



17th Annual Western Regional Dairy Challenge
February 24-26, 2022
Fresno, CA

November 19, 2021

The 17th Annual Western Regional Dairy Challenge will be held at Wyndham Garden Hotel Fresno Airport at 5090 East Clinton Avenue in Fresno, California February 24-26, 2022. Registration Entry and Student Information forms are available to complete online at the National Dairy Challenge website www.dairychallenge.org under the Western contest tab.

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

Registration fee is \$50 per student participant and is due at time of entry. *On average, it costs the Western Region approximately \$350 per student attending the western contest. Our ability to cover these costs depends greatly on support of our dairy industry, which has experienced difficult times. While the decision is up to the schools to pay this fee or request it of the student, the regional committee felt students who have paid even a small amount have demonstrated ownership in their participation and the program.*

Deadline to register is Monday, December 13, 2021. Each school may register up to 5 students and 5 alternates. Schools will be notified of their acceptance shortly after the December 13 deadline. Please review Contest Rules, Eligibility of Contestants as you select participating students.

To register: go to <https://2022westernregional.eventbrite.com>. Be prepared with your students' email addresses when you begin registration.

Once participation is confirmed (on or about December 14), students will be responsible for completing a Student Information form online. A link to this form will be available on the Dairy Challenge web site after confirmations are sent, on or around December 17. Students have until January 26, 2022 to submit their form. Failure to submit the form by the deadline will result in the student being dropped from the contest. The signing of the Contestant Liability Waiver, Contest Information Release Waiver, and the Contestant Honor Code will be handled on the Student Information form.

Students should also prepare a resume for upload by January 26. The upload link will be available on the western tab of Dairy Challenge web site at <http://www.dairychallenge.org/contests> Resumes will be distributed to sponsors for the Western Region for recruiting purposes. In addition, students should bring copies with them for the career fair on Saturday.

Student information forms must be submitted, and resumes must be uploaded by the January 26 deadline. Students who miss the deadline without prior permission will be canceled from the event.

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 Western Contest Rules, Eligibility of Contestants as you select participating students.

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 on the Western page at <http://www.dairychallenge.org/contests>. Schools are asked to check in at least 1 additional university computer, 2 if possible, as backups and for use during the contest.

Dairy software (DHI Plus, PCDART and Dairy Comp) will be available for downloading from the Western site. Students should download the software to their computers BEFORE coming to California. 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 Fresno Thursday evening. We are asking coaches to ensure that all contest data is removed from your students' computers after the contest ends.

The Western Region will cover up to \$1,200 in travel costs. Hotel rooms and meals at the contest are provided.

Contest management will make all the necessary hotel reservations for your team and yourself.

This will consist of a room for students on Thursday and Friday, which will be covered by sponsorships. If any coaches would like to share rooms, please inform the planning committee.

Please note that rooms will be reserved using the student names provided on your registration form. Due to deadlines imposed by the hotel for rooming lists and to ensure the contest flows smoothly, we ask you make final any and all changes to students participating by January 26. Should you not need all the rooms that have been reserved, it is your responsibility to notify the management staff at least 3 days prior to the contest in order to have the rooms cancelled. If you fail to notify us, you will be responsible for reimbursement of the unused rooms. If your team is unable to return to your home campus for Saturday night, this night will also be covered at a hotel of your choice, with the cost per room not to exceed the cost of the room in Fresno.

The official schedule of events for the three days of the contest will be provided in early January. Contest rules are available at the NAIDC website, and your students should be aware of the rules and scorecard.

Social Media Corps

In addition to contest participants, Dairy Challenge is looking for students who would be interested in serving on the Western Social Media Corps team. Please visit with students in your club and your ag communications department about this opportunity. An application is available on the Western page.

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

Communications will follow once registration closes in mid-December with additional information, and in mid-February with last minute details. As we continue to develop this contest for the future, we appreciate your input to improve the educational experience for your students. The Western Regional Dairy Challenge Committee looks forward to meeting you and your team at the 2022 Contest!

Sincerely,

Western Regional Dairy Challenge Committee