



**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Regional Dairy Challenge**  
**February 23-25, 2023**  
**Madera, CA**

**To Register: <https://2023WesternDairyChallenge.eventbrite.com>**

November 28, 2022

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Regional Dairy Challenge will be held at Madera Community College in Madera, California February 23-25, 2023. Registration Entry forms are available to complete online at the National Dairy Challenge website [www.dairychallenge.org](http://www.dairychallenge.org) under the Western contest tab. 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.

Deadline to register is Thursday, December 15, 2022. Each school may register up to 5 students and 5 alternates. Schools will be notified of their acceptance shortly after the December 15 deadline. Please review Contest Rules, Eligibility of Contestants as you select participating students.

**To register:** go to <https://2023WesternDairyChallenge.eventbrite.com> Be prepared with your students' email addresses when you begin registration.

Once participation is confirmed (on or about December 19), 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 19. Students have until January 26, 2023 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.

Teams will be aggregated, meaning students will be assigned to a team with students from other universities. 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. Doing so ensures teams have the maximum time to review data. 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 Madera 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 for schools who need it. 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.

**Dairy Challenge 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Shirt**

You can order a t-shirt commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Dairy Challenge and this year's contest on the registration form. Students will have the opportunity to order shirts on their Student Information Forms. Orders will be shipped to the event and can be picked up during registration.

We look forward to your participation in this exciting and innovative contest. Additional information, including the schedule and guidelines, as well as entry forms and student information forms, will also

be available online at the Midwest contest page: <https://www.dairychallenge.org/contests/>

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 help us improve the educational experience for your students. The Western Regional Dairy Challenge Committee looks forward to meeting you and your team at the 2023 Contest!

Sincerely,

Western Regional Dairy Challenge Committee