



2026 World Dairy Expo  
Judging Contest Brochure

Saturday, September 26, 2026  
4-H, Intercollegiate, & Post-  
Secondary Contest

Sunday, September 27, 2026  
Practical Contest

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# SUPPORT OUR DAIRY JUDGING TEAM AT WORLD DAIRY EXPO

We need your support for the World Dairy Expo Judging Contests to continue the high-impact training of tomorrow's dairy leaders.

September 26, 2026 | Madison, WI

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday, September 24

12:00 p.m. Dairy Day at UW - Madison

### Friday, September 25

9:00 a.m. Practice Farms

### Saturday, September 26

7:00 a.m. Contestants Assemble - Coliseum

7:30 a.m. Traditional Judging Contest Begins

2:00 p.m. Youth Scoop Extravaganza - The Tanbark

5:30 p.m. 4-H, Intercollegiate & Post Secondary Mixer - The Tanbark

6:30 p.m. 4-H, Intercollegiate & Post-Secondary Awards Banquet - The Tanbark

### Sunday, September 27

9:30 a.m. Practical Judging Contest - *for Intercollegiate & Post-Secondary - Sales Pavilion*



## At the World Dairy Expo Judging Contests, contestants:

- Gain public speaking and reasoning skills when giving 5-6 sets of oral reasons
- Meet other young dairy professionals and build relationships
- Evaluate, prioritize and place 10-12 cattle classes under time limits
- Experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of judging on the iconic colored shavings

## Participation Expenses:

- Lodging before and during contest: Approximately **\$200-\$500 per student** (depending on length of stay)
- Transportation to World Dairy Expo, practice tours, educational stops: costs can range from **\$100 to \$1,000 per student**, depending on distance from WI.
- Registration fees: **\$75/contestant, \$300/team**  
Practical Contest: **\$50/contestant, \$200/team**

# 2026 WORLD DAIRY EXPO JUDGING CONTESTS

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>Thursday, September 24</b>	12:00 p.m.	Dairy Day at UW-Madison
<b>Friday, September 25</b>	9:00 a.m.	Practice Farms
	12:00 p.m.	National Dairy Shrine Lunch - National Dairy Shrine
	7:00 p.m.	4-H Coaches Meeting - The Tanbark, Expo Grounds
	7:00 p.m.	Intercollegiate & Post-Secondary Coaches Meeting - The Tanbark, Expo Grounds
<b>Saturday, September 26</b>	7:00 a.m.	Contestants Assemble in the Coliseum, Expo Grounds
	7:30 a.m.	Traditional Judging Contest Begins, Expo Grounds
	11:00 a.m.	4-H Contestant Luncheon - The Tanbark, Expo Grounds followed by Contestant Oral Reasons - Exhibition Hall, Expo Grounds
	11:45 a.m.	Intercollegiate & Post-Secondary Contestants Luncheon - The Tanbark, Expo Grounds followed by Contestant Oral Reasons - Exhibition Hall
	1:30 p.m.	4-H Coaches Meeting - Sale Pavilion, Expo Grounds
	2:30 p.m.	Intercollegiate & Post-Secondary Coaches Meeting - Sale Pavilion, Expo Grounds
	2:30 p.m.	Youth Scoop Extravaganza Ice Cream Social sponsored by South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD. - The Tanbark, Expo Grounds
	5:30 p.m.	4-H, Intercollegiate & Post-Secondary Mixer - The Tanbark, Expo Grounds <i>Agri-Graphics will be available for team photographs during the Mixer</i>
	6:30 p.m.	4-H, Intercollegiate & Post-Secondary Awards Banquet - The Tanbark, Expo Grounds
<b>Sunday, September 27</b>	9:30 a.m.	Registration for Practical Contest - Sale Pavilion, Expo Grounds
	10:00 a.m.	Educational Opportunity- Sale Pavilion, Expo Grounds
	11:00 a.m.	Practical Contest Begins - Sale Pavilion, Expo Grounds
	12:00 a.m.	Practical Contest Awards and Lunch - Sale Pavilion, Expo Grounds

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# REGISTER ONLINE

[www.worlddairyexpo.com/pages/Online-Contest-Registration.php](http://www.worlddairyexpo.com/pages/Online-Contest-Registration.php)

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE & FEES

The entry fee is \$300 per team or \$75 per person on or before September 11.

**If not also registered in the Traditional Contest**, participation in the Practical Contest includes an awards banquet ticket. Separate awards will be given in each contest. When entering the Practical Contest, please indicate if your team will be attending the complimentary light meal following the conclusion of the Practical Contest on Sunday afternoon.

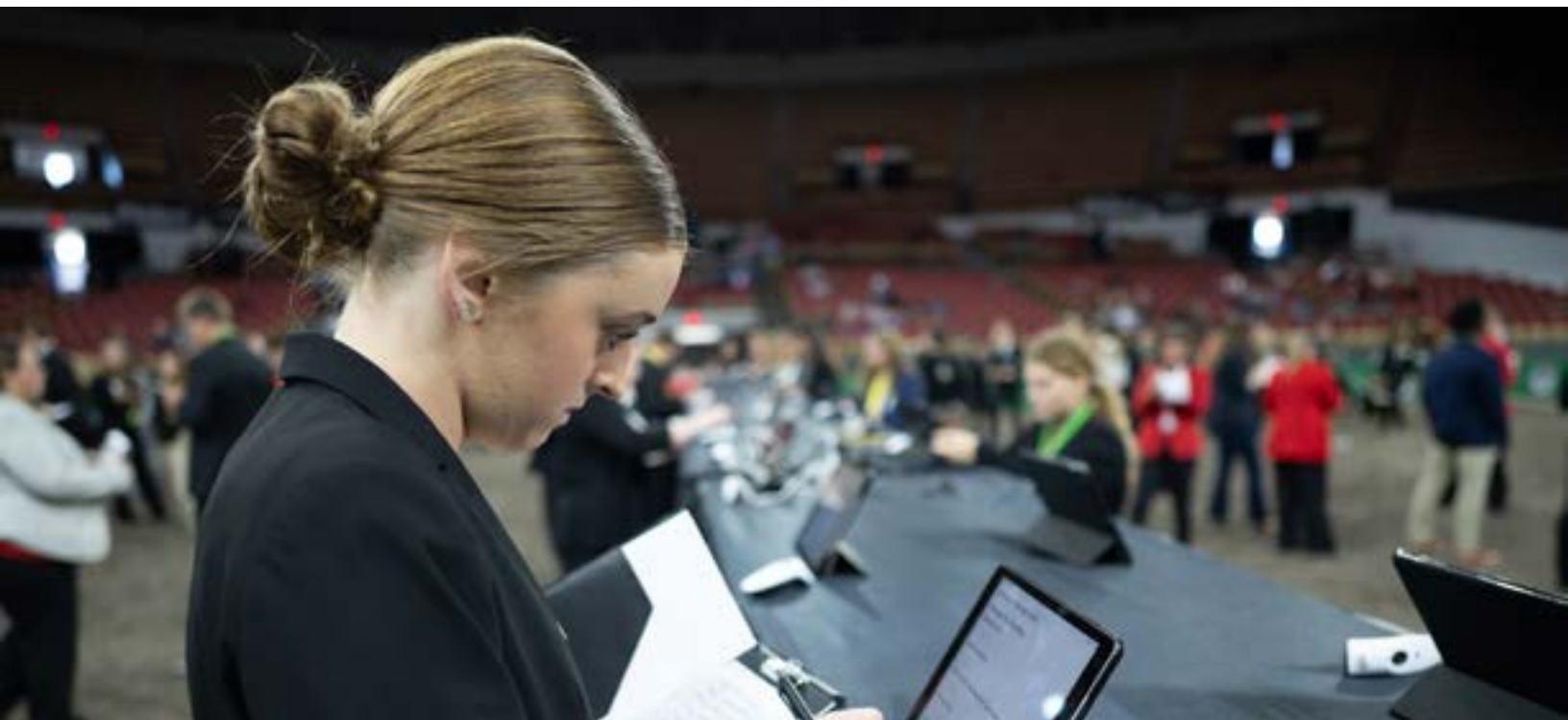
Five (5) complimentary banquet tickets are included in the registration fee. Additional banquet tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased online before September 18. For more information please contact the World Dairy Expo office or [lmiller@wdexpo.com](mailto:lmiller@wdexpo.com)

World Dairy Expo does not charge admission or parking fees the day of the contest. However, admission will be charged starting Tuesday, September 29. Additional entry tickets are available at a reduced rate of \$10 per person per day until September 5. At the gate, fees increase to \$20 for a daily pass and \$40 for a season pass (all attendees, 9-years and older, are required to have an admission pass to enter the show grounds). **A link to purchase discounted admission tickets will be included in your confirmation email after registering your team.** *Admission tickets must be purchased via the link and not at the time of team registration.*

World Dairy Expo requires all contestants, coaches and leaders to abide by all rules and regulations set forth for its respective contest. By submitting registration payment, you agree that you, and the persons you represent herewith, will abide by each of the rules stipulated within the contest rules and regulations. Contestants will be held responsible for their actions. The use of outside aid is forbidden and includes, but not limited to, the use of electronic communications, internet sources, phone calls or other communication tools. Contestants, coaches and leaders are not permitted in or near the dairy cattle barns on the grounds prior to the contest except as announced by the Superintendent.

### **Lodging**

Looking for a place to stay before and during World Dairy Expo? Take a look at this curated list of hotels in the Greater Madison area with up-to-date rates [here](#).



# RULES & REGULATIONS

The superintendent shall have complete charge of the contest. The superintendent shall see that all rules and regulations governing the contest are duly carried out and that the contest is conducted with fairness and justice to all concerned. The superintendent shall also decide all questions which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules.

## **Teams and Entries**

The teams shall consist of four members representing their state, or agricultural college, technical college, short course or farm training program in which they are regularly enrolled. The contestant with the low overall score from each team will be designated as the alternate, but will be eligible for individual awards.

## **Method of Conduct**

No member of any team nor their coach(s) shall be in the cattle pavilions or tents, **after Friday, September 25 at 11:00 a.m** nor have the privilege of inspecting cattle selected for the contest at World Dairy Expo prior to the contest. Any contestant that violates this rule will be disqualified from the judging competition.

**Inspection of Cattle** - Team members shall be divided into a sufficient number of groups to provide the best opportunity to view and judge the animals; one assistant superintendent shall have charge of each group. Contestants shall not at any time place their hands on any animal.

**Reasons** - Contestants shall give oral reasons, two minutes in length, one class in each breed. 4-H and Post-Secondary shall give five (5) sets of reasons. Intercollegiate shall give six (6) sets of reasons. The superintendent shall notify the contestants before the contest starts, the classes on which reasons will be required in order that contestants may take notes. Reasons will be given on the afternoon of the day of the contest.

**Materials** - The superintendent shall provide ringside iPads for recording placings, and any other necessary materials for conducting the contest. No contestant shall be allowed to take any book, notes or writing paper into the ring except materials as are furnished by the superintendent.

**Time Allowed** - Contestants will be allowed 15-minutes to place each class, reasons or non-reasons. Contestants will utilize ringside iPads to submit each class placing. These iPads will replace the traditional paper cards submitted at the conclusion of each class. Contestants will have a unique barcode attached to their contestant number. When the contestant has completed judging a class, he/she will scan the barcode at an iPad and will then select the breed, class and input his/her placing. Each contestant will have a back-up paper he/she will use to record his/her placings and submit at the conclusion of the contest.

## **Classes**

The judging shall consist of classes using a variation of the seven major breeds. The Intercollegiate and Post-Secondary Contest shall judge seven (7) classes of cows and five (5) classes of heifers (yearlings or calves). The 4-H contest shall judge five (5) classes of cows and five (5) classes of heifers (yearlings or calves). Fall Yearlings and Aged Cows will not be used.

The animals shall be held in a careful manner so that all Contestants may have an equal opportunity to examine them. The animals shall be lined up consecutively in single file and number 1 to 4 inclusive.

The final rank of each Contestant in each breed shall be determined by totaling his/her grades on placings and reasons for that breed. The individual rank for all breeds shall be determined by adding his/her grades for each of the breeds.

## **Bio-Security - Pratice Farms**

- 1. All contest members are required to bring enough plastic boots for each farm.**
2. Avoid farms, sale barns, stockyards, animal laboratories, packinghouses, zoos, fairs or other animal facilities for five days prior to leaving a foreign country.
3. Avoid contact with livestock or wildlife for five days after arrival in the United States from international travel.
4. Any individual who has been on a farm or in contact with an animal infected with foot and mouth disease should have no contact with wild or domestic animals for ten days before visiting the practice team herd facilities. Individuals must then thoroughly shower, shampoo, and change into new clothing before attending the practice sessions.

WORLD DAIRY EXPO



Saturday, September 26, 2026

104th 4-H Judging  
Contest

ENTRY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Listed below are the top individual and top team past winners of the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest

**High Individual**

1962 - James Miller, Pa.	1979 - Janice Thomson, Mo.	1996 - Nancy Deutsch, Ky.	2012 - Tony Garcia, Calif.
1963 - Donald R. Bossard, N.Y.	1980 - Jenny Cheek, N.C.	1997 - Kurt Ryan Averhoff, Texas	2013 - Trent Dado, Wis.
1964 - Virginia Weir, Kan.	1981 - Mike Allen, Md.	1998 - Leslie Sheppard, Mo.	2014 - Jordan Siemers, Wis.
1965 - Barbara Whipp, Md.	1982 - Brian Garrison, Ohio	1999 - Emily Stammen, Ohio	2015 - Ben Powers, Wis.
1966 - Marvin Bashore, Pa.	1983 - Stan Moser, Wis.	2000 - Laurie Winkelman, Wis.	2016 - Cameron Cook, Mich.
1967 - Charles Patterson, Md.	1984 - Matthew Budine, N.Y.	2001 - Rachael Kilgore, Pa.	2017 - Kylie Nickels, Wis.
1968 - Paul Snider, Ky.	1985 - Bill Swift, Md.	2002 - Emily Yeiser, Md.	2018 - Awna Hirsch, Colo
1969 - Sheila Jordon, N.C.	1986 - David Croshaw, Ky.	2003 - Elizabeth Kern, Minn.	2019 - Marie Haase, Wis.
1970 - Bryon Johnson, N.Y.	1987 - Jeff Fuchs, Minn.	2004 - Matt Sneller, Mich.	2020 - No Contest
1971 - Dave Grundahl, Wis.	1988 - Marcie Emerson, N.Y.	2005 - Aaron Horst, Pa.	2021 - Nicholas Hammer, Fla.
1972 - John Miles, Ky.	1989 - Todd Fernandes, Calif.	2006 - Neil Duncan, Ohio	2022 - Sara Haag, Pa.
1973 - Duane Meier, Wis.	1990 - Amy Brown, Md.	2007 - Jessica Achen, Minn.	2023 - Natalie Clemenson, Minn.
1974 - Ronnie Kling, Md.	1991 - Cathy Pavelski, Pa.	2008 - Val Mohr, Minn.	2024 - Alexis Schultz, NY
1975 - Alta Mae Keightley, Ky.	1992 - Mark Lager, Md.	2009 - Karen Anderson, Minn.	2025 - Campbell Booth, WI
1976 - Nancy Dransfield, W.Va.	1993 - April Hall, Md.	2010 - Bethany Dado, Wis.	
1977 - Gary Noble, Minn.	1994 - James Janney, Va.	2011 - Andrew Kern, Minn.	
1978 - John Deininger, Ohio	1995 - Chris Herndon, Ky.		

**High Team**

1919 - Minnesota	1940 - Michigan	1963 - New York	1984 - New York	2005 - Wisconsin
1920 - Missouri	1941 - Minnesota	1964 - Kansas	1985 - Maryland	2006 - Maryland
1921 - Maryland	1942 - Kansas	1965 - Maryland	1986 - Kentucky	2007 - Minnesota
1922 - Maryland	1943-1945 - No Contest (World War II)	1966 - Maryland	1987 - Minnesota	2008 - Pennsylvania
1923 - Illinois		1967 - North Carolina	1988 - Pennsylvania	2009 - Maryland
1924 - Iowa	1946 - Maryland	1968 - New York	1989 - Maryland	2010 - Maryland
1925 - Maryland	1947 - Maryland	1969 - Virginia	1990 - New York	2011 - New York
1926 - Iowa	1948 - Michigan	1970 - Massachusetts	1991 - Minnesota	2012 - Michigan
1927 - Nebraska	1949 - Maryland	1971 - Wisconsin	1992 - Maryland	2013 - Maryland
1928 - Oklahoma	1950 - Maryland	1972 - Maryland	1993 - Florida	2014 - Michigan
1929 - Oklahoma	1951 - Florida	1973 - Wisconsin	1994 - Virginia	2015 - Wisconsin
1930 - Maryland	1092 - Michigan	1974 - Maryland	1995 - Maryland	2016 - Minnesota
1931 - Oklahoma	1953 - Maryland	1975 - Kentucky	1996 - Kentucky	2017 - Wisconsin
1932 - Wisconsin	1954 - Maryland	1976 - Maryland	1997 - Texas	2018 - Wisconsin
1933 - Nebraska	1955 - Maryland	1977 - Virginia	1998 - New York	2019 - Wisconsin
1934 - Iowa	1956 - Washington	1978 - Maryland	1999 - Ohio	2020 - No Contest
1935 - Iowa	1957 - Maryland	1979 - North Carolina	2000 - Wisconsin	2021 - Wisconsin
1936 - Oklahoma	1958 - Nebraska	1980 - Michigan	2001 - Wisconsin	2022 - Pennsylvania
1937 - Nebraska	1959 - Maryland	1981 - Kentucky	2002 - Wisconsin	2023 - Minnesota
1938 - Illinois	1960 - Maryland	1982 - Ohio	2003 - Minnesota	2024 - New York
1939 - Maryland	1962 - Maryland	1983 - Wisconsin	2004 - Wisconsin	2025 - Minnesota

*This contest has been designated by the 4-H Youth Development ECOP Sub-Committee as the official National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. This contest is conducted in cooperation with World Dairy Expo, who assumes financial accountability.*

Superintendent..... Amber Vander Poel, Peak Genetics, Tulare, Cal.  
 Assistant Superintendent..... Denise Johanson, Blain's Farm and Fleet, Herscher, Ill.  
 Assistant Superintendent..... Marianna Brenner, CP Feeds, Pearl City, Ill.

**4-H Managment Committee**

Chad Dechow, Chair ..... The Pennsylvania State University  
 Ted Halbach ..... University of Wisconsin - Madison  
 Larissa Tucker ..... University of Kentucky  
 Doug Waterman ..... Virtus Nutrition LLC  
 Laura Herschleb ..... World Dairy Expo, Inc.

## Contestants and Eligibility

1. A 4-H member who celebrates their 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> birthday during the calendar year of the contest is age eligible for this National 4-H competitive event.
2. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the National 4-H competitive event is held. If the contest occurs in October, contestants who have been 4-H members anytime in the calendar year leading up to the contest are eligible. An individual may participate in the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest one time.
3. The contestants must be certified as complying with all eligibility rules and the team must be certified as the official state entry by electronic verification of the State 4-H Leader. The individual(s) or team(s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Leader believes is appropriate.
4. A 4-H member who is participating in or has completed post-secondary course work in Dairy Cattle Judging or Dairy Cattle Evaluation is not eligible. A 4-H member who has participated in a post-secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest is not eligible. 4-H contest participants are prohibited from participating in the post-secondary or intercollegiate contests, including practical and/or linear contests. Violations of the above will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognitions which have been won in the National 4-H Competitive event.
5. Each state may enter four members in the contest with the three top scores making up the state team. The contestant with the lowest overall score from each team will be designated as the alternate, but will be eligible for individual awards. NOTE: Substitutions can be made and can occur no later than the Saturday coaches banquet. Substitutes must meet all eligibility requirements.
6. Competing in both 4-H and FFA National Events  
The National offices of 4-H and FFA have agreed on the following national policy in the interest of consistency between events and between organizations in eligibility for national competition: Participation by the same individual in both a National 4-H and a National FFA competitive event in the same year may occur only when the following is accomplished:  
  
**For 4-H:** Participation in a National 4-H competitive event will require that all youth participating be a “bona fide” 4-H participant in the current calendar year leading up to the contest and must qualify for the national event through an approved state competition or selection process conducted or sanctioned by the representative organization.  
  
**For FFA:** Participation in a National FFA Career Development event will require that all youth participating be a “bona fide” member of an FFA Chapter and must qualify for the national event through an approved state competition conducted or sanctioned by the representative organization.
7. National Policy on Medical/Accident Insurance  
Each state or territory will provide medical/accident coverage for all its 4-H teams participating in all 4-H event as well as medical/accident coverage during travel to and from the events.  
  
No contestant shall be allowed to take any books, notes, or writing paper into the contest except those items provided by the Superintendent. No contestant shall wear pins, badges, or other marks of identification which may reveal his or her identity or that of the state represented. Notebooks will be provided for each contestant by the Superintendent.
8. Contestants will utilize ringside iPads to submit each class placing. These iPads replace the traditional paper cards submitted at the conclusion of each class. Contestants will have a unique barcode attached to their contestant number. When the contestant has completed judging a class, he/she will scan their barcode at an iPad and will then select the breed and class, and input his/her placing. Each contestant will have a back-up paper he/she will use to record his/her placings and submit at the conclusion of the contest.
9. Contestants are not allowed to bring in or use any cell phone or other electronic devices for communications during the contest. The Superintendent will gather phone numbers for each team coach in case of any emergencies.
10. While the contest is in progress there will be no communications among the contestants, or between a contestant and anyone else, except the squad leader. Coaches around the ringside are requested to hold discussions to a minimum.
11. Any contestant violating any rule shall be barred from the contest.
12. No handling of the animals will be permitted by the contestants.
13. Animals will be judged on breed type.

## DETERMINATION OF RATINGS

1. Fifty points shall be given for placing in each of the ten classes.
  - C. Lower individual, total placings score in reasons classes
  - D. Individual with the most perfect placings scores
  - E. Coin Flip
2. Fifty points shall be given for reasons in each of the five oral reasons classes, usually cow classes.
3. Team breed ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher team, same breed, reasons score
  - B. Higher team, overall reasons score
  - C. Higher team, overall score
  - D. Lower team, total placings score in reasons classes
  - E. Team with the most perfect placing scores
  - F. Coin flip
4. Individual breed ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, same breed reasons score
  - B. Higher individual, overall reasons scores
  - C. Higher individual, overall score
  - D. Lower individual, total placings score in reasons classes
  - E. Individual with the most perfect placing scores
  - F. Coin flip
5. Individual overall placing-only ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, total reasons score
  - B. Individual with the more perfect placing scores
  - D. Coin flip
6. Individual overall reasons ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, overall score
  - B. Highest single breed reasons score, any breed
7. Team overall reasons ties will be broken on;
  - A. Higher team, overall score
  - B. Lower team, total placings score in reasons classes
  - C. Team with the most perfect placing scores
  - D. Coin flip
8. Individual overall ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, total reasons score
  - B. Lower individual, total placing score in reasons classes
  - C. Individual with the most perfect placing scores
  - D. Coin flip
9. Team overall ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher team, total reasons score
  - B. Lower Team, total placing score in reasons classes
  - C. Team with most perfect placings score
  - D. Coin Flip
10. Team placing-only ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher team, overall reasons score
  - B. Team with most perfect placings score
  - C. Coin Flip
11. Records submitted to the superintendent, tabulated and announced shall be final.



WORLD DAIRY EXPO



Saturday, September 26, 2026

36th Post-  
Secondary Dairy  
Judging Contest

Sunday, September 27, 2026  
Practical Contest

Listed below are the top individual and top team past winners of the International Post-Secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest

## Traditional Contest

### High Individual

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1989 - Sue Northrup, SUNY Cobleskill	2003 - Sarah Van Exel, Modesto Junior College	2015 - Tanner Topp, Ohio State University Ag Tech Institute
1990 - Greg Silva, Modesto Junior College	2004 - Cole Bettencourt, Modesto Junior College	2016 - Rachel Ekkel, Michigan State University Ag Tech
1991 - Allen Van Gorder, Morrisville State College	2005 - Chris Smithgall, Morrisville State College	2017 - Kennedy Crothers, SUNY Cobleskill
1992 - Rebecca Dumont, SUNY Cobleskill	2006 - Amanda Durant, Morrisville State College	2018 - Lydia Williams, SUNY Cobleskill
1993 - Derek Wolf, Morrisville State College	2007 - Caitlyn Morehart, Modesto Junior College	2019 - Cassi Menendez, SUNY Cobleskill
1994 - Ted Dechow, Morrisville State College	2008 - Christopher Curtiss, SUNY Cobleskill #2	2020 - No Contest
1995 - Mike Lortie, Michigan State University	2009 - Matt Henkes, Northeast Iowa Community College	2021 - Erin Curtis, SUNY Cobleskill
1996 - Daniel Martin, College of Sequoias	2010 - Thomas McCarthy, Morrisville State College	2022 - Jacob Raber, Kaskaskia College
1997 - Tara Taylor, Morrisville State College	2011 - Rocco Cunningham, Modesto Junior College	2023 - Savannah Rice, Kaskaskia College
1998 - Jana McClelland, Santa Rosa Junior College	2012 - Austen Schmidt, UW-Madison Farm & Industry Short Course	2024 - Lauryn Young, Modesto Junior College
1999 - Rudi DeWinkle, Modesto Junior College	2013 - Jessica Telgmann, Kaskaskia College	2025 - Connor MacNeil, SUNY Cobleskill
2000 - Kristi Grindly, Highland Community College	2014 - Evan Castrogiovanni, Morrisville State College, New York	
2001 - Darrin Hill, Morrisville State College		
2002 - Joseph Silva, Modesto Junior College		

### High Team

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1989 - Modesto Junior College, California	2005 - Northeast Iowa Community College, Iowa	2021 - Kaskaskia, Illinois
1990 - Ohio State University Ag Tech Institute, Ohio	2006 - Kaskaskia College, Illinois	2022 - SUNY Cobleskill, New York
1991 - Morrisville State College, New York	2007 - Modesto Junior College, California	2023 - Kaskaskia, Illinois
1992 - Morrisville State College, New York	2008 - SUNY Cobleskill #2, New York	2024 - Modesto Junior College
1993 - Modesto Junior College, California	2009 - Ohio State University Ag Tech Institute, Ohio	2025 - SUNY Cobleskill, New York
1994 - Morrisville State College, New York	2010 - SUNY Cobleskill #1, New York	
1995 - Modesto Junior College, California	2011 - Modesto Junior College, California	
1996 - Morrisville State College, New York	2012 - SUNY Cobleskill, New York	
1997 - Morrisville State College, New York	2013 - Kaskaskia College, Illinois	
1998 - Santa Rosa Junior College, California	2014 - Morrisville State College "A", New York	
1999 - Modesto Junior College, California	2015 - Ohio State University Ag Tech, Ohio	
2000 - Modesto Junior College, California	2016 - Northeast Iowa Community College, Iowa	
2001 - Morrisville State College, New York	2017 - SUNY Cobleskill, New York	
2002 - Morrisville State College, New York	2018 - SUNY Cobleskill, New York	
2003 - Modesto Junior College, California	2019 - SUNY Cobleskill, New York	
2004 - Modesto Junior College, California	2020 - No Contest	

## Practical Contest

### High Team

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1996 - Ohio State University Ag Tech Institute	2007 - Ohio State University Ag Tech Institute	2019 - Northeast Iowa Community College
1997 - Morrisville State College	2008 - SUNY - Cobleskill #1	2020 - No Contest
1998 - Michigan State University	2009 - SUNY - Cobleskill #2	2021 - Kaskaskia College
1999 - University of Minnesota - Crookston	2010 - Northeast Iowa Community College	2022 - Modesto Junior College
2000 - Modesto Junior College	2011 - Lakeshore Technical College #1	2023 - Modesto Junior College
2001 - Michigan State University	2012 - Northeast Iowa Community College	2024 - Ohio State ATI
2002 - UW-Madison Farm & Industry Short Course	2013 - Modesto Junior College	2025 - SUNY Cobleskill
2003 - Alfred State College	2014 - University of Wisconsin - Platteville	
2004 - Michigan State University	2015 - Lakeshore Technical College #1	
2005 - University of Guelph	2016 - Northeast Iowa Community College	
2006 - Ohio State University Ag Tech Institute	2017 - Northeast Iowa Community College	
	2018 - Kaskaskia College	

Superintendent..... Jerome Meyer, Zoetis, Sun Prairie, Wis.

Assistant Superintendent ..... Maureen DeBruin, Holstein Association USA, Inc., Jefferson, Wis.

## **Contestants and Eligibility**

Eligibility is limited to students enrolled in current year post-secondary institutions not accredited by ADSA. Included are students in farm training classes, short courses, junior colleges, two-year technical colleges and four-year non-Land Grant colleges. Non-U.S. teams are encouraged to participate. Each school is limited to entering two teams. **NEW in 2026** Practical contest is open to all World Dairy Expo Judging participants.

A contestant is **ineligible** if the contestant has ever done any of the following: (1) competed in the World Dairy Expo International Post-Secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, (2) competed in the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, (3) been official judge of dairy cattle at a fair or show, (4) taught dairy judging in college or secondary school, or (5) been an employee or paid consultant of a breed organization, breeding service or similar unit, for which his/her duties include evaluation of dairy cattle for type (excluding internships).

Participation in this contest will in no way affect a contestant's eligibility in so far as future participation in the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest should the contestant later transfer to a four-year agricultural college. A contestant may participate in the Post-Secondary Contest practical contest one year and retain eligibility for the traditional contest another year. The reverse is also true. Practical contest eligibility includes students from ADSA approved schools.

If the eligibility of any contestant is protested, such protest must be made in writing and presented to the contest Superintendent(s) at the day of the contest before the contest begins. The protest must be accompanied by a check for \$25, which will be returned if the protest is sustained. In case the protest is not sustained, the \$25 shall be forfeited. Substitutions may be made during contest registration. Additional students may be entered as individuals.

## **Traditional Contest**

**Twelve (12) Classes** of four individuals each shall be judged. These classes of heifers and cows shall be selected from the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn and Red & White. The animals shall be handled in a careful manner so that all contestants may have an equal opportunity to examine them. The animals shall be lined up consecutively in single file and numbered 1 to 4 inclusively.

Ratings shall be based upon a possible score of 50-points for each class placed and 50-points for each set of reasons. Since there are 12 classes to be placed and five sets of reasons given, there will be a possible total score of 850-points per contestant.

The final rank of each contestant in each breed shall be determined by totaling his/her scores on placings and reasons for that breed. The individual rank for all breeds shall be determined by adding his/her scores for each of the breeds.

Contest ties will be broken as follows:

1. Team breed ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher team, same breed, reasons score
  - B. Higher team, overall reasons score
  - C. Higher team, overall score
  - D. Lower team, total placings score in reasons classes
  - E. Team with the most perfect placing scores
  - F. Coin flip
2. Individual breed ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, same breed reasons score
  - B. Higher individual, overall reasons scores
  - C. Higher individual, overall score
  - D. Lower individual, total placings score in reasons classes
  - E. Individual with the most perfect placing scores
  - F. Coin flip
3. Individual overall placing-only ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, total reasons score
  - B. Individual with the more perfect placing scores
  - D. Coin flip
4. Individual overall reasons ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, overall score
  - B. Highest single breed reasons score, any breed
  - C. Lower individual, total placings score in reasons classes
  - D. Individual with the most perfect placings scores
  - E. Coin Flip
5. Team overall reasons ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher team, overall score
  - B. Lower team, total placings score in reasons classes
  - C. Team with the most perfect placing scores
  - D. Coin flip
6. Individual overall ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, total reasons score
  - B. Lower individual, total placing score in reasons classes
  - C. Individual with the most perfect placing scores
  - D. Coin flip
7. Team overall ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher team, total reasons score
  - B. Lower Team, total placing score in reasons classes
  - C. Team with most perfect placings score
  - D. Coin Flip

## **Practical Contest**

The entry fee is \$200 per team or \$50 per person on or before September 11. All contestants participating in the Practical Contest shall report to the Superintendent(s) in the Sale Pavilion at **9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 27. NEW in 2026** At 10:00 a.m., an educational opportunity will be provided for participants, covering topics such as genomic testing, sire selection, interpretation of a bull proof, and more. The **Practical Contest will begin at 11:00 a.m.** and will consist of four parts, with each phase allotted 20 minutes.

1. The first part of the contest will be the **Linear Contest**. Although the contest has separate team and individual awards, team scores will be tabulated and included in the practical contest. The results and awards will be given at the time of the awards banquet. Each contestant will be given four animals to score for ten linear traits. The scores closest to the "official" scores will receive the highest ranking. High scores are those contestants that are (+/-) 5-points or less, while those lowest scores are (+/-) 10 points or more. The Linear Contest total is 200. Team scores will be calculated the same as the traditional contest.
2. The third part of the practical contest will consist of six registered Holstein heifers with provided pedigrees. A situation scenario will be provided specifying conditions that the contestants (acting as buyers) are putting the animals in. Again contestants will judge as a team with no individual scores but all members of a team, must participate. Animals will be placed 1-6 using the enclosed score card for Registered Heifers. Contestants will also answer questions about the animals in the class. Again, yes or no questions will be avoided and

questions will be scored in the same manner as the non-ID heifer class. Each team may receive a maximum of 100-points for correct placings and each team may receive a maximum of 50-points for the question portion, and 50-points for the team reason portion. Teams should be aware that situation scenarios may change dramatically from year to year.

**Practical Reasons:** Each team will be required to give a set of reasons to justify their placings on the registered heifer class. The reasons will be no longer than 5-minutes and will be given to a two judge panel. Each team will have 20-minutes to prepare for their reasons. Each team member must participate in the reasons discussion for maximum score. The reasons should have an opening statement, both genetic & phenotypic animal comparisons, and a closing statement. Reasons will have a maximum 50-points.

3. The final part of the contest will consist of team members being presented either a cow or a heifer and require them to mate the animal. This is a team event and will be at the conclusion of the Registered Heifer segment. Each team will be provided with a scenario to mate the provided female and have to choose from a list of five provided sires. The teams will have a full pedigree on the female and also a full PTA and pedigree description of each bull. Teams will answer five written questions and be required to pick the best choice to mate the heifer/cow. Also, as a team they will give reasons to justify their mating of the animal to the sire of their choice. These reasons should relate to the scenario that was provided and include both phenotypic and genotypic explanations. Reasons will be a maximum of two minutes in length and at least two team members must present. All team members must be prepared to answer questions after their reasons. Each team may receive a maximum of 100-points. 50-points for correct answers to the provided questions and 50-points for team reasons.

## DAIRY HEIFER ECONOMIC SCORE CARD

MAJOR TRAIT DESCRIPTION	NON-ID	REG.
<b>1. PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE . . . . .</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>A. Genomic values, genetic indexes for Net Merit, Protein, Milk, Fat, PL, and SCS are all considered. The higher these genetic values, the more desirable the ranking.</b>	15%	27%
<b>B. Predicted Producing Abilities or Herdmate Deviations for milk, protein and fat. These reflect production relative to management in the herd. The higher the better.</b>	10%	15%
<b>C. The actual production records with emphasis on total production per Day of life. Emphasis is put on milk, protein, and fat.</b>	5%	5%
<b>D. Strength of pedigree for production and type for generations.</b>	0%	3%

<b>2. CONFORMATION. . . . .</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>A. FORM</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>14%</b>

*Attractive individuality and harmonious blending of parts with the exception of feet and legs, is evaluated. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:*

- Rump – long and wide throughout with pin bones slightly lower than hip bones.**
- Thurls - wide apart and centrally placed between hip bones and pin bones.**
- Tailhead - set slightly above and neatly between pin bones. Tail free from coarseness. The vulva is nearly vertical.**
- Back – Straight and strong; loin broad, strong and nearly level; slight arch preferred.**
- Front End – adequate constitution with front legs straight, wide apart and squarely placed. Shoulder blades and elbows set firmly against the chest wall. The crops should have adequate fullness.**
- Barrel – long, deep and wide; depth and spring of rib increasing toward the rear with a deep flank.**
- Chest – deep and wide floor with well sprung fore ribs blending into the shoulders.**
- Breed Characteristics – exhibits overall style and balance; clean cut head, broad muzzle with large, open nostrils, and strong jaw.**

<b>B. FEET AND LEGS</b>	11%	7%
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*Feet and rear legs are evaluated. Evidence of mobility is given major consideration. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:*

- Feet – Steep angle and deep heel with short, well-rounded, closed toes.**

### Rear Legs

- **Rear View – straight, wide part with feet squarely placed.**
- **Side View – moderate set (angle) to the hock.**
- **Hocks – cleanly molded, free from coarseness and puffiness with adequate flexibility.**
- **Bone – flat, clean with adequate substance.**
- **Pasterns – short, strong with some flexibility.**

*Slightly more emphasis is placed on Feet than on Rear legs when evaluating this breakdown.*

**C. DAIRY CHARACTER**

11%

7%

*Evidence of potential milking ability is evaluated. Major consideration should be given to general openness and angularity with out weakness, flatness of bone, and freedom from coarseness. Listed in priority order, The descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:*

**Ribs – Wide apart. Rib bones wide, flat, deep and slated toward the rear.**

**Thighs – Lean, incurving to flat and wide apart from the rear.**

**Withers – Sharp with chine prominent.**

**Neck – Long, lean and blending smoothly into the shoulders; clean cut throat, dewlap, and brisket.**

**Skin – Thin, loose and pliable.**

*Allowance should be given for winter and fall yearlings to carry more condition as they approach calving.*

**D. STATURE**

11%

7%

*Growth, vigor, early maturity and good health are evaluated. Major consideration should be given to height at the point of wither. The description of the trait to be considered is as follows:*

**Stature – Height including length in the leg bones with a long bone pattern throughout the body structure; height at withers and hips should be relatively proportionate.**

- 3. **MANAGEMENT TRAITS . . . . .** 15% 15%
  - A. **Age is a consideration. Generally older heifers are more economical than younger heifers. Younger cows are more economical than older cows.** 3% 3%
  - B. **Reproductive status is considered. Generally pregnant animals have more economic value. Calving interval can also be utilized to look at the history of reproduction. Animals not pregnant for a long time can receive severe discrimination.** 5% 5%
  - C. **Temperament or other observed traits can affect the ranking** 1% 1%
  - D. **Health history and/or vaccination are considered. If animals have severe problems or are known to carry disease severe discrimination should be given.** 6% 6%

**Practical Contest Determination of Ratings**

Maximum team score is 600. For the linear contest, the average of the top three individuals will be compiled for a team score. This will be added to the totals for each of the three heifer classes for a total overall team score for this contest. In case of a tie, the team placing highest on the combined total of the heifer classes will be the winner. If the teams are still tied, the team with the highest score in the linear contest will be the winner. If there is still a tie, it will be left a tie.



WORLD DAIRY EXPO



Saturday, September 26, 2026

105th  
Intercollegiate  
Contest

## Listed below are the top individual and top team past winners of the Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest

### High Individual

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1971 - Julie Easterly, Louisiana State University	1991 - Jeff Fuchs, Cornell University	2010 - Brian Coyne, University of Wisconsin - Madison
1972 - Terry Weiker, Ohio State University	1992 - Becky Emerling, Cornell University	2011 - Carissa Levash, University of Wisconsin - Madison
1973 - Jeffrey Myers, University of Maryland	1993 - Jenell Rinehart, University of Maryland	2012 - Issac Haagen, Penn State University
1974 - Kenneth Vial, Iowa State University	1994 - Kevin Ziemba, Cornell University	2013 - Mandi Ramsburg, Virginia Tech
1975 - Jerry Rodeffer, Purdue University	1995 - Jenny Berg, University of Wisconsin - River Falls	2014 - Laura Finley, University of Wisconsin - Madison
1976 - Barbara Lee, University of Wisconsin - Madison	1996 - Pam Argyle, Brigham Young University	2015 - Vincent Migliazzo, University of Minnesota
1977 - Ron Deaver, California State, Fresno	1997 - Jered Haase, University of Wisconsin - Madison	2016 - Sarah Harn, University of Wisconsin - Madison
1978 - Henry Giacomini, California Polytechnic	1998 - Shannon Lacy, Cornell University	2017 - Kirby Krostad, South Dakota State University
1979 - Barry Schaeffer, Virginia Tech	1999 - David Harvatine, Cornell University	2018 - Shelby Jager, Virginia Tech
1980 - Richard Morris, Virginia Tech	2000 - Leah Hurtgen, Cornell University	2019 - Madison Dymant, University of Kentucky
1981 - Gary Rogers, University of Tennessee	2001 - Rudi De Winkle, Cornell University	2020 - No Contest
1982 - Joey Fernandes, California Polytechnic	2002 - Laurie Winkelman, University of Wisconsin - Madison	2021 - Bryce Windecker, Cornell University
1983 - Scott Bentley, Iowa State	2003 - Jenna Rinehart, Cornell University	2022 - Jessie Nash, Michigan State University
1984 - Blake Alexandre, California Polytechnic	2004 - Lora Ruppert, University of Illinois	2023 - Ben Styer, University of Minnesota
1985 - Matt Nunes, California Polytechnic	2005 - Aaron Cornman, Virginia Tech	2024 - Kylie Konyan, University of Wisconsin - Madison
1986 - Chris Roe, University of Wisconsin - Madison	2006 - Luke Olson, University of Minnesota	2025 - Keenan Thygesen, University of Minnesota
1987 - Sharon Wright, University of Vermont	2007 - Charlene Barlieb, Penn State University	
1988 - Brian Behnke, University of Wisconsin - Madison	2008 - Elizabeth Smith, Penn State University	
1989 - Christina Vilter, South Dakota State University	2009 - Sandra Kirchner, University of Wisconsin - River Falls	
1990 - William Kelly, Virginia Tech		

### High Team

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1971 - Cornell University	1990 - Cornell University	2009 - Virginia Tech
1972 - California Polytechnic	1991 - University of Illinois	2010 - University of Wisconsin - Madison
1973 - California Polytechnic	1992 - University of Wisconsin - Madison	2011 - Cornell University
1974 - Iowa State University	1993 - University of Wisconsin - Platteville	2012 - Penn State University
1975 - Virginia Polytechnic	1994 - Cornell University	2013 - Virginia Tech
1976 - California State-Fresno	1995 - University of Wisconsin - River Falls	2014 - University of Wisconsin - Madison
1977 - California State-Fresno	1996 - Cornell University	2015 - University of Minnesota
1978 - University of Minnesota	1997 - University of Wisconsin - Madison	2016 - University of Minnesota
1979 - Virginia Polytechnic	1998 - Cornell University	2017 - Penn State University
1980 - Virginia Polytechnic	1999 - University of Illinois	2018 - University of Wisconsin - River Falls
1981 - University of Minnesota	2000 - Cornell University	2019 - The Ohio State University
1982 - Michigan State University	2001 - Cornell University	2020 - No Contest
1983 - California Polytechnic	2002 - University of Wisconsin - Madison	2021 - Cornell University
1984 - Virginia Polytechnic	2003 - Cornell University	2022 - Virginia Tech
1985 - University of Wisconsin - Madison	2004 - Cal Poly State University	2023 - University of Minnesota
1986 - The Ohio State University	2005 - University of Wisconsin - Madison	2024 - University of Minnesota
1987 - Cornell University	2006 - Virginia Tech	2025 - University of Minnesota
1988 - University of Wisconsin - Madison	2007 - Penn State University	
1989 - University of Wisconsin - Madison	2008 - Virginia Tech	

Superintendent..... **Scott Borgwardt, Kuhn North America Inc.**

### Regional Coaches Representatives

Dale Olver - Chair  
Katherine Knowlton - Southern  
Morgan Wonderly - West  
Derek Nolan - Midwest  
Kevin Ziemba - East

## **Eligibility of Contestants**

Each contestant must be a student in (1) a Land Grant University with an Agricultural College in the United States, or (2) an Agricultural College of corresponding rank in the Dominion of Canada, (3) an institution international or domestic offering a full degree in agriculture with major emphasis in dairy production in a Division of Dairy or Animal Sciences whose application has been approved by the American Dairy Science Association through the Dairy Cattle Judging Committee of its Production Division.

A contestant must be enrolled in a program of study normally requiring four or more academic years for a baccalaureate degree and must be officially recognized by their home institution as having achieved at least sophomore status.

A student is **ineligible** to be a Contestant if he/she has (1) competed in the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, or (2) been an official judge of dairy cattle at a fair or show, or (3) taught dairy judging in a college or secondary school, or (4) completed requirements for a college degree normally requiring at least four years, or (5) been an employee or paid consultant of a breed organization, breeding service or similar unit, for which his/her duties include evaluation of dairy cattle for type (excluding internships).

If the eligibility of any student is protested, such protest may be made in writing at ringside the day of the contest before the contest begins. The protest must be accompanied by a check for \$25, which will be returned if the protest is sustained. In case the protest is not sustained, the \$25 shall be forfeited. Substitutions may be made during contest registration.

## **Determination of Ratings**

Ratings shall be based upon a possible score of 50-points for each class place and 50-points for each set of reasons. Since there are 12 classes to be placed and six (6) sets of reasons given, there will be a possible total score of 900-points per Contestant.

The team rankings for each breed shall be determined by totaling the score on placings and reasons for each of the three team members for that breed. In like manner, the team ranking for all breeds shall be determined by combining the grades of the three members of each of the seven breeds in contest.

Contest ties will be broken as follows:

1. Team breed ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher team, same breed, reasons score
  - B. Higher team, overall reasons score
  - C. Higher team, overall score
  - D. Lower team, total placings score in reasons classes
  - E. Team with the most perfect placing scores
  - F. Coin flip
2. Individual breed ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, same breed reasons score
  - B. Higher individual, overall reasons scores
  - C. Higher individual, overall score
  - D. Lower individual, total placings score in reasons classes
  - E. Individual with the most perfect placing scores
  - F. Coin flip
3. Individual overall placing-only ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, total reasons score
  - B. Individual with the more perfect placing scores
  - D. Coin flip
4. Individual overall reasons ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, overall score
  - B. Highest single breed reasons score, any breed
  - C. Lower individual, total placings score in reasons classes
  - D. Individual with the most perfect placings scores
  - E. Coin Flip
5. Team overall reasons ties will be broken on;
  - A. Higher team, overall score
  - B. Lower team, total placings score in reasons classes
  - C. Team with the most perfect placing scores
  - D. Coin flip
6. Individual overall ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher individual, total reasons score
  - B. Lower individual, total placing score in reasons classes
  - C. Individual with the most perfect placing scores
  - D. Coin flip
7. Team overall ties will be broken on:
  - A. Higher team, total reasons score
  - B. Lower Team, total placing score in reasons classes
  - C. Team with most perfect placings score
  - D. Coin Flip

## KILDEE SCHOLARSHIP - GOVERNING RULES

1. The Top 25 contestants in one of the past three National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contests are eligible to apply for up to two \$3,000 scholarships.
2. Students may apply for the scholarship in their junior or senior year of college. These scholarships are to be used for advanced study related to the dairy industry (production agriculture, manufacturing, marketing, agricultural law, business, veterinary medicine and environmental sciences) at the school of their choice.
3. The scholarship will be paid in two installments. The recipient must submit an official transcript following their first year of graduate study to the Executive Director to receive the final payment.
4. Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Dairy Shrine Awards Banquet.

