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Three Universities Host Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge® Event

FORT WAYNE, IND., February 16-18, 2022—The 2022 Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge, hosted by Purdue University, Michigan State University, and Ohio State University concluded February 18th in Fort Wayne, Ind. Once again, the event proved to be a great success with 105 students from 14 schools, coaches and volunteers gathering on Wednesday, February 16 in the downtown scenery of Fort Wayne. Starting on the first day, students were given the opportunity to attend breakout sessions on animal welfare, robotic technology, feed management, and sustainability. Later, they received general farm visit information to begin to examine in hopes to utilize in the presentation they would be building over the next few days. The students were able to meet with their teammates and an industry mentor to bond over dinner and discuss their ideas about the farm's management and practices.

The students traveled to one of two farms on the second day to audit the operation. The second day began as early as 7:00 AM to head off to their respective farms. This year's farms included Stockwell Farms of Hudson, Ind. and Superior Dairy of Garrett, Ind. Students were given the chance to walk through the farm with an industry mentor and evaluate the different parts of each operation including calf care, parlor management, transition pens, feed management, and more. Additionally, students were given the opportunity to ask the producers questions about their farms to gain more information on the overall farm operation. In the afternoon students took their gathered information and began to build their farm presentations up until dinner. That evenings' dinner included dinner and a game night with the event sponsors.

On the final day, panels of judges listened and evaluated teams of students on the 20-minute presentations. The students covered strengths and areas of opportunity for their respective farms. While results were being calculated, students had the opportunity to network with companies that were event sponsors for this year's Dairy Challenge event at an innovation fair. Then the three-day event concluded with a banquet and an award's ceremony.

The judges awarded the following teams with the first and second place ranking on each farm among the 23 total teams participating.



Room A, Stockwell Farm

First Place: Team Number 2; (Front L-R) Morgan Kunkel, Serena Schotanus (Back L-R) Coach Micheal Brouk, Grant Fincham, Nathan Leavitt, Patrick Vanderknaap; Kansas State University



Second Place: Team Number 9; (Front L-R) Myah Vingerhoeds, Vera Hoodendoorn (Back L-R) Gord Milley, Hudson Bell; University of Guelph



Room B, Stockwell Farm

First Place: Team Number 17; (Front L-R) Katie Wilson, Mikayla Bowen, Jessie Nash (Back L-R) Chase Rievert, Chase Vander Hoff; Michigan State University



Second Place: Team Number 13; (Front L-R) Nichole Gerard, Rebecca Burns (Back L-R) Madison Veber, Chaiden Duitscher, Tehya Demmer, Jenna Trenhaile; Iowa State University



Room C, Superior Farms

First Place: Team Number 24; (Front L-R) Matthias Annexstad, Leif Annexstad, Greg Brosig (Back L-R) Nick Seitzer, Ashley Hagenow, Jacob Twohy; University of Minnesota



Second Place: Team Number 19; (Front L-R) Gaelan Combs, Kelsey Maurer (Back L-R) Billy Ziemet, Colin Uecker; University of Wisconsin-Madison





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 300 dairy collegiates – are funded through generous support by 130 agribusinesses and dairy producers. Dairy Challenge has helped prepare over 7,000 students for careers as dairy owners or managers, consultants, researchers, veterinarians or other dairy professionals.

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 the progress of the dairy industry, by providing education, communication and networking among students, producers, and agribusiness and university personnel. The 2022 National Dairy Challenge contest will be held in Green Bay, Wis. from March 31 to April 2; details are at www.dairychallenge.org.

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