



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Nine Universities and Technical Schools Compete at Western Regional Dairy Challenge**

MADERA, CA., February 23-25, 2023—The 2023 Western Regional Dairy Challenge, hosted by Madera Community College concluded February 25th in Madera, CA. The event proved to be a great success with 64 students from 9 universities and technical schools, coaches and volunteers gathering on Wednesday, February 23rd in Madera. The event began with a software training seminar. Students then participated in a team building exercise before receiving farm data for the competition host farm. Students worked in aggregate teams together with an industry mentor as they began to identify areas for further exploration of areas of opportunity on the farm. The following morning, the students traveled to Vista Verde Dairy in Chowchilla, CA. Students walked through the farm with their team and industry mentor while evaluating the operation's parlor management, transition pens, feed management, and more. After completing the farm visit, students returned to Madera Community College for lunch and the question-and-answer session with the producer and dairy management team. Following the Q&A session, teams began work on their presentations before uploading them for presentation the following day. Students traveled to Troost Dairy for the evening program—a sponsor and industry representative dinner & entertainment event. On the final day, panels of judges listened and evaluated teams of students on their 20-minute presentations. The students presented strengths and areas of opportunity for farm. After their presentations were complete, students attended a sponsor career & innovation fair. The fair offered them the opportunity to network with Dairy Challenge sponsor representatives.

After all team presentations were complete, the judges presented their findings followed by the presentation of awards to the winning teams.

The judges awarded the teams with the first and second place rankings in three judging groups among the 12 total teams participating.

## Judging Group A

1<sup>st</sup> Place Team 1 (John Alamo-Cal Poly, Kaycie Bajika-Cal Poly, Natali Fernandez-CSU Fresno, DeAnja McLain, Texas Tech University, Skyleur Neal-University of Idaho)



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team 4 (Elio Cardoso-Cal Poly, Cody DeWit-Texas Tech University, Kaitlin Mirkin-University of Idaho, Holly Parks-CSU Fresno, Anna Smith-Cal Poly, Michael Alamo-Modesto Junior College)



## Judging Group B

1<sup>st</sup> Place Team 5 (Ryan Haringa-Cal Poly, Kristie McGourin-University of Idaho, Abby Sant-Utah State University, Braedon VanBerkum-Texas Tech University, Ashley Waymire-Cal Poly)



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team 8 (Kassandra Archambault-University of Alberta, Jennifer de Vries-Cal Poly, Dylan Mello-CSU Fresno, Daniel Salas-University of Idaho, Hally Sciera-Washington State University, Hannah Stock-Utah State University)



### Judging Group C

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team 9 (Jaylee Allen-University of Idaho, Andrew Bartelheimer-Washington State University, McKenzie McGinniss-Texas A&M University, Hallee Nickols-Cal Poly, Jacob Nunes-CSU Fresno)



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team 12 (Joel Holt-Utah State University, Sadie Kientz-University of Alberta, Jordyn Ludeman-Cal Poly, Emily Peterson-University of Idaho, Allen Schwartz-Texas Tech University)



### *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 progress of the dairy industry by providing education, communication and networking among students, producers, and agribusiness and university personnel. Over its 20-year national history, Dairy Challenge has helped prepare more than 5,000 students for careers as farm owners and managers, consultants, researchers, veterinarians or other dairy professionals.

In addition to the national competition and Dairy Challenge Academy held in March/April, four regional contests are held in late fall and winter; details are at [www.dairychallenge.org](http://www.dairychallenge.org).

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