

August Buckeye Dairy News
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It has been a busy and productive summer for Dairy youth programming.

Ohio's 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl was first on the agenda in June. Perhaps, you have already seen the articles on our results in the popular media. There are loyal counties who bring their finest every year, yet we did have new participation in 2009. Congratulations to Wayne County juniors for winning the Junior Division and Rachel Townsley from Champaign County was the high scoring contestant in the senior version of Dairy Jeopardy.

Ohio's 4-H Dairy Camp was held in mid-July. Geared for 10 to 14 year olds, we were pleased to have nearly 30 participants who spent the day learning about showmanship and fitting skills, feed rations, dairy products, and a scientific activity with liquid nitrogen and the making of ice cream. Each attendee received a dairy camp T-shirt, an entire packet of information, and a wealth of hands-on training. It is the goal to plan one of these annually and to focus on different themes. It is interesting to note that those who attended were youth who had not attended any of our other programs that are offered at a state level.

Dairy Judging continued to receive high priority during the summer. Instead of our Sunday trips to farms during the summer, our state team hopefuls were given additional guidance at the Holstein District show in Wooster. Exhibitors put together fine classes for us to evaluate on the Friday night prior to their event. State FFA teams who placed high in their contest were also invited to participate in this workout.

2009 Ohio State Fair:

The Dairy Skillathon was held on July 30th with a steady stream of participants working their way through the stations. About one third of these individuals were doing this activity for the first time. It was our pleasure to also host the First Lady of Ohio, Frances Strickland. She spent quality time interacting with the kids and the volunteers.

Dairy Judging Clinics were conducted during each rotation of the dairy breeds. Even with a late start on July 31st, we had a ringside of judging hopefuls engaged in the 3 classes that were offered for evaluation. The second clinic on August 7th also included a large group. About 90 individual participants took advantage of these two sessions held in Cooper Arena. Dr Eastridge also initiated a new dairy judging program to score the clinic. Look for more details on this in the future.

The milking parlor was managed by the OSU dairy judging students, and despite a few minor challenges, all went very well. Milk shipped from the fair was at its highest in 5 years. Possibly, this was due to the 50th anniversary of the Ohio Jersey Futurity that included 68 entries. As a service to the exhibitors, the parlor was open over 120 hours

with 4 students on hand in the dumping station and parlor area at all times. This continues to be an outreach activity that benefits our judging account, the exhibitors, and the fair goers who watch the process and ask key questions. Speakers outside the parlor allow the fair goers to listen to a CD that explains the milking and key facts about Ohio's dairy producers.

Television Interview: Through the fair public relations department, we were asked to be on a morning television program on Channel 4. Laura Gordon (4-Her, OSU Student, and OSF Scholarship winner) and I carefully placed the newborn baby calf from the calving display and traveled to the studio in my van. "Scarlet" was quite the diva as Laura and I discussed the positive youth development that is a vital portion of the Ohio State Fair. Everyone there was very friendly and charmed by our bovine celebrity.

Yet in August, the college and 4-H teams will travel to their annual "Boot camp" at the Maryland State Fair and then we are off to four major contests in September.