

North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Judges' Duties and Responsibilities

All Dairy Challenge Judges will abide by the following guidelines:

1. Each individual will agree to act as an official judge without remuneration. However, each will be offered free lodging and meals and the thanks of numerous students and coaches.
2. Each judge will work on a panel with three to four other judges. Each judge will represent a different area of expertise. One judge will be designated as Lead Judge for each panel. If multiple judge panels are assigned to a single farm, the panels will be expected to work together to arrive at a single evaluation and summary of recommendations. Each panel will independently judge the teams assigned to them.
3. Judges will display a high degree of professionalism in all interactions with contestants, coaches, and fellow judges.
4. Judges must commit to giving their uninterrupted attention throughout the three-day event, which typically runs from Wednesday evening through Friday afternoon. *Days of week may vary by event.*
5. All judges will arrive by the first evening (e.g. Wednesday) to attend an orientation and be prepared to review information packets and farm data (the same data students receive).
6. The following morning (e.g. Thursday), the judges' panels will tour (dress for a dairy visit) their assigned dairy and visit with the farm management during lunch. In the afternoon, up to 2 judges per panel will monitor the contestant interview sessions, while the others begin to develop their assessment of the dairy enterprise. ALL judges are to be involved with determining the official farm assessment and recommendations.
7. The official written farm assessment, with explanatory details, financial justification, and prioritized recommendations will be developed into a concise PowerPoint presentation and submitted to the Judge Coordinator that evening (e.g. Thursday). This information should be provided in the same manner as expected by the student teams in the contest.
8. All judges are invited to a casual dress social that evening and encouraged to mingle with students. Avoid discussing the contest and contest farms and limit your interaction with coaches.
9. On the last day (e.g. Friday) every judge will listen to 20-minute presentations by each team (dress shirt and tie or other appropriate dress recommended). These sessions may be videotaped for later educational use.
10. Every judge should participate in questioning each team. Each judge represents different disciplines, so challenge the teams in your area of expertise (whether they discuss your area or not). The reasons that this area is sufficient, or not in need of improvement, is also a factor to analyze.

11. Ask thoughtful, probing questions that will reveal the depth of knowledge of each contestant. Please refrain from asking general questions; make them specific for the dairy visited. Make sure every team member answers a question. Judges should pay more attention to the justification for the team opportunities than the order of opportunities. Please remember, you are working with students and not seasoned professionals.
12. Each judge must utilize the worksheets provided to arrive at a presentation score and make notes on each team presentation. Teams will not receive written comments.
13. Official scoring must follow the Dairy Challenge scorecard. Remember, there is especially more emphasis on content than presentation.
14. After a 15-minute period of consultation, judges will provide 10-minutes of oral feedback to each team. Make sure that positive comments and areas of improvement receive equal attention. The team's coach(es) will also be present and will use the feedback to prepare future teams.
15. At the conclusion of the contest, judges will combine their individual scores to come up with a composite score for each team. Members of the first and second highest ranked teams will be awarded scholarships.
16. Judges will return all farm data and delete all computer files related to the contest farms at the end of the contest to protect confidential information.
17. Judges will present their evaluation of each dairy to students and coaches at the end of the contest. If multiple judge panels are assigned to a single farm, the panels will work together to develop and present a single presentation.
18. Judges will be asked to complete a survey to improve the contest experience. Prompt return of survey is appreciated.
19. Judges will refrain from discussing any details of contest dairy data with co-workers or others.
20. Judges will not discuss the deliberations or team rankings of fellow judges with any coach, contestant, sponsor, volunteer, or others.
21. Judges duties end the afternoon of the presentations (e.g. Friday).

This completes your official duties as a judge. Thank you for your contributions to the success of this contest and your dedication to enhancing the educational experience of our students.