



**18th Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge
The Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana
Wednesday, February 16 – Friday, February 18, 2022**

On behalf of the Midwest Regional committee of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, it is our privilege to invite you to join us as we return to meeting in person for the 18th Annual Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge. The event will be held February 16-18, 2022 and hosted this year by the Michigan State University, The Ohio State University & Purdue University at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana. We thank you for your continued support of the Midwest Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge.

Sponsor Participation: We are building our list of volunteers to help with the event on Wednesday evening thru Friday afternoon. Being involved and working directly with the students gives you a firsthand view of the students in action, plus a large volunteer pool helps the contest run smoothly.

Sponsor Volunteer Registration: Please submit information for each volunteer from your company using this online form. Forms are due **Monday, January 24, 2022**, but will continue to be accepted on an as needed basis. To register, go to https://2022mwdairychallenge_volunteer_registration.eventbrite.com

Schedule: A listing of the scheduled events for this year's contest will be posted on the Dairy Challenge contest page at <https://www.dairychallenge.org/contests/> under the Midwest Dairy Challenge button. Contest events will be held at the **Grand Wayne Center**, 120 W Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Go to <https://www.grandwayne.com/> for more information about the facility.

Hotel: A volunteer block has been reserved at the attached Hilton Fort Wayne at the Grand Wayne Center, 1020 South Calhoun St. in Fort Wayne. Individuals are requested to call the Hotel directly at (260) 420-1100 to make a guest room reservation in the 2022 Midwest Dairy Challenge Block. Rooms are \$99.00. **The reservation cut-off date is January 24th, 2022.** See the MW Regional contest page for detailed travel information.

Grand Wayne Center
1020 South Calhoun St
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Call (260) 420-1100 to make a reservation in the Dairy Challenge Volunteer block
Room rate \$99.00
Reservation deadline: January 24, 2022

Meals: Meals will be provided for sponsor volunteers.

Sponsor Display: On Friday you are invited to set up a booth in our Innovation Fair at the Grand Wayne Convention Center. Booths will be open between 8:30 am and 2:15 pm. Indicate your desire to reserve a booth using the online [registration form](#). There is no charge for booth. Electricity will be available, but you will

need to supply your own electrical cords. All sponsors are encouraged to reserve a space to interact with students and University coaches and to view student presentations on Friday. Remember because of the number of teams, presentations will be going simultaneously. This is a terrific opportunity to visit with each participant at the event, particularly if your company is seeking interns or job recruits.

Mentors: We are seeking a large number of volunteers to serve as Team Mentors. This is an important role as Mentors work side by side with the student teams to guide them through the farm analysis process. With enough volunteers, we hope to assign 2 mentors to each team. If you are interested in serving as a Mentor, indicate as such when registering. Please note:

- **Mentors must be available starting with the Mentor Meeting at 4:00 PM Wednesday until after lunch on Thursday. If you are able to stay through presentations on Friday, indicate your availability as such on the registration form.** Staying for the entire event (through presentations on Friday) allows for even more interaction with your team and provides cohesiveness for the team. Mentors will review data with students Wednesday evening, tour the dairy on Thursday morning, offer guidance while assembling their presentation on Thursday afternoon, oversee team prep on Friday, direct your team to their presentation room on Friday, be present during the presentation, and be their guide to debriefing.
- Mentors must have a camera or camera-capable phone to take pictures for their groups and be willing/able to download the pictures.
- **Mentors should be committed to the event and willing to work with students in a positive and supportive manner, encouraging participation and guiding them in their dairy assessment.**

Qualities of a Good Mentor

- ✓ Relevant Expertise or Knowledge
- ✓ Enthusiasm for Sharing That Expertise
- ✓ A Respectful Attitude
- ✓ Eagerness to Invest in Others
- ✓ Ability to Give Honest & Direct Feedback
- ✓ Reflective Listening & Empathy
- ✓ Willingness to be a Sponsor

If you are interested in serving as a Mentor, indicate as such when registering.

There are several other areas where assistance is needed including Manager Interviews on Thursday, February 17, and presentation room and debriefing volunteers on Friday, February 18. Please indicate your plans on the [volunteer registration form](#). We kindly ask each volunteer from your company register separately using the online volunteer registration site.

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:

- 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

To register, go to: https://2022mwdairychallenge_volunteer_registration.eventbrite.com

On behalf of the steering committee, we thank you for your time, energy and commitment to the Dairy Challenge.

If you have questions about volunteering your company's time at the event, please communicate with a Volunteer Coordinator, Michael Goeldi 608-698-8111, Michael.Goeldi@smaxtec.com or Scott Bascom 262-206-8160 Scott.Bascom@pahc.com

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Many of you have volunteered the time and energy of colleagues and yourselves. Thank you! Areas where assistance is needed are: (if you have a volunteer duty preference please complete the information on the form and every opportunity will be made to assign you those responsibilities)

1. **Mentors:** We need volunteers on Wednesday Evening thru the farm visit on Thursday morning to Mentor the student groups and to work with them on the host farms. You will work with your group on Wednesday evening as they start to look through information and prepare for the farm tour. You will then escort this group of students while on the farm tour on Thursday morning. It is critical all volunteers who do want to sign up for this duty are available all of Wednesday evening thru lunch on Thursday. Based on comments we received from Mentors last year, we are hoping to keep at least one Mentor from each team with the students through the end of the event on Friday. If you can stay with your assigned team through 3:00 PM Friday, please indicate that on your registration form.
2. **Farm Volunteers:** We need people on Thursday morning to help get the students on buses and keep them moving on the host farms.
3. **Support Help:** Individuals are needed for Thursday afternoon to assist teams in getting support from IT, questions answered, and to assist with farm manager meetings.
4. **Resource Room:** Individuals are needed for Thursday afternoon to assist teams in providing answers to technical questions for their presentations.
5. **Room Monitors:** We need 6-12 room monitors for Friday's presentations. These 6-12 volunteers are needed to share the coverage of the three presentation rooms from 7:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Friday.
6. **Team Guides:** We need 3 volunteers to assist getting students to visit with sponsors and to the industry presentations.
7. **Debrief Team:** We need 6 individuals to visit with teams following their presentation for 10-minute debriefing sessions on their experience.

Please complete the form. Thank you in advance for your support of the Midwest Dairy Challenge.

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