

National Dairy Challenge Contest & Academy

April 6-8, 2025

Hilton University of Florida
Conference Center
Gainesville
1714 SW 34th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607
PH: (352) 371-3600

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville
1714 SW 34th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32607

All events are at the Hilton Conference Center unless otherwise noted

ver 040325

Full Schedule

Saturday, April 5

12 noon	Staff arrive	Gainesville Hilton
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Set up Dairy Challenge Central (DCC) office	Boardroom
	Set up IT area	Boardroom
	Coaches, teams, board, arrive in Visalia	
3:30 PM	Precon Meeting with hotel staff	

Sunday, April 6

9:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Dairy Challenge Central & IT office	Boardroom
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM	NAIDC Board of Directors breakfast & meeting	Azalea
12:30 PM and 2:00 PM	Optional Pre-Contest Dairy Tour (offered at 2 times)	Milk-A-Way Dairy, 559 SW Lincoln Road, Mayo, FL
4:45 PM - 5:15 PM	Registration (Contest Coaches, Judges, Sponsors/Volunteers)	Boardroom
5:00 PM	Social Media Corps meeting	Boardroom
5:30 PM	Dinner	Century Ballroom ABC
	Welcome 5:30 PM Dinner 6:15 PM Dairy Challenge Welcome – Alex White, Chair, NAIDC Board 6:20 PM Southern Regional Welcome – Jeff Elliott and Melanie Herman, Host Co-Chairs	
6:30 PM	Group Photo	Hilton Courtyard
6:15 PM	Academy Advisor orientation	Hickory
	IT computer set up	
7:00 - 9:30 PM	Contest software followed by distribution of contest materials. <i>All teams (contest students) should be present.</i>	
7:00 PM	Snacks available	
7:30 PM	Judges' orientation	Hawthorne
7:30 PM	Gathering for new coaches	Azalea
7:15 - 9:45 PM	Academy Session 1: Software overview followed by distribution of Academy materials	Century Ballroom BC

Monday, April 7

5:30 AM - 9:00 PM	Dairy Challenge Central & IT office	Boardroom
6:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast buffet	Century Ballroom A
6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Sponsor and media check-in at Dairy Challenge Central	
6:00 AM	Volunteer meeting (instructions for farm visits)	Hickory
6:00 AM	Farm visit overview and instructions for students and judges	Century Ballroom A
6:15 AM	Teams begin loading buses for contest dairy visits. <i>Judge panels follow buses travelling in a group in their own vehicle.</i>	
6:20 AM - 12:00 PM	Contest Farm Visit	
6:20 AM	Buses 1 and 2 leave for Contest Dairy AB	
6:30 AM	Buses 3 and 4 leave for Contest Dairy CD	
6:45 AM	Farm visit overview and instructions for Academy students and mentors	Century Ballroom BC
6:55 AM - 12:00 PM	Academy Session 2: Farm Visit	
6:55 AM	Groups begin loading buses for Academy dairy visit	
7:00 AM	Buses 5 and 6 leave for Academy Dairy E	
7:30 AM	Buses 7 and 8 leave for Academy Dairy F <i>Academy Advisors may ride buses or follow in their own vehicle.</i>	
7:40 AM - 8:00 AM	Teams and judges arrive at dairies - 15 min Dairy managers welcome teams, provide overview and guidelines - 2 hours On-site assessment of contest dairies - 15 min All teams gather with dairy managers for group interview with judges observing	

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Academy groups arrive at dairy - 15 min Dairy managers welcome groups, provide overview and guidelines - 2 hours On-site assessment of dairy - 15 min All groups gather with dairy managers for group interview	
10:40 AM	Buses 1 and 2 leave Contest Dairy AB	
11:00 AM	Buses 3 and 4 leave Contest Dairy CD	
11:00 AM	Buses 5 and 6 leave for Academy Dairy E	
11:30 AM	Buses 7 and 8 leave for Academy Dairy F	
	All buses return by 12:00 PM	
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch buffet	Century Ballroom A
11:30 AM	Lunch: Coaches and Staff	Century Ballroom A
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	Contest Lunch - <i>Teams pick up lunches and workroom assignments upon return from dairy</i>	Century Ballroom A
12:00 PM	Academy students and Advisors return with time to freshen up before lunch	
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Academy Lunch	Century Ballroom A
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	Judges have lunch with dairy managers	Hawthorne
12:45 PM - 5:45 PM	Teams plan and develop presentations in assigned work rooms	Hilton assigned workrooms
1:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Judges meeting, instructions for the afternoon	Hawthorne
1:15 PM - 6:00 PM	Judges plan and develop presentations in assigned work room	Hawthorne
1:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Volunteer meeting, instructions for interviews	Hickory
1:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Academy Session 3: Analyzing a Dairy (BREAKOUTS IN 2 SEPARATE ROOMS)	Century Ballroom B and C
	Interviews with Dairy Managers	
	Academy E:	Century Ballroom B
	Academy F:	Century Ballroom C
1:10 PM - 3:50 PM	Individual team interviews with dairy managers with judges observing (17 minutes/team, scheduled at 20-min intervals) <u>Dairy: A & B C & D</u>	Dairy A & B: Hickory Dairy C & D: Cedar
1:10 PM	Teams: 1 & 9 17 & 25	
1:30 PM	Teams: 2 & 10 18 & 26	
1:50 PM	Teams: 3 & 11 19 & 27	
2:10 PM	Teams: 4 & 12 20 & 28	
2:30 PM	Teams: 5 & 13 21 & 29	
2:50 PM	Teams: 6 & 14 22 & 30	
3:10 PM	Teams: 7 & 15 23 & 31	
3:30 PM	Team: 8 & 16 24 & 32	
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Snacks available	Prefunction
3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Coaches Meeting and Reception	The Depot 201 S.E. Depot Ave. Gainesville, FL 32601
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Set up for Monday evening event at football stadium	University of Florida Ben Hill Griffin Football Stadium – Champions Club 157 Gale Lemerand Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611
5:45 PM - 6:15 PM	Teams turn in final presentations. <i>Each team should send only 2 representatives for turn in</i>	Board Room
6:00 PM	Judges turn in their assessment and contest data	Board Room
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Monday Night Student Sponsor Dinner & Stadium Tours <i>Park at the O'Connell Center lot and walk across the street to the skybox tower. Enter from the right of the Heisman Statues on the west side of the stadium. Enter lobby and take elevators up to level 5 Champions Club. Stadium tours begin at 7:30 PM, departing every 15 minutes. Last tour is at 8:45 PM.</i>	University of Florida Ben Hill Griffin Football Stadium – Champions Club 157 Gale Lemerand Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611
Tuesday, April 8		
6:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Dairy Challenge Central & IT office	Board Room
6:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast buffet	Century A
6:30 AM - 7:00 AM	Judges meeting	Birch
6:30 AM	Volunteer meeting	Hickory
7:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Teams to report to holding room 15 minutes prior to scheduled presentation time.	Private Dining Room

7:15 AM - 11:15 AM	Morning team presentations (60-minute intervals)* <i>* once teams have presented, they should meet with sponsors in the Career & Innovation Fair</i>	Dairy A: Hickory Dairy B: Birch Dairy C: Cedar Dairy D: Magnolia
	<u>Dairy: A B C D</u>	
	7:15 - Teams: 1 9 17 25	
	8:15 - Teams: 2 10 18 26	
	9:15 - Teams: 3 11 19 27	
	10:15 - Teams: 4 12 20 28	
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Sponsor set-up for Career & Innovation Fair	Prefunction
7:30 AM-12:30 PM	Academy Session 4: Farm Analysis Presentations	
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Academy Presentation Practice	
	Academy E:	Groups 1-5: Century Ballroom B Groups 6-10: Hawthorne
	Academy F:	Groups 11-15: Century Ballroom C Groups 16-20: Azalea
8:30 AM - 11:15 AM	Academy Group Presentations (30 minute intervals) <i>* once groups have presented they should debrief then return to presentation room</i>	Academy E: Century Ballroom B & Hawthorne Academy F: Century Ballroom C & Azalea
	Academy Dairy: E F	
	8:30 - Groups: 1 6 11 16	
	9:00 - Groups: 2 7 12 17	
	9:30 - Groups: 3 8 13 18	
	10:00 - Break	
	10:15 - Groups: 4 9 14 19	
	10:45 - Groups: 5 10 15 20	
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Academy Group Debriefing	
	9:00 - Groups 1, 6, 11, 16 9:30 - Groups 2, 7, 12, 17 10:15 - Groups 3, 8, 13, 18 10:45 - Groups 4, 9, 14, 19 11:15 - Groups 5, 10, 15, 20	Century Ballroom A
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Coffee Break available	Prefunction
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Career & Innovation Fair	Prefunction
8:45 AM - 11:15 AM	Corporate Technology Presentations <i>* All afternoon presenting Contest Teams are required to attend all these sessions - attendance will be taken.</i>	
8:45 AM - 9:10 AM	Choose one:	
	Data Driven Decision Making: It's a Team Sport. Tara Bonhert, CowManager presented by Select Sires	Dogwood
	Global Advancements in Dairy Production through Innovation in Reproduction and Genomics. Dr. Christian Rippe, STgenetics	Live Oak
9:20 AM - 9:45 AM	Choose one:	
	Driving Innovation: The Role of Young Professionals. Kristen Chapman, Cargill	Dogwood
	Mooving to the Future. Paula Molinari, GENEX	Live Oak
10:10 AM - 10:35 AM	Bring out your Best with Benchmarking. Heather Weeks, Farm Credit East	Dogwood
10:45 AM - 11:15 AM	Keynote Speaker: The Importance of Being Progressive. Don Bennink, North Florida Holsteins	Dogwood
8:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Morning team debriefing	Private Dining Room
	8:15 - Teams 1, 9, 17, 25 9:15 - Teams 2, 10, 18, 26 10:15 - Teams 3, 11, 19, 27 11:15 - Teams 4, 12, 20, 28	
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Contest Team photos	Prefunction
11:00 AM-1:30 PM	Lunch buffet	Century Ballroom A
11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Judge Lunch	Century Ballroom A
11:30 AM	Volunteer meeting	Hickory
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Advisor feedback, comments from dairies, wrap up and group picture.	Academy E (Groups 1-10): Century Ballroom B Academy F (Groups 11-20): Century Ballroom C
11:45 AM - 2:45 PM	Teams to report to holding room 15 minutes prior to scheduled presentation time.	Private Dining Room

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Afternoon team presentations (60-minute intervals)* <i>* once teams have presented, they should meet with sponsors in the Career & Innovation Fair</i>	Dairy A: Hickory Dairy B: Birch Dairy C: Cedar Dairy D Magnolia
	<u>Dairy: A B C D</u>	
	12:00 - Teams: 5 13 21 29	
	1:00 - Teams: 6 14 22 30	
	2:00 - Teams: 7 15 23 31	
	3:00 - Teams: 8 16 24 32	
1:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Career & Innovation Fair	Prefunction
1:30 PM - 4:15 PM	Academy Session 5: Corporate Technology Presentations and Career & Innovation Fair	Prefunction, Dogwood, Hawthorne
1:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Corporate Technology Presentations <i>* All morning presenting Contest Teams and all Academy Students are required to attend all these sessions - attendance will be taken.</i>	
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Keynote Speaker: <i>The Importance of Being Progressive. Don Bennink, North Florida Holsteins</i>	Dogwood
2:10 PM - 2:35 PM	<i>Bring out your Best with Benchmarking. Heather Weeks, Farm Credit East</i>	Dogwood
2:45 PM - 3:10 PM	Choose one:	
	<i>Data Driven Decision Making: It's a Team Sport. Tara Bonhert, CowManager presented by Select Sires</i>	Dogwood
	<i>Mooving to the Future. Paula Molinari, GENEX</i>	Hawthorne
3:20 PM - 3:45 PM	Choose one:	
	<i>Driving Innovation: The Role of Young Professionals. Kristen Chapman, Cargill</i>	Dogwood
	<i>Global Advancements in Dairy Production through Innovation in Reproduction and Genomics. Dr. Christian Rippe, STgenetics</i>	Hawthorne
3:45 PM - 4:15 PM	Career & Innovation Fair - Academy	
1:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Afternoon teams debriefing	Private Dining Room
	1:00 - Teams 5, 13, 21, 29 2:00 - Teams 6, 14, 22, 30 3:00 - Teams 7, 15, 23, 31 4:00 - Teams 8, 16, 24, 32	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Judges complete and turn in assessments and rankings, finalize presentation	Boardroom
4:45 PM - 5:30 PM	Dismantle sponsor booths	
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Judges meet with Contest host farms	Dairy AB: Hawthorne Dairy CD: Hickory
5:45 PM – 6:15 PM	Judges present their findings to participants	Dairy AB: Hawthorne Dairy CD: Hickory
6:30 PM	Presentation equipment returned to IT	Boardroom
6:45 PM	NAIDC Awards Banquet	Century Ballroom ABC