



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Molly Kelley
Executive Director
mollyk@dairychallenge.com

Release date:
Feb. 24th, 2024

Utah State University Hosts Western Regional Dairy Challenge® Event

RICHFIELD, UT., February 22-24, 2024—The 2024 Western Regional Dairy Challenge, hosted by Utah State University concluded February 24th in Richfield, Utah. The event had strong participation with 49 students from 7 schools, along with coaches and volunteers, gathering in Richfield. The students arrived and met their teammates over dinner and brief team building activities. Shortly after dinner they received farm information and began to analyze farm data in preparation for the next day's farm visit. Industry mentors were assigned to each team to guide them through their farm analysis.

On the second day, students visited Cedar Ridge Dairy. Accompanied by industry mentors, students assessed different aspects of the dairy farm including calf care, parlor management, feed management, reproduction management, and cow comfort. After lunch, students had the opportunity to interview the host farm's management team and learn more about the farm's management practices and goals. Teams spent the rest of the afternoon compiling the farm data and their observations into presentations. Following the submission of their presentation, they, along with sponsors and volunteers, enjoyed an evening of bowling and fun at Jorgensen's Bowling Center.

The final day of the contest was filled with judge panels evaluating each team's 20-minute presentations, which highlighted the strengths and main areas of opportunity observed for the farm. When students were not presenting, they had the opportunity to attend a career fair and network with alumni and sponsors. The event concluded with the presentation of student awards, marking the end of the 2024 Western Regional Dairy Challenge.

About Dairy Challenge

The North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge 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, agribusiness and university personnel. Over its 21-year national history, Dairy Challenge has helped prepare more than 10,000 students for careers as farm owners and managers, consultants, researchers, veterinarians, or other dairy professionals. The next national event will be hosted in Visalia, California, April 4-6, 2024. Four regional events are held in late fall and winter; details are at www.dairychallenge.org.

###



First Place: Room A

Team 2: (Front L-R) Jordan Cassidy – University of Idaho, Jenna Speegle – Texas Tech University, (Back L-R) Sienna Sayles – University of Alberta, Joel Holt – Utah State University, Emma Lupica – California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo



Second Place: Room A

Team 2: (Front L-R) Gabriella Ponce – University of Idaho, Nicole Spaletta – California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, (Back L-R) Mia Coker – Texas A&M University, Rianna Dean – Washington State University, Elio Cardoso – California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo





First Place: Room B

Team 9: (Front L-R) Jiwon Ha – Washington State University, Doreen Dyt – California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, (Back L-R) Hanna Crowther – Utah State University, Alana Lee – Texas A&M University, Christian Ramirez – University of Idaho



Second Place: Room B

Team 8: (Front L-R) Alyssa Murillo – University of Idaho, Elizabeth Hepton – Washington State University, (Back L-R) Giorgianna Leddy – University of Alberta, Tim Ally – Texas Tech University, Jennifer de Vries – California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

