



## Save the Date!

### 2027 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Contest & Academy

Wednesday, March 31 – Friday, April 2, 2027

Doubletree Lansing and Lansing Center in Lansing, Michigan

Hosted by Michigan State University

<https://www.dairychallenge.org/contests/national-contest-and-academy/>

We invite you to join us for the 2027 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Contest & Academy in Lansing, Michigan as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Complete contest information will be sent to coaches in early January 2027. Information will also be updated on the Dairy Challenge website as it comes available. In the meantime, below are a few details to help you plan for your participation:

- This year's event will run **Wednesday evening through Friday evening**
- Coaches will be invited to a coaches' webinar in early January (date to be determined)
- Entry fees are \$100 per student (contest & academy)
- The Doubletree Lansing will be our headquarter hotel. Rooms are \$144.00+tax
  - Thanks to event sponsors, Dairy Challenge covers student lodging arriving Wednesday, March 31 and departing Friday April 2 or Saturday April 3.
  - Coaches' rooms are the responsibility of the university and not paid for by Dairy Challenge. To minimize costs, coaches are encouraged to share a room with another coach (*organized by individual coaches, not Dairy Challenge staff*).
  - A Dairy Challenge Housing Reservation Form will be sent to coaches to reserve housing for students and themselves. This form will be sent with other contest details after registrations are confirmed.
- Dairy Challenge covers meals for coaches and students' Wednesday evening to Friday evening
- Travel Support: A pool of sponsor funds is used to support travel costs for schools participating in the National Contest. Schools seeking assistance must complete an application and submit it by February 1, 2027. The amount awarded is dependent on the number of approved applications. Typical support ranges from \$400 - \$800 per school. The form will be available on the website.
- Optional pre-contest visits: Farm visits are being arranged for schools who wish to arrive early and walk through a typical Michigan dairy prior to the contest.

#### Important notes:

- The hotel block at the Sheraton begins on Wednesday, March 31. However, a block of rooms is available starting on Tuesday, March 30 for early arriving schools.
- Early arriving schools are responsible for all arrangements and expenses including meals and lodging prior to Wednesday evening, March 31, 2027.
- Be watching Dairy Challenge website and emails for more details regarding the pre-contest tour dairies to help with your travel planning.

Visit the NAIDC Contest page on our website at <https://www.dairychallenge.org/contests/national-contest-and-academy/> for the latest information.

If you have any questions about participating in Dairy Challenge, feel free to contact Molly Kelley [mollyk@dairychallenge.org](mailto:mollyk@dairychallenge.org) or Jenna Langrehr [jangrehr@wdexpo.com](mailto:jangrehr@wdexpo.com)