asking coaches to ensure that all contest data is removed from your students' computers after the contest ends.
- A pre-challenge tour will be offered at Tarleton State University's dairy, the [Southwest Regional Dairy Center](#), in Stephenville on Sunday afternoon 2:30 – 4:00 PM Central Time. Schools interested in participating may wish to travel directly to the dairy center, then check in to La Quinta in Granbury by 4:45 PM after the tour.

For your safety

NAIDC has adopted the following COVID statement:

NAIDC is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all participants. NAIDC has developed the following COVID-19 plan, which includes policies and procedures to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

As the success of our event relies on teamwork, networking, and interaction, we are requesting all participants be fully vaccinated or have a negative PCR test within 72 hours of arrival.

We will cooperate fully with our hotels and host facilities to follow their safety guidelines. We will closely monitor the CDC guidelines including mandates and policies in the areas where our events are being hosted and will be prepared to adjust our policy and/or our event if necessary.

We are implementing a series of changes to encourage safe meeting:

- Teams will be by school rather than mixed teams to allow students to remain in their pods when possible.
- Hotel rooms will be assigned by schools and only shared when schools agree.
- Participants should bring masks for wearing indoors when safe distancing is not available.
- NAIDC will have an isolation room available should anyone develop symptoms during the trip

Participation

- This event is open to all schools in the Southern region and adjacent states.
- Priority will be given to schools whose faculty advisors have expressed interest in participating. Completed entries will receive priority by registration date/time if contest size limits are reached.

- Again this year: Schools should create a team of 4-5 students from your school (we will not do aggregate teams this year). Schools may create combined teams with another school if they don't have at least 4 students. NAIDC staff can assist with team formation if needed. If you have additional students interested in participating, you may register them as alternates. Alternates will be added should we have fewer than 80 students. Please review [Southern Contest Rules, Eligibility of Contestants](#) as you select participating students.
- Due to deadlines imposed by the hotel for rooming lists and to ensure the contest flows smoothly, no changes may be made to students participating after October 25, 2021. Please note this date and plan accordingly.

Registration

Registration forms and entry fees are due by **Friday, October 8, 2021**.

- **Online Registration:** <https://2021southerndairychallenge.eventbrite.com>
 - Be prepared with your students' email addresses when you begin registration
 - Upon completion of the team registration, the system will send you a confirmation. NAIDC will send an email to each of the registered students with a link to the student information form and resume upload instructions.
- Student Information Form should be completed and resume uploaded by each student after team registration is confirmed. The form and resume upload are due October 25, 2021. The links will be posted on the southern tab of Dairy Challenge web site at <http://www.dairychallenge.org/contests>
- **Entry Fee: \$50 per student** which includes meals and 2 nights (Sun-Tues) lodging
 - If paying with a check, make checks payable to: North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge or NAIDC
 - Students will receive a free shirt with their registration. They should provide their shirt size on the Student Information Form. Coaches may order a shirt when registering. Shirts will be handed out onsite in Granbury, TX.

Housing

Room reservations will be made by Dairy Challenge upon receipt of the entry form. All participants will be staying at [LaQuinta Inn & Suites Granbury](#) 880 Harbor Lakes Drive, Granbury, TX 76048, PH: 817-573-2007.

Rooms will be provided at no extra charge for each participating team:

- 1 room(s) for female participants
- 1 room(s) for male participants
- 1 room(s) for coach(es)

Please note, to minimize exposure participants will be placed in rooms with participants (same gender) from the same school. Schools may share rooms if both schools are agreeable. Coaches will be roomed separately or paired upon request.

- Room reservations will be for the nights of Sunday, November 14 and Monday, November 15. Note our event will end by 3:30 PM CST.
- Hotel check-in begins at 3 PM on Sunday and contest registration will be from 5:30-6:00 PM at the Lake Granbury Conference Center.
- You should plan to arrive no later than 5:30 PM on Sunday afternoon. Sunday night activities begin at 6:00 PM with dinner, contest welcome, group activity and data distribution.

Travel

If you consider flying to the Southern Dairy Challenge, your best option is Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, 65 miles from the hotel in Granbury, TX.

Meals

Meals will be provided for one coach and officially registered team members:

November 14 (Sunday): Dinner

November 15 (Monday): Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

November 16 (Tuesday): Breakfast and lunch

Additional meals for extra people will have to be paid for at the time of registration. Should you need a special diet, please include this information with the contest entry form. Students will be asked this on their Student Information Form.

Social Media Corps

In addition to contest participants, Dairy Challenge is looking for students who would be interested in serving on the Southern Social Media Corps team. Please visit with students in your club and your ag communications department about this opportunity. An updated application will be posted to the Southern page in the coming days. In the meantime, please contact Grace Canny grace.canny@go.tarleton.edu if you have students interested in applying for this role. More details will be coming soon!

Communications will follow once registration closes with additional information, and in mid-November with last minute details. We look forward to your participation in our return to meeting in person for our innovative contest.

Sincerely,

Kas Ingawa
Southern Regional Dairy Challenge
Steering Committee Chair