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University of Wisconsin-Madison Hosts Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge® Event

GREEN BAY, WI., November 18-20, 2026–The 2026 Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge, hosted by University of Wisconsin-Madison concluded November 20th in Green Bay, WI. The event saw significant participation with 99 students from 14 schools, along with coaches and volunteers, gathering in downtown Green Bay. The students arrived and were able to attend educational sessions focusing on financials, dairy record management systems, and key metrics for evaluating automatic milking systems.The students met their mentor and teammates over dinner and a brief team building activities. Shortly after dinner they received farm information and began to analyze in preparation for their farm visit and future presentation.

On the second day, students visited one of three farms—Cloveredge Farms of Manitowoc, River-Bridge Holsteins of Brillion, or Emerald Acres Dairy of DePere. Accompanied by industry mentors, students assessed different aspects of each dairy farm, including calf care, parlor management, milking systems, transition pens, and feed management. They also conducted interviews with the producers to gain insights into farm management practices and goals. In the afternoon, students used the data collected during the farm visits and interviews to develop their presentations. Following the submission of their presentation, they, along with sponsors and volunteers, enjoyed tours, tailgate games, and dinner at Lambeau Field.

The final day of the contest saw judge panels evaluating each team's 20-minute presentations, which highlighted the strengths and areas of improvement for their respective farm. Additionally, there was a career and innovation fair and educational sessions, including a Dairy Challenge alumni panel. Students networked with alumni and sponsors throughout the day. The event concluded with the presentation of student awards, marking the end of the successful 2026 Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge.

The judges awarded the following teams with the first and second place ranking on each farm among the 20 total teams participating.

Dairy A, Cloveredge Farms



Dairy A
First Place: Team Number 5

Joseph Achen (Iowa State University

Ashley Brandel (University of Wisconsin-Platteville)

Jacob Harbaugh (University of Minnesota)

Megan Hodgson (UW-Madison)

Danica Sobba (Dordt University)



Dairy A
Second Place: Team Number 3

Claire Betley (Iowa State University)

Summer Hammann (UW-Madison)

Mustafa Safi (University of Illinois)

Drew Tiedeman (Dordt University)

Madalyn Weber (North Central Technical College)

Haylie Wielenberg (University of Minnesota Crookston)

Dairy B, River-Bridge Holsteins



Dairy B
First Place: Team Number 7

Josie Cerveny (University of Wisconsin-River Falls)

Tyler Hoscheit (Northeast Iowa Community College)

Blake Jaquet (Iowa State University)

Brianna Meyer (UW-Madison)

Laila Ogden (College of the Ozarks)



Dairy B
Second Place: Team Number 6

Aidan Alberto (Iowa State University)

Kaleb Heins (University of Minnesota)

Morgan Irey (UW-Madison)

Kalli Tveten (Northeast Iowa Community College)

Noelle Vos (University of Wisconsin-River Falls)

Dairy C, Emerald Acres Dairy



Dairy C

First Place: Team Number 13

Sam Chynoweth (University of Wisconsin-River Falls)

Mykala Mulderink (Southwest Wisconsin Technical College)

Haley Ronnebaum (Iowa State University)

Matt Smulders (Kansas State University)

Maya Wiltzius (UW-Madison)



Dairy C

Second Place: Team Number 14

Jaxon Fallos (North Central Technical College)

Alaina Fisher (University of Wisconsin-River Falls)

Cadence Hughes (College of the Ozarks)

Macie Noble (Southwest Wisconsin Technical College)

Julia Searls (Kansas State University)

Dairy D, Emerald Acres Dairy



Dairy D

First Place: Team Number 19

Logen Brand (Purdue University)

Mara Brunner (University of Wisconsin-Platteville)

Jada Du Bois (North Central Technical College)

Madelyn Motzko (University of Minnesota Crookston)

Alexis Stillson (College of the Ozarks)



Dairy D

Second Place: Team Number 20

Madalynn Crompton (University of Minnesota Crookston)

Emily DeHaan (Dordt University)

Pete DuVall (Purdue University)

Alex Jaskolski (North Central Technical College)

Isabelle Woodard (University of Wisconsin-River Falls)

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 colleagues – are funded through generous support by more than 100 agribusinesses and dairy producers. Dairy Challenge has helped prepare over 10,000 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, dairy producers, agribusiness and university personnel. The 2026 National Dairy Challenge contest - our 25th anniversary - will be held in Lansing, Michigan March 31st to April 2nd; details are at www.dairychallenge.org.

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