

2008 Ohio Dairy Challenge Contest – Largest Contest Ever

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The 2008 Ohio Dairy Challenge was held November 14-15 and was again sponsored by Cargill Animal Nutrition. The Dairy Challenge provides the opportunity for undergraduates at Ohio State University to experience the process of evaluating management practices on a dairy farm and to interact with representatives in the dairy industry. The program is held in a contest format whereby students are grouped into teams of three to four individuals, and the first and second place team members received gift certificates to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore, at \$75 and \$25 each, respectively. The farm selected for the contest this year was R-Style Holsteins in Edison, OH, and it is owned by Bill, Joyce, and Brian Rausch. The dairy had been in the family for many years, and they built a new facility and started milking in it January 2008. The parlor is a double-8 herringbone with rapid exit, and the housing consists of 200 freestalls and 33 super stalls. At present, they have about 200 cows and use the old facilities for heifer housing. The contest started by the students and the judges spending about two hours at the farm on Friday afternoon, interviewing the owners and examining the specific areas of the dairy facility. During Friday evening, the teams spent about four hours reviewing their notes and farm records to provide a summary of the strengths and opportunities of the operation in the format of a MS PowerPoint presentation that had to be turned in on Friday evening. On Saturday morning, the students then had 20 minutes to present their results and 10 minutes for questions from the judges. The judges were Mr. Fred Martsof (Cargill Animal Nutrition), Mr. Paul Colley (Cargill Animal Nutrition), Dr. Maurice Eastridge (Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, OSU), and Dr. K. Larry Smith (Professor Emeritus, Department of Animal Sciences, OSU). There were 13 teams and 46 students that participated in the program, the largest participation ever. The awards banquet was held on Saturday, November 15 at the Buckeye Hall of Fame Café. The students among the teams that competed were: Team #1– Stuart Heavilin, Jenna Barnes, and Megan Klosterman; Team #2 (First Place) – Kyle Uhlenhake, Jeff Riethman, Jordan Beck, and Curt Tobe; Team #3 (Second Place) – Paige Gott, Renee Starkey, Matthew Weeman, Sherri Gress; Team #4 (Honorable Mention) – Wendy Sewell, Caitlin Wiley, and Sarah Ervin; Team #5 – Amanda Schwartz, Jeff Moorman, and Adam Shearn; Team #6 – Mindy Yiu, Mark Ross, Joel Kemp, and Stephanie Voudris; Team #7 – David Green, Adam Shipley, Drew Neutzling, and Brian Moff; Team #8 – Jenn Donahue, Nicole Sgambellone, Angela Dinneen, and Amanda Paulhamus; Team # 9 (Honorable Mention) – Danarra Baker, Courtney Slone, Randy Bond, and Caitlin Toth; Team #10 – Megan Horn, Molly Fraizer, and Andy Lefeld; Team # 11 – Dan Clinker, Karrie Coston, and Allison Didion; Team # 12 – Amber Sewell, Stephanie Adams, Jon Lohstroh, and Tim McCormick; and Team # 13 – Julie Schrader, Kate Kroesen, and Tyler Thompson. The top 4 individuals for the contest that were selected to represent Ohio at the 2009 National Contest to be held March 27-28 and hosted by Cornell University were Jordan Beck, Paige Gott, Renee Starkey, and Kyle Uhlenhake. Students from OSU will also be participating in the Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge hosted by the University of Minnesota January 30-31, 2009. The

coach for the Dairy Challenge is Dr. Maurice Eastridge in the Department of Animal Sciences at Ohio State.



First Place Team (left to right): Kyle Uhlenhake, Jordan Beck, Jeff Riethman, and Curt Tobe.



Second Place Team (left to right): Matthew Weeman, Sherri Gress, Renee Starkey, and Paige Gott.