

Mentor Responsibilities

This is an opportunity for industry sponsors to help organize the regional teams to have a safe and learning experience. Mentors will participate with assigned teams the night before and the morning of the host farm visits.

- Day 1 data distribution
 - Help Team get organized
 - § Participate in team building exercises
 - § Encourage engagement of all students
 - § Formulate objectives
 - § Discuss strengths and weaknesses
 - § Help them determine who does what
 - Guide team through review of herd information
 - Develop a plan of attack for walking the dairy, what are they looking for?
 - Help them to formulate their questions and areas of opportunity
 - Be a sounding board for ideas (without giving them the answers)
 - Be sure USB information is loaded on student computers
- Day 2 Farm Visit
 - Ride with the team to the host farm
 - Listen carefully to the instructions given and keep team safe
 - Allow team to operate as they choose
 - Take photos for students at the farm with your phone or camera
 - Bring the team together prior to questions back to producer, help debrief what they saw, and help them determine questions that they still have or wonder about.
 - Return with the team from the host farm.
 - Have lunch with your team and load the pictures taken onto the team presentation computer
- Day 3 Presentation for mentor staying with team
 - Meet the team in the presentation prep room at their prescribed time
 - Guide team to the presentation room arriving 5 minutes before start time
 - Be present during the presentation
 - Guide team to team pictures and debriefing

The role of the mentor is not to provide answers but to ask questions, and help the teams organize their thoughts and questions. As mentors we need to teach the team to use the tools available to them.