



18th Annual Midwest Regional Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge
Co-hosted by the Michigan State University, Purdue University, and The Ohio State University
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Wednesday – Friday, February 16-18, 2022

Dear Dairy Challenge Coach:

On behalf of the Midwest Regional Committee of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, it is our pleasure to invite your school to join us for our return to meeting in person for the 18th Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge. The event will be held February 16-18, 2022 and is hosted by the Hosted by Michigan State University, Purdue University, and The Ohio State University in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The 2022 contest will take place Wednesday through Friday.

Registration:

- Registration for the contest is online. This is the *only* method of registration. Registration fees can be paid using a credit card at the time of registration, or you may pay by check. **Team registration closes Wednesday, December 8.** Registration is available here: <https://2022midwestdairychallenge.eventbrite.com> Be prepared with your students' email addresses when you begin registration.
- Entry fee for each student is \$50 total due at time of entry. Late registrations will not be accepted, so please be sure to register your team by December 8.
- Each school may register up to 8 students and 4 alternates. Please review Contest Rules, Eligibility of Contestants as you select participating students.
- This year's contest will be capped at 120 students. Once the cap of 120 is reached, any additional schools who register will be placed on a waiting list. Students registered as alternates will be likewise placed on a waiting list. **It is important that every student who registers is committed to participating.** Schools will be notified of their acceptance, on or about December 15. A student is ineligible if they have already participated in 2 regionals or competed in the national contest. These requirements allow Dairy Challenge to be a meaningful educational experience for students and also to assure Dairy Challenge sponsors that we are involving students with potential interest and relevance to the industry.
- Once participation is confirmed, NAIDC will instruct students to complete a Student Information form online. This form will be available on the Dairy Challenge web site after December 15. Students will also be instructed to upload a resume to the web site. These items must be submitted by January 24. The signing of the Contestant Liability Waiver, Contest Information Release Waiver, and the Contestant Honor Code will be handled on site at the event.

Housing:

This year's contest hotel is the Hilton Grand Wayne in Fort Wayne, IN. Room reservations will be made from the returned student information on the Entry Forms. Rooms will be provided for each school for the evenings of February 16 and February 17 at no charge.

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.

The committee is asking your team to arrive at the hotel on Wednesday afternoon, February 16 and depart after the completion of the contest on Friday, February 18. If you choose to stay on Friday night, room reservations and costs are the financial responsibility of the school. Driving directions to the hotel will be provided in later communications.

Meals:

Dinner on Wednesday, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Thursday, and breakfast, lunch and a snack on Friday will be provided for one coach and all participating students. Additional meals must be paid for at the time of registration at a cost of \$130 per person, this includes additional coaches. Should you have dietary restrictions, please indicate this information on the Entry Form. (NAIDC will collect this information about your students on the 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 Midwest Social Media Corps team. Please visit with students in your club and your ag communications department about this terrific opportunity. To apply, students should complete the application posted to the contest page at https://www.dairychallenge.org/pdfs/2022_Midwest/Dairy-Challenge-Social-Media-Application-21-22.pdf.

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:

- 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

We look forward to your participation in this exciting and innovative contest. Additional information, including the schedule and guidelines, as well as entry forms and student information forms, will also be available online at the Midwest contest page: <https://www.dairychallenge.org/contests/>

Sincerely,

Gail Carpenter, MW Regional Committee Chair - ajcarpen@iastate.edu

2022 MW Regional Hosts:

Roger Thomson, Michigan State University - thomso75@msu.edu

Maurice Eastridge, The Ohio State University - eastridge.1@osu.edu

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