



Michigan Dairy Youth Program Newsletter

Michigan youth compete in the national dairy management contest at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg

Schafer is high individual in dairy judging and linear sections of contest



Several youth represented Michigan in the dairy management contest at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, Pa., last fall. Pictured left to right are: Kayle Jakus, St. Johns; Mallory Kora, Elsie; Allison Schafer, Westphalia; Abigail Butcher, St. Johns; Cameron Cook, Pewamo; Kelly Raterink, Zeeland; Josh Markel, St. Johns; and coach Rodney Pennock.

Seven youth, six from Clinton County and one from Ottawa County, traveled to the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, Pa., last September to compete in the Junior Dairy Management Contest.

Competing in the 2013 Junior Dairy Management Contest at the All-American Dairy Show were: Abigail Butcher, St. Johns (Clinton Co.); Cameron Cook, Pewamo (Clinton Co.); Kayle Jakus, St. Johns (Clinton Co.); Mallory Kora, Elsie (Clinton Co.); Josh Markel, St. Johns (Clinton Co.); Kelly Raterink, Zeeland (Ottawa Co.); and Allison Schafer, Westphalia (Clinton Co.). Clinton County 4-H leader and coach Rodney Pennock traveled with the youth to Pennsylvania.

The team of Cook, Jakus, Raterink and Schafer placed second overall, and the team of Butcher, Kora and Markel placed fifth overall.

Individually, Raterink placed third overall in the contest, Schafer finished sixth overall, Cook placed ninth overall and Markel was tenth. Schafer also was high individual in both the dairy judging and linear portions of the contest.

Those competing in Harrisburg were members of the first (Ottawa/Clinton counties) and second place (Clinton County) high teams overall in the senior division of the dairy management contest held last July during the 2013 Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days in East Lansing.

The dairy management contest at Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days is a practical, hands-on competition that tests a contestant's dairy knowledge. Youth rotate through a series of stations representing a variety of dairy management-related topics. At each station, contestants may be asked to perform tasks, identify common tools, feeds and other things used on dairy farms, write an answer on a card or deliver an answer orally to a judge. They are asked to demonstrate specific skills, such as determining the dry matter of feedstuffs or identifying sick or lame animals. Senior youth work in teams to solve common dairy herd management problems, which are presented in a case study format.

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Allison Schafer, Westphalia, was the high individual in the dairy judging and linear portions of the dairy management contest at the All-American Dairy Show.

Michigan youth grow as leaders at National 4-H Dairy Conference

Heisler selected as planning delegate for 2014 conference

Five Michigan youth attended the four-day National 4-H Dairy Conference last fall in Madison, Wis. The 59th annual conference took place Sept. 29 to Oct. 2 and was hosted by the University of Wisconsin. Those attending the trip, which was sponsored by the Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA), were: Zeke Breuninger, Dexter (Washtenaw Co.); Courtney Heisler, Springport (Calhoun Co.); Blake Lulham, Corunna (Shiawassee Co.); Allison Pung, Portland (Clinton Co.); and Libby Venema, Cass City (Tuscola Co.). Chaperones were Melissa Elischer, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension dairy educator, and parents Kathy Heisler, Springport, and Martin Venema, Cass City.

The youth earned an invitation for the trip after attending the 2013 MMPA/4-H Michigan Milk Marketing Tour last June and then earning high quiz scores and completing outstanding interviews related to their tour experience at Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days.

All youth attending the conference participated as active leaders, serving as hospitality chairpersons, helping to coordinate transportation, introducing speakers, and working in other roles to ensure a successful conference. Throughout the week, they came together to learn, engage, network, and grow as leaders in the dairy community. In addition to meeting with and learning from dairy industry and university experts, the youth toured several local dairy farms, visited NASCO and the National Dairy Shrine, went to see the



Courtney Heisler will be helping to plan the 60th annual National 4-H Dairy Conference set for fall 2014.

publication headquarters of Hoard's Dairyman and the Hoard's dairy herd, and spent an afternoon exploring the grounds at World Dairy Expo.

At the conclusion of the conference, Courtney Heisler was selected to serve as a planning delegate for the 60th annual National 4-H Dairy Conference scheduled for Sept. 28 to Oct. 1.

Michigan youth compete in national dairy quiz bowl contest in Louisville

Michigan was represented by four youth in the National Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest held in November during the North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky.

Team members were: Samantha Dekkinga, Hamilton (Ottawa Co.); Suzanna Hull, North Adams (Hillsdale Co.); Kelly Raterink, Zeeland (Ottawa Co.); and C.J. Shearer, Hudsonville (Allegan Co.). The team was coached by Ira Krupp, Brenda Dreyer and Beverly Brower, who accompanied them on the trip.

The team won its first round, but it was eliminated after losing rounds two and three. Youth completed a quiz the evening prior to the contest to help place teams, and they also took part in a double-elimination contest. Michigan was one of 19 teams competing.



The following youth and coaches represented Michigan at the National Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest held at the NAILE in November: (back row, left to right) Kelly Raterink, C.J. Shearer, Samantha Dekkinga and Suzanna Hull; (front row, left to right) Ira Krupp, Brenda Dreyer and Beverly Brower.

Annual 4-H Dairy Conference is scheduled for April 25 to 27 in Sebawaing

Reproduction is the theme for this year's Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference, which is scheduled for the weekend of April 25 to 27 at Bay Shore Camp in Sebawaing.

Whether you have been involved in the dairy project for years or are brand new to it, anyone interested in learning more about it are invited to attend.

University and dairy industry experts will be speaking with and teaching attendees about the topic of dairy reproduction. In addition, there will be a dairy management contest, tour of a local dairy farm in the Thumb area, plenty of examples of hands-on learning experiences, and a friendly quiz bowl competition.

The cost to attend the 2014 Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference is \$85 for 4-H members or adults who have completed the 4-H Volunteer Selection Process. The fee pays for six meals, two nights of lodging at Bay Shore Camp, entry to sessions taught by industry professionals, networking opportunities with other youth and adults who share interests similar to yours, and a memorable week-end of learning and fun!

To register or learn more information about the event, visit http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4_h_volunteer_training_workshop_schedule. Registration will open at the end of February and the deadline will be in early April.



Registration deadline is March 12 for MSU Dairy Education and Judging Field Day

Youth interested in learning dairy cattle judging tips and techniques and about educational programs and opportunities in the Michigan State University (MSU) Department of Animal Science are invited to attend the MSU Dairy Education and Judging Field Day. The field day will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 20 at the MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education in East Lansing.

Lead program instructor will be Dr. Joe Domecq, MSU dairy specialist and coordinator for the MSU dairy cattle judging program; he will be assisted by members of the MSU dairy cattle judging program and the MSU Dairy Club.

Attendees will receive classroom instruction on evalu-

ating dairy cows and preparing and presenting oral reasons. There will also be an opportunity to judge two classes of dairy cows and prepare and present oral reasons. Attendees will be classified into beginner and advanced (participated in a state or national contest) levels. Participants will also hear about educational and career opportunities from various speakers.

The field day is free of charge, but preregistration is required and due by March 12. Lunch will be provided courtesy of the MSU dairy cattle judging program and MSU Dairy Club.

Contact Domecq at domecqjo@anr.msu.edu with question, for additional information or to register.

Mark your calendars! 2014 4-H Youth Dairy Days scheduled for July 21-24 at MSU

The dates for the 2014 Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days are July 21 - 24. All events will take place at the Michigan State University (MSU) Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education in East Lansing.

There are no major changes anticipated for this year's schedule. The daily list of activities, events and competitions looks like this:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| July 21 (Monday) | Dairy Management Contest |
| July 22 (Tuesday) | Showmanship classes and youth dairy breed shows Michigan Sale-abration, held in conjunction with the Michigan Livestock Expo |
| July 23 (Wednesday) | Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Great Dairy Adventure consumer education day |
| July 24 (Thursday) | Dairy Quiz Bowl 4-H Youth Dairy Days awards celebration |

The open dairy breed shows will take place on July 25.

Packets with additional information, including rules and registration details for both youth and open shows, will be available online later this spring at www.midairy-youth.ans.msu.edu.

The on-time entry deadline for both the 4-H Youth Dairy Days Show and the open dairy breed shows will be June 20. Entries will cost \$5 each for youth entries and \$25 for open show entries postmarked on or before June 20.

Staggered late entry deadlines for both the 4-H Youth Dairy Days Show and the open dairy breed shows will be July 1 and July 21. Entries will cost \$10 each for youth and \$35 each for open show entries postmarked between June 21 and July 1. The entry fees will increase to \$25 each for youth and \$50 each for open show entries postmarked between July 2 and July 21.

Registration deadlines for the 4-H contests (the dairy cattle judging contest, dairy management contest and dairy quiz bowl) will be determined by each county MSU Extension office. Contact your county MSU Extension office for details.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DAIRY JUDGING PROGRAM *2013 Year in Review*

MSU collegiate team wins contest at North American International Livestock Exhibition

The hours of practice paid off for members of the Michigan State University (MSU) collegiate dairy cattle judging team who returned home victorious from the 2013 North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky., this past November. The MSU team beat the University of Wisconsin-Madison team by one point to seal the first place win.

In addition to being the high team overall, MSU placed second in the Brown Swiss breed, third place in both the Guernsey and Holstein breeds, and fourth in oral reasons. They were seventh in the Jersey breed and 13th in the Ayrshire breed.

Team members were: Malissa Reed, animal science junior from Owosso; Garrett Slavik, animal science junior from Ashley; Britney Zondlak, agribusiness management senior from Byron Center; and Carmen Zwemmer, animal science junior from Elkton.

Reed anchored the team, finishing second high overall. Zwemmer and Slavik also placed among the top 25, at ninth and 18th, respectively. Zondlak was high individual in the Holstein breed and seventh in oral reasons.



Michigan State University won the collegiate division of the dairy cattle judging contest at the 2013 North American International Livestock Exhibition held in Louisville, Ky., in November. Pictured left to right are: Garrett Slavik, Britney Zondlak, Malissa Reed, Carmen Zwemmer and Dr. Joe Domecq.

Geurink wins oral reasons at both Ag Tech contests in 2013



Hayleigh Geurink

Michigan State University (MSU) Institute of Agricultural Technology dairy production management program sophomore Hayleigh Geurink, Allendale, achieved what few others have: she won high individual honors in oral reasons at both major post-secondary dairy cattle judging contests this past fall. Geurink won oral reasons at both the Postsecondary Dairy Judging Contest held during World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis., and the North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky.

Geurink was also high individual in the Brown Swiss breed at both contests and high individual in the Jersey breed at the NAILE.

Geurink was a member of the high placing team overall and in oral reasons at the 2012 National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo.

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Collegiate Division

The 2013 Michigan State University (MSU) collegiate team members were: Malissa Reed, animal science junior from Owosso; Garrett Slavik, animal science junior from Ashley; Britney Zondlak, agribusiness management senior from Byron Center; and Carmen Zwemmer, animal science junior from Elkton.

The team competed in four competitions: the 45th annual All-American Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest, Harrisburg, Pa.; the 93rd annual World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, Madison, Wis.; the 40th annual North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE), Louisville, Ky.; and the 2014 Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth, Texas (see page 5J).



Members of the 2013 MSU collegiate dairy judging team were (pictured left to right): Coach Sarah Black, Carmen Zwemmer, Britney Zondlak, Garrett Slavik, Malissa Reed and Dr. Joe Domecq. Photo provided courtesy of Agri- Graphics, Ltd.

TEAM PLACINGS

HARRISBURG, PA. (10 TEAMS COMPETED)

- » High team, Guernsey breed
- » 2nd high team overall
- » 3rd high team, Holstein breed
- » 4th high team, Ayrshire breed
- » 5th high team, Brown Swiss breed
- » 5th high team, oral reasons
- » 9th high team, Jersey breed

MADISON, WIS. (19 TEAMS COMPETED)

- » 3rd high team, Brown Swiss breed
- » 3rd high team, Holstein breed
- » 4th high team, Jersey breed
- » 7th high team, oral reasons
- » 10th high team overall
- » 11th high team, Ayrshire breed
- » 11th high team, Milking Shorthorn breed
- » 16th high team, Red and White breed
- » 17th high team, Guernsey breed

LOUISVILLE, KY. (19 TEAMS COMPETED)

- » High team overall
- » 2nd high team, Brown Swiss breed
- » 3rd high team, Guernsey breed
- » 3rd high team, Holstein breed
- » 4th high team, oral reasons
- » 7th high team, Jersey breed
- » 13th high team, Ayrshire breed

INDIVIDUAL PLACINGS

MALISSA REED

- » High individual, Brown Swiss breed, NAILE
- » High individual, Guernsey breed, Harrisburg
- » 2nd high individual overall, NAILE
- » 4th high individual overall, Harrisburg
- » 5th high individual, Holstein breed, Madison
- » 6th high individual, Brown Swiss breed, Madison
- » 7th high individual, Holstein breed, NAILE
- » 9th high individual, Holstein breed, Harrisburg
- » 10th high individual, Brown Swiss breed, Harrisburg
- » 12th high individual, Ayrshire breed, Harrisburg
- » 13th high individual, oral reasons, Harrisburg
- » 14th high individual, Guernsey breed, NAILE
- » 15th high individual, oral reasons, NAILE
- » 17th high individual overall, Madison
- » 18th high individual, placings only, Madison
- » 18th high individual, Jersey breed, NAILE
- » 21st high individual, oral reasons, Madison
- » 22nd high individual, Milking Shorthorn breed, Madison

GARRETT SLAVIK

- » 4th high individual, Guernsey breed, Harrisburg
- » 5th high individual, Ayrshire breed, Madison
- » 6th high individual, Holstein breed, Madison
- » 6th high individual, oral reasons, Harrisburg
- » 7th high individual, Jersey breed, Madison
- » 8th high individual overall, Harrisburg
- » 11th high individual, Holstein breed, Harrisburg
- » 14th high individual, oral reasons, NAILE
- » 18th high individual overall, NAILE
- » 18th high individual, Holstein breed, NAILE
- » 19th high individual, Ayrshire breed, NAILE
- » 20th high individual, Brown Swiss breed, Harrisburg
- » 22nd high individual, Jersey breed, Harrisburg
- » 22nd high individual, placings only, Madison
- » 24th high individual, oral reasons, Madison
- » 25th high individual, Red and White breed, Madison

BRITNEY ZONDLAK

- » High individual, Holstein breed, NAILE
- » 2nd high individual, Guernsey breed, Harrisburg
- » 5th high individual, Brown Swiss breed, Madison
- » 7th high individual, oral reasons, NAILE
- » 16th high individual, oral reasons, Harrisburg
- » 19th high individual, oral reasons, Madison
- » 19th high individual, Jersey breed, Madison

CARMEN ZWEMMER

- » 5th high individual overall, Harrisburg
- » 7th high individual, Ayrshire breed, Harrisburg
- » 9th high individual overall, NAILE
- » 10th high individual, Guernsey breed, Harrisburg
- » 11th high individual, Jersey breed, NAILE
- » 12th high individual, Brown Swiss breed, Harrisburg
- » 13th high individual, Holstein breed, Harrisburg
- » 15th high individual, Guernsey breed, NAILE
- » 18th high individual, oral reasons, Harrisburg

Ag Tech Division

Four second-year MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology dairy production management program students competed in the 2013 International Postsecondary Dairy Judging Contest held during World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis., and the 40th annual North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky.

Team members were: sophomores Hayleigh Geurink, Allendale; Jorin Ouwinga, McBain; Kara Smith, Hudsonville; and Kelvin Webster, Laingsburg.



Members of the 2013 MSU Ag Tech dairy judging team were (pictured left to right): Coach Sarah Black, Jorin Ouwinga, Kelvin Webster, Kara Smith, Hayleigh Geurink and Dr. Joe Domecq. Photo provided courtesy of Agri-Graphics, Ltd.

TEAM PLACINGS

MADISON, WIS. (15 TEAMS COMPETED)

- » High team, Jersey breed
- » 4th high team, Ayrshire breed
- » 6th high team overall

LOUISVILLE, KY. (8 TEAMS COMPETED)

- » High team, Brown Swiss breed
- » 3rd high team overall
- » 3rd high team, Guernsey breed
- » 4th high team, Ayrshire breed
- » 4th high team, oral reasons
- » 5th high team, Holstein breed
- » 5th high team, Jersey breed

INDIVIDUAL PLACINGS

HAYLEIGH GEURINK

- » High individual, oral reasons, Madison
- » High individual, oral reasons, NAILE
- » High individual, Brown Swiss breed, Madison
- » High individual, Brown Swiss breed, NAILE
- » High individual, Jersey breed, NAILE
- » 2nd high individual, Ayrshire breed, Madison
- » 2nd high individual, Holstein breed, NAILE
- » 3rd high individual overall, Madison
- » 3rd high individual, Red and White breed, Madison
- » 3rd high individual overall, NAILE
- » 4th high individual overall, Madison
- » 7th high individual, Jersey breed, Madison
- » 8th high individual, placings only, Madison
- » 11th high individual, Guernsey breed, NAILE
- » 14th high individual, Ayrshire breed, NAILE

JORIN OUWINGA

- » 12th high individual, Ayrshire breed, NAILE
- » 12th high individual, Brown Swiss breed, NAILE
- » 15th high individual, oral reasons, NAILE
- » 15th high individual overall, NAILE
- » 16th high individual, Guernsey breed, NAILE

KARA SMITH

- » 8th high individual, Jersey breed, NAILE
- » 12th high individual, oral reasons, NAILE
- » 12th high individual, Guernsey breed, NAILE
- » 13th high individual, Brown Swiss breed, NAILE
- » 13th high individual, Holstein breed, NAILE
- » 16th high individual overall, NAILE

KELVIN WEBSTER

- » 3rd high individual, Brown Swiss breed, NAILE
- » 8th high individual overall, NAILE
- » 8th high individual, Ayrshire breed, NAILE
- » 9th high individual, Guernsey breed, NAILE
- » 16th high individual, Holstein breed, NAILE
- » 19th high individual, oral reasons, NAILE



4-H Division

45TH ANNUAL ALL-AMERICAN INVITATIONAL YOUTH DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST

HARRISBURG, PA. (15 TEAMS COMPETED)

- » 6th high team, Brown Swiss breed
- » 9th high team, Holstein breed
- » 9th high team, Jersey breed
- » 11th high team, oral reasons
- » 12th high team overall
- » 12th high team, Ayrshire breed

KAYLA HOLSTEN

- » 16th high individual, Jersey breed

SUZANNA HULL

- » 13th high individual, Ayrshire breed
- » 20th high individual, Jersey breed
- » 24th high individual, Brown Swiss breed

HANNAH POLING

- » 2nd high individual, Brown Swiss breed
- » 21st high individual, Ayrshire breed
- » 25th high individual, Holstein breed
- » 27th high individual overall

92ND NATIONAL 4-H DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING CONTEST

MADISON, WIS. (25 TEAMS COMPETED)

- » 4th high team, oral reasons
- » 4th high team, Ayrshire breed
- » 5th high team, Jersey breed
- » 7th high team, Brown Swiss breed
- » 9th high team overall
- » 12th high team, Guernsey breed
- » 13th high team, Holstein breed

NATALIE HORNING

- » 13th high individual, Ayrshire breed

JAY LUOMA

- » High individual, Brown Swiss breed
- » 4th high individual, oral reasons
- » 6th high individual overall
- » 7th high individual, Jersey breed
- » 11th high individual, Ayrshire breed

KELLY RATERINK

- » 9th high individual, Holstein breed
- » 15th high individual, placings only
- » 17th high individual overall
- » 21st high individual, Guernsey breed

KAILEY SWEERS

- » 21st high individual, Holstein breed

39TH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION

LOUISVILLE, KY. (22 TEAMS COMPETED)

- » High team, Guernsey breed
- » 3rd high team, Jersey breed
- » 3rd high team, oral reasons
- » 5th high team overall
- » 7th high team, Holstein breed
- » 13th high team, Ayrshire breed
- » 15th high team, Brown Swiss breed

BRYCE FRAHM

- » 7th high individual, Jersey breed
- » 10th high individual, oral reasons

T.J. FRAHM

- » 2nd high individual, Guernsey breed
- » 2nd high individual, Jersey breed
- » 8th high individual overall
- » 12th high individual, oral reasons
- » 19th high individual, Ayrshire breed

LUCAS MOSER

- » 5th high individual, Brown Swiss breed
- » 8th high individual, Guernsey breed
- » 13th high individual, oral reasons
- » 14th high individual, Holstein breed
- » 19th high individual overall

ALLISON PUNG

- » 5th high individual, Jersey breed
- » 16th high individual, oral reasons



Top left: These four young women represented Michigan at the 4-H contest in Harrisburg. Pictured left to right: Dr. Joe Domecq, Kayla Holsten, Hannah Poling, Suzanna Hull and Kayle Jakus.

Bottom left: Members of the 4-H dairy cattle judging team who competed at World Dairy Expo were (pictured left to right): Coach Sarah Black, Natalie Horning, Kailey Sweers, Jay Luoma and Dr. Joe Domecq. Photo provided courtesy of Agri-Graphics, Ltd.

Below: These four 4-H members represented Michigan at the North American International Livestock Exhibition. Pictured left to right are: Lucas Moser, Bryce and T.J. Frahm, Allison Pung and Dr. Joe Domecq.



MSU dairy judging teams brings home hardware from the Lone Star State

Trip to Fort Worth proves fulfilling for 2013 and 2014 collegiate teams

Two collegiate dairy cattle judging teams from Michigan State University (MSU) traveled to the 2014 Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth, Texas, in January to compete in the Southwest Senior Dairy Cattle Judging Contest.

Members of the MSU "White" team were those who competed this past fall at Harrisburg and Madison and won the Louisville contest: Malissa Reed, animal science junior from Owosso; Garrett Slavik, animal science junior from Ashley; Britney Zondlak, agribusiness management senior from Byron Center; and Carmen Zwemmer, animal science junior from Elkton. Members of the MSU "Green" team will compete at national contests in fall 2014: Savannah Katulski, animal science junior from Goodrich; Samantha Mamarow, animal science senior from Saline; Andrea Meade, animal science senior from Livonia; and Bridget Moore, animal science sophomore from Sears.

The MSU "White" team won the contest, placing first overall and first in oral reasons. Zwemmer was high individual overall and in oral reasons. Reed finished as sixth high individual overall and 17th in oral reasons. Slavik was 12th high individual overall and 14th in oral reasons. Zondlak was 19th overall and 10th high in oral reasons.

The MSU "Green" team finished eighth overall in the contest and was 10th high team in oral reasons. Katulski was the 13th high individual overall in the contest and placed 21st in oral reasons.

In the breed divisions, the "White" team won first place and the "Green" team placed second in the Brown Swiss breed. Second high individual in Brown Swiss was Reed. Zwemmer placed fourth, Katulski was sixth, Moore finished seventh, Zondlak was 12th and Meade was 20th.



*Top: The MSU "White" team placed first overall and first in oral reasons at the Southwest Senior Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held in Fort Worth, Texas, in January. Pictured left to right are: Malissa Reed, Carmen Zwemmer, Britney Zondlak, Garrett Slavik and Dr. Joe Domecq.
Bottom: The MSU "Green" team placed eighth overall. Pictured left to right are: Bridget Moore, Samantha Mamarow, Andrea Meade, Savannah Katulski and Dr. Joe Domecq.*

The "White" team was third high team in Holsteins and the "Green" team was ninth. Zwemmer was fourth high individual in the Holstein breed, and Slavik finished 10th, Reed was 18th and Katulski was 19th.

The MSU "White" team earned another first place in the Jersey breed. Slavik placed third high in Jerseys and was followed by Zwemmer in fourth place. Reed finished 18th in Jerseys and Zondlak was 24th.

Are you a past member of the MSU dairy cattle judging team?

Are you a past member of the Michigan State University (MSU) dairy cattle judging team? If so, we want to hear from you!

Work is underway to create an online archive and networking site for past, current and future MSU dairy cattle judging members and coaches. We are seeking photos (team pictures and candid), the names of dairy judging team members by year, contest placings, and other relevant historical details. We especially need assistance

tracking down information for teams from the 1980's and older.

Can you help? If so, please reach out to us by phone, email or snail mail at the contact information below.

Contact Joe Domecq at (517) 353-7855, domecqjo@anr.msu.edu or 474 S. Shaw Lane, Room 1250F, East Lansing, MI 48824; or Sara Long at (989) 225-1368, LongSaraJ@gmail.com or 5015 Devonshire Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910.

Trip to Europe is once-in-a-lifetime experience for members of the 2012 4-H national champion dairy judging team

By Megan Bush and Hayleigh Geurink
Earning national championship honors at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest in October 2012 at World Dairy Expo was just the beginning of the life-changing experience for four members of the Michigan youth dairy judging team. The four team members – Megan Bush, Swartz Creek; Megan Filhart, Rosebush; Hayleigh Geurink, Allendale; and Savannah Katulski, Goodrich – set off June 19, 2013, for a 15-day agricultural tour of Scotland, England and the Republic of Ireland. They earned the invitation to travel to Europe for the two-week International Livestock Judging Tour this past June by winning the national contest in Madison. Here is their story.



Our team poses for a picture overlooking the city of Edinburgh. From left are Megan Bush, Megan Filhart, Hayleigh Geurink, Savannah Katulski and Dr. Domecq.

We flew out of Detroit on June 19. Our first stop was Amsterdam, where we connected for the final leg of the trip to Glasgow, Scotland. Dr. Joe Domecq, our dairy judging coach, came with us on the trip.

A total of eight 4-H, FFA and post-secondary dairy and livestock judging teams participated in this year's tour. Each team, like us, had earned an invitation to travel on this trip after completing a successful contest season the year before.



We were able to see the grand (Holstein) and reserve grand champion (Ayrshire) winners of the 2013 Royal Highland Show in Scotland.

Top: We visited several grass-fed herds during our time in the Republic of Ireland. Pictured here is a stylish cow grazing in the pasture at the O'Leary farm. Bottom: Our visit to Hyland Farm showcased a predominantly 'Kiwi' herd, which is a 75 percent Holstein and 25 percent Jersey crossbred herd.



Filhart (far left) and other contestants judge the Ayrshire cow class in the Scottish Young Farmers judging competition between rainstorms.

We spent the first three days in Scotland touring the countryside and visiting the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh. One of the most interesting stops we made was at the Dairy Research Centre at the Scottish Agriculture College, Ayr Campus. The facility has been used for 44 years and was our first introduction to the grass-fed management systems that were the norm in the U.K.

While we were at the Scottish Highland Show, we were able to see the grand and reserve champions of the dairy show (Holstein and Ayrshire, respectively), and learned how to judge and give oral reasons according to the Scottish judging style. For the Scottish Young Farmers judging competition, our team was split into pairs, and we were fortunate in placing first and third in our division. After the contest, we were able to explore the city of Edinburgh and visit the city's castle.

We then travelled to England to the rural area surrounding Staffordshire to visit Holstein farms in the area. The next day was spent exploring London and Warwick Castle.

After visiting London, we took the ferry out of Fishguard Harbor, England, and traveled to Rosslare, Ireland. We spent the remaining week travelling throughout the Republic of Ireland visiting numerous small, grass-fed herds, including multiple farms that operated seasonally. One of the biggest highlights of our stay in Ireland, however, was staying at host farms near Kilkenny to experience a day in the life of an Irish farm family.

Our trip included more than visiting dairy farms and attending dairy shows, however. We also had the opportunity to visit numerous tourist areas, such as the Ring of Kerry, Cashel Castle, Blarney Castle, Saint Patrick's Cathedral and Trinity College.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the amazing sponsors who helped us fund this once-in-a-lifetime experience and fantastic people who helped us achieve our goals to earn this trip - there is no way we could have done it without you!



Left: Our team poses in front of the Aghadoe Mountains in the Ring of Kerry. Center: Touring the city of London and Warwick Castle in England was one of the highlights of our trip. Right: Bush (far left) and Filhart (far right) pose with their host dairy farm family at Springview House.

Thank you to our sponsors!

The dairy cattle judging program depends on the generous support of numerous businesses, organizations and individuals. These include:

ABS Global
CHS Foundation
District 1 Holstein Association
District VI Holstein Associations
Drs. Joe and Denise Domecq
Huron County Holstein Association
Michigan Dairy Memorial Foundation
Michigan Holstein Association
Michigan Jersey Cattle Club
Michigan Milk Producers Association
MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association
MSU Department of Animal Science
NorthStar Cooperative
The Hyde and Robb Family
United Dairy Industry of Michigan

*thank
you*

Thank you to our host farms!

Members of the dairy cattle judging program wish to express their appreciation to the owners and managers of these host farms who graciously opened their doors, selected judging classes and spent time volunteering to help us develop our judging skills. These folks include:

Tim Baker, Star Summit Farm, Byron Center, MI
Lawson Bennett and family, Mayville, MI
Steve Blessing, Blessing Farms, Fort Wayne, IN
Cozy Nook Farm, Waukesha, WI
Eric Frahm, Frankenmuth, MI
Green Meadow Farms, Elsie, MI
Duane Heisler and family, Springport, MI
Hoard's Dairy Farm, Fort Atkinson, WI
Humrich Dairy Farm, Webberville, MI
Richard Hyde and family, Morley, MI
Lettinga Jersey Farm, Caledonia, MI
Scott Long, Long-Haven Farm, Clayton, MI
Mapleton Valley Farm, Oconomowoc, WI
Paul and Sherry Meyer, Byron Center, MI
MSU Dairy Farm, East Lansing, MI
Nugent and McCauley families, Lowell, MI
Ocean-View Farm, Deerfield, WI
Max Paul and family, Paul Farms, Goshen, IN
Reed Dairy Farm, Owosso, MI
Scholten Dairy, Lake Mills, WI
Sunshine Genetics, Whitewater, WI
T & H Dairy Farm, Fowler, MI
Richard Thomas, Middlebury, IN
VanBuskirk family, Carleton, MI
Westendorp family, Nashville, MI
Winterfield Holsteins, Bott family, Wheeler, MI



MSU to host 4-H Exploration Days June 18 – 20

Four new dairy sessions added to this year's program

"Unleash your inner scientist" is the theme for this year's 4-H Exploration Days, which is scheduled for June 18 – 20 on the Michigan State University (MSU) campus in East Lansing.

Youth who are at least 11 years old as of Jan. 1, 2014, can participate in 4-H Exploration Days. It is not necessary to be a 4-H member.

Youth can select from more than 200 educational sessions. Four new dairy-related sessions will be offered during this year's 4-H Exploration Days: Introduction to Dairy Cows, Dairy Cattle Judging, UDDERstanding Milk Quality in Dairy Cows and Decoding Dairy Cow Behavior.

Online registration opens March 18. Registration is open through the end of April, but popular sessions fill quickly so youth are encouraged to sign up early for best selection.

The cost to attend 4-H Exploration Days is \$165 for 4-H members and \$175 for non-4-H members. The cost covers all meals, lodging in a campus dorm room, entry to educational sessions and a t-shirt. Youth are encouraged to contact their county MSU Extension office to inquire about scholarships.

For more information or to register, visit http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4-h_exploration_days.



Applications for State 4-H Dairy Science Award are due March 1

Awards program has been completely redesigned for 2014

Youth have until March 1 to apply for the 2014 State 4-H Dairy Science Award. The awards program is for 4-H youth age 13 or older who have a minimum of three years of 4-H experience. There is a junior and a senior division.

Applicants must submit a cover letter, their 4-H story, responses to a series of questions reflecting on their 4-H experiences and a photo. Complete instructions are available online at http://4h.msue.msu.edu/awards_scholarships/4-h_recognition_program. Applications must be submitted online; no hard copies will be accepted.

There is no cost to apply for the State 4-H Dairy Science Award, but those selected to participate will need

to register for and attend 4-H Exploration Days. A \$45 scholarship is made available to delegates to help defray the expense of attending 4-H Exploration Days.

Applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision in early April. Those selected to compete for the award will interview June 18 on the Michigan State University campus. Winners will be announced at the State 4-H Awards Recognition Program on June 19. The junior award winner will receive a certificate and \$50. The senior award winner will receive a certificate and \$200.

The State 4-H Award is the highest award bestowed to a Michigan 4-H member. Dairy science is one of 19 award categories.



"I really enjoyed applying for and winning the state 4-H award in the dairy project area. I thought it was a great experience and it taught me a lot, especially about how to assemble a portfolio and act in an interview, and I know I will carry these skills throughout my life.

It took a lot of hard work and dedication to win this award, but it made it worthwhile when I won. It was a great honor since I was competing against some outstanding candidates.

I had a lot of fun and would encourage anyone who is considering applying for a 4-H state award to do it."

- Allison Schafer
2013 State 4-H Dairy
Science Award winner

Reproduction 101

By *Melissa Elischer, Michigan State University Extension dairy educator*

Understanding the reproductive cycle of our dairy cows is one of the most important parts of dairy management. If we don't know about reproductive physiology, endocrinology, behavior and how all these parts work together, it can make breeding cows much harder. Let's take a quick tour through Reproduction 101 to see how familiar you are with this important topic!

Gestation length – how long is pregnancy?

Match gestational length (how long an animal is pregnant) for each species below:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1. Llama | A. 1 month |
| 2. Dog | B. 3.8 months |
| 3. Camel | C. 11.3 months |
| 4. Cow | D. 12.3 months |
| 5. Rabbit | E. 9 months |
| 6. Sow | F. 2 months (65 days) |

For a little more challenge, answer this question: **which are litter-bearing species and which (generally) have a single offspring?**

And this question offers an even bigger challenge: **which offspring are precocial and which are altricial?**

Answers:

Gestation length: 1 – C; 2 – F; 3 – D; 4 – E; 5 – A; 6 – B.

Litter-bearing species: 2, 5, 6

Precocial: 1, 3, 4, 6

Altricial: 2, 5

Why is knowing gestation length important?

For one, it helps provide time to plan and prepare for offspring that will need different accommodations, housing and care than their adult counterparts. For production or project animals, this information is important for management reasons, such as synchronizing animals (several animals have their offspring around the same time), planning crop availability for feeding the dam and offspring, knowing what class to enter at a fair, answering judge's questions, and also knowing if something goes wrong during pregnancy. If the dam has issues during gestation, the fetus (or fetuses) may be aborted before reaching full maturity and viability. On the other side, if gestation lasts too long, the offspring may be stillborn or difficult to expel, increasing the chance for an infection to develop in the dam and challenging her health.

- How long is the gestation of other animals you have or know about?
- How long is a human pregnancy?

Why is knowing the number of offspring important?

Knowing how many offspring to expect from your animal helps to plan housing, feeding and management. With litter-bearing species, such as dogs and swine, if there is only one or two offspring, it might be time to intervene, checking to see if the dam is having difficulty birthing (called dystocia) and needs assistance. For single-offspring animals, multiple may happen, but this can present other problems. If a cow has mixed twins (a bull and a heifer), the heifer is often infertile and called a freemartin heifer. This happens because hormones and other cellular material are passed via blood in the placenta from the bull to the heifer calf, masculinizing the heifer and making the ovaries non-functional.

- What are some other litter-animals?
- What other animals generally have only one infant at a time?

What is the difference between precocial and altricial offspring?

Precocial offspring are relatively mature and mobile soon after birth, like calves, crias (infant llamas) and piglets. These offspring need maternal or human care, but not as much care as altricial offspring, such as pups or kits (infant rabbits). Altricial offspring are helpless at birth and will not survive without dedicated care for feeding, helping them eliminate and regulating their body temperature.

- **Why do you think these different kinds of offspring exist?**
- **Can you think of other animals that are precocial and altricial?**
- **Are human infants precocial or altricial?**

Reproductive physiology – who does it belong to?

Look at the list of terms below and decide whether they belong to the female or male reproductive tract.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ovaries | 5. Uterus |
| 2. Spermatic cord | 6. Testis |
| 3. Epididymis | 7. Cervix |
| 4. Oviduct | 8. Accessory sex glands |

Answers:

Female: 1, 4, 5, 7

Male: 2, 3, 6, 8

Now that you know what parts belong to which sex, what does each part do and why is it important for reproductive success?

We'll begin with the female reproductive tract.

Ovaries: Ovaries are the female gonads that produce gametes, specifically oocytes (ovum; eggs). When an ova (a single ovum) fuses with a single spermatozoa (sperm; the male gamete), fertilization occurs. The ovaries are also responsible for producing a variety of hormones that act on the female's body before, during and after gestation.

Oviduct: The small, usually convoluted ducts that provide the optimal environment for ova fertilization. The oviduct, sometimes called the Fallopian tube or uterine tube, is the site of pre-attachment development of the embryo.

Uterus: This organ connects the cervix to the oviducts and houses the fetus throughout gestation. It is the site of sperm transport, early embryo development and formation of the placenta.

Cervix: The cervix connects the uterus to the vagina. It acts as a barrier to the rest of the reproductive tract and seals during gestation to protect the fetus.

Mammals reproduce sexually, meaning there must be genetic material from two individuals, a female and a male, to produce offspring.

Let us now turn to the male reproductive system.

Spermatic cord: This collection of cord-like structures contains the testicular artery and vein, as well as nerves and other muscles. It suspends the testis in the scrotum, which is important for controlling temperature and creating new male gametes, or spermatozoa (sperm), in a process called spermatogenesis.

Epididymis: This duct serves as the site for transport, storage and maturation of spermatozoa. It is divided into three different parts: the head (caput), body (corpus) and tail (cauda), each of which serve different and important roles in preserving fertile sperm.

Testis: This is the male gonad that produces the male gamete, or spermatozoa, as well as hormones such as testosterone and estrogen (yes, males need estrogen too!) and various proteins.

Accessory sex glands: The accessory sex glands consist of the seminal vesicles, prostate, Cowper's Glands and ampullae. These glands each have a different role in the final preparation of spermatozoa by producing seminal plasma, which facilitates sperm function for reproduction.

This only begins to scratch the surface of reproductive biology!

It is a complex and important system to help us manage our current and future dairy cows.

Reference:

Senger, P.L. 2005. Pathways to Pregnancy and Parturition. Pullman, WA: Current Conceptions, Inc.

MICHIGAN 4-H DAIRY YOUTH 2014 Calendar of Events

- March 1 Online registration due for 4-H State Awards
- March 20 MSU Dairy Education and Judging Field Day, East Lansing
- March 21 Spartan Spectacular Calf Sale, East Lansing
- April 25-27 Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference,
Bayshore Family Camp and Ministries, Sebewaing
- June 18-20 [4-H Exploration Days](#), East Lansing
- June 25-26 MMPA/4-H Milk Marketing Tour, Novi
- July 21-25 Michigan 4-H Dairy Days and Michigan Dairy Expo, East Lansing
- Sept. 13-18 All-American Dairy Show, Harrisburg, PA
- Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 National 4-H Dairy Conference, Madison, WI
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 World Dairy Expo, Madison, WI
- Nov. 8 - 21 [North American International Livestock Exhibition](#), Louisville, KY

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