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Release date:

February 17, 2023

Three Universities Host Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge® Event

DUBUQUE, IA., February 15-17, 2023—The 2023 Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge, hosted by Iowa State University and University of Wisconsin-Platteville concluded February 17th in Dubuque, IA. Once again, the event proved to be a great success with 98 students from 15 schools, coaches and volunteers gathering on Wednesday, February 15 in the downtown scenery of Dubuque. Starting on the first day, students were given the opportunity to participate in team-building activities. 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 met 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 three 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 Cinnamon Ridge of Donahue, IA., Blue Hyll Dairy of Clinton, IA. and Emerald Acres/D Gaul Farms of Peosta, IA. Students walked through the farm with an industry mentor and evaluated 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 their 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 an awards 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, Blue Hyll Dairy

First Place: Team Number 6; (Front L-R) Elizabeth Benicke- Lakeshore Technical College, Haley Kirchoff- University of Wisconsin-River Falls (Back L-R) Kyle Krcma-University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Mason Jauquet- Iowa State University



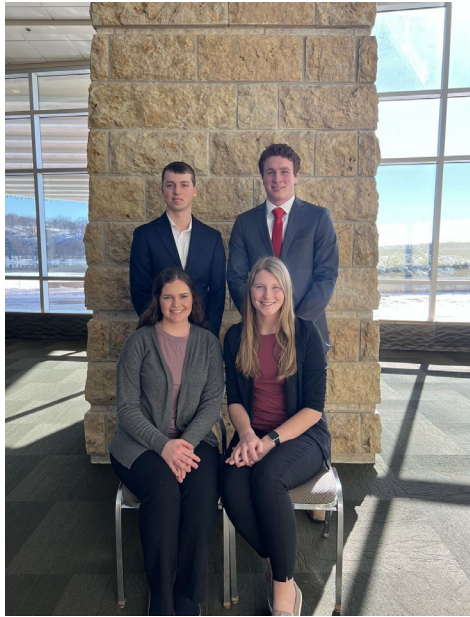
Second Place: Team Number 1; (Front L-R) Sarah Doll-Fox Valley Technical College, Awna Hirsch-University of Minnesota (Back L-R) Emily Stevens-Lakeshore Technical College, Joshua Daily-Kansas State University





Room B. Blue Hyll Dairy

First Place: Team Number 9; (Front L-R) Grace Haase- University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Abby Fairbanks- University of Wisconsin- Platteville (Back L-R) Chad Patterson-Purdue University, Cael Keith- The Ohio State University



Second Place: Team Number 12; (Front L-R) Jay Dicke- University of Minnesota, Danielle Walters- College of the Ozarks (Back L-R) Kylee Sebranek- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Tehya Demmer- Iowa State University



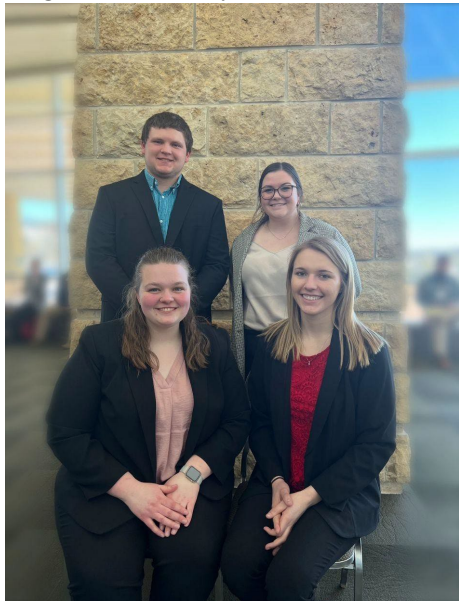


Room C. Cinnamon Ridge Farms

First Place: Team Number 14; (Front L-R) Amber Engelken- Iowa State University, Sophie Hennisz- University of Wisconsin- Madison (Back L-R) Faith Hagelberger- The Ohio State University, Seth de Jong- Doubt University, Miriam Cook- Purdue University



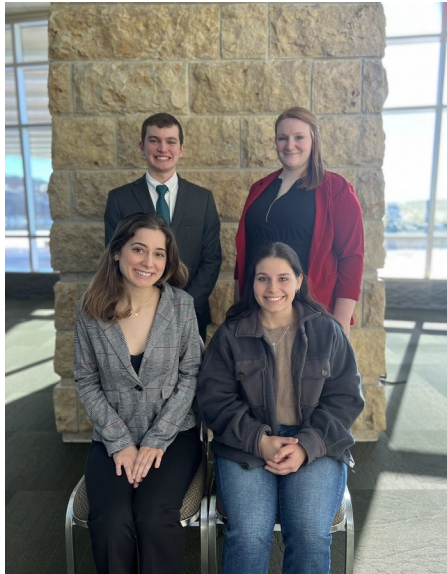
Second Place: Team Number 18; (Front L-R) Madalyn Palmer-Iowa State University, Kylie Nickels- University of Wisconsin-Madison (Back L-R) Lane Hetting- South Dakota State University, Alison Wagner- University of Wisconsin- River Falls



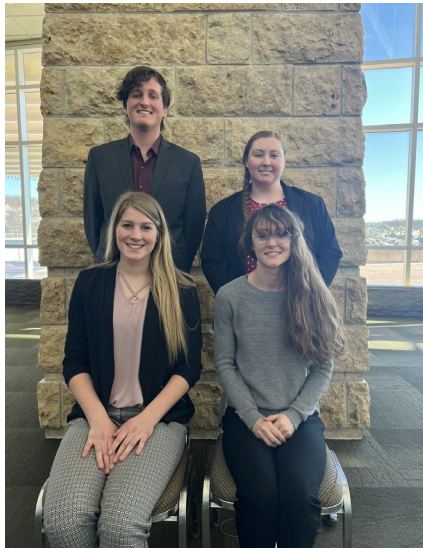


Room D, Emerald Acres/D Gaul Farms

First Place: Team Number 21; (Front L-R) Alexandria Tanner- The Ohio State University, Lexi McCoy- Kansas State University (Back L-R) Joseph Schuh- University of Wisconsin- River Falls, Grace Vos- University of Wisconsin- Madison



Second Place: Team Number 23; (Front L-R) Naomi Scott- Iowa State University, Destiny Newlin- University of Illinois (Back L-R) Ranger Mouw- Dordt University, Elizabeth Schafer- The Ohio State University





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 250 dairy collegiates – are funded through generous support by 130 agribusinesses and dairy producers. Dairy Challenge has helped prepare over 5,000 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 2023 National Dairy Challenge contest will be held in Saratoga Springs, New York from March 30 to April 1; details are at www.dairychallenge.org.

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