



**17th Western Regional Dairy Challenge
Hosted by the Western Regional Committee
Fresno, California
Thursday, February 24 – Saturday, February 26, 2022**

On behalf of the Western Regional committee of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, it is our privilege to invite you to participate in the 17th Annual Western Regional Dairy Challenge. The event will be held in Fresno, California February 24-26, co-hosted by the Western Region. We thank you for your continued support of the Western Regional Dairy Challenge. 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.

Sponsor Participation: We are building our list of volunteers to help with the event on Thursday evening thru Saturday 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.

Schedule: A listing of the scheduled events for this year's contest will be posted on the Western Dairy Challenge web page at <http://www.dairychallenge.org/contests>

Sponsor Volunteer Registration: Please submit information for each volunteer from your company using [this online form](#). **Forms are due Wednesday, February 9, 2022.**

Hotel: We will be at the Wyndham Garden Fresno Yosemite Airport Hotel in Fresno. A block of rooms is held under the Western Regional Dairy Challenge Volunteers until **Wednesday, February 9, 2022**. Please call the hotel directly to make appropriate reservations. All volunteers (sponsors, judges, mentors) are responsible for making their own reservations.

[Wyndham Garden Fresno Yosemite Airport](#)

5090 East Clinton Way
Fresno, CA 93727

Call **(559) 252-3611** to make a reservation in the Western Regional Dairy Challenge Volunteer block

Room Rate: \$116 plus tax (includes breakfast)

Reservation Deadline: **Wednesday, February 9, 2022**

Meals: We are kindly asking for a suggested donation for each meal you are planning to attend to help us cover this major cost of the event. Please indicate on the registration form which meals you will be attending, and thank you for your additional support.

Sponsor Display: You are invited to set up a complimentary company display at the Wyndham on Saturday morning, February 26, 2022. Please indicate your desire to reserve a display spot using the online registration form. Electricity will be available, but you will need to supply your own electrical cords. All sponsors are encouraged to interact with students and University coaches and view student presentations on Saturday. Remember because of the number of teams, presentations will be going simultaneously.

There are several other areas where assistance is needed including Manager Interviews on Friday, February 25, and presentation room and debriefing volunteers on Saturday, February 26. 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.

Dairy Challenge T-Shirt: show your support by purchasing a Dairy Challenge shirt. Shirts are \$15. Shirts can be ordered when registering as a volunteer and will be distributed onsite during the Western Regional event.

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: We kindly ask each individual attending from your company register using this form. Forms are due back **Wednesday, February 9, 2022**. Go to the Western Contest Page at <http://www.dairychallenge.org/contests>

If you have questions about volunteering your company's time at the event, please communicate with Volunteer Coordinators Jen Gisler Lane, Jennifer_Gisler@cargill.com, PH (559) 469-7219; Stacy Tsang, Stacy.Tsang@PAHC.com, PH (661) 312-6280 or Grace Cun gcun@landolakes.com, PH: 951-972-7771.

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The following are areas where assistance is needed. If you have a volunteer duty preference, please indicate as such on the [volunteer form](#) and every opportunity will be made to assign you those responsibilities.

- **Mentors:** We need volunteers on Thursday Evening thru the farm visit on Friday morning 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. You will work with your group on Thursday evening as they start to look through farm information and prepare for the farm tour. You will then escort this group of students while on the farm tour on Friday morning. It is critical all volunteers who do want to sign up for this new duty are available all of Thursday evening thru lunch on Friday. We will need at least 12 mentors available. **Based on mentor comments in recent years, we are seeking one mentor per team to stay throughout the entire event (through Saturday presentation) to allow for even more interaction with your team and to provide cohesiveness for the team. They will assist the team by being in the prep room on Saturday, to be their team guide to the presentation, be present during the presentation and then be their guide to debriefing. 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 include:
 - ✓ Relevant Expertise or Knowledge of the Dairy Industry
 - ✓ 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

Please indicate your plans on the volunteer registration form.

- **Farm Volunteers:** We need people on Friday morning to help get the students on buses and keep them moving on the host farms.
- **Support Help:** Individuals are needed for Friday afternoon to assist teams in getting support from IT, questions answered, and to assist with farm manager meetings.
- **Room Monitors and Timekeepers:** We need 3-6 room monitors and 3-6 timekeepers for Saturday's presentations. These volunteers are needed to share the coverage of the 3-6 presentation rooms from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Debrief Team:** We need 3 individuals to visit with teams following their presentation for 10-minute debriefing sessions on their experience.

Please complete the volunteer form at https://2022wrdc_volunteer_registration.eventbrite.com Thank you in advance for your support of the Western Dairy Challenge.

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