

EXPO

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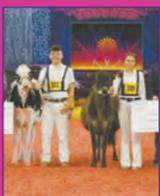
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#WDE24

DAILY EDITION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Young fitters showcase their skills

Pennsylvania youth wins Michael Heath Overall Fitting Award

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN
Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — When the clippers stopped in the Sale Pavilion Sept. 28, signaling the end of the World Dairy Expo Youth Fitting Contest, Kyle Welk of Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania, rose to the top for judges Dawson Nickels and Josh Karn.

Welk topped the senior male division before being named the top fitter in Saturday's contest. For the feat, he was awarded the Michael Heath Overall Youth Fitting Award, in memory of the late Michael Heath.

Forty aspiring young dairy cattle fitters took part in the contest, which was first held in 2010. Nickels was charged with placing the senior division, while Karn handled the evaluation duties in the intermediate division.

"I was blown away by not only the number of participants, but by the great support they had from spectators," said Nickels, who is the business development manager for MilkSource, fits for Budjon Farms and raises select embryo calves on the side. "The quality was phenomenal. From top to



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Kyle Welk (center) is named the recipient of the Michael Heath Overall Youth Fitting Award Sept. 28 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Pictured (from left) are award sponsors Katie Shultz and Kelly Barbee, Kyle Welk, and judges Dawson Nickels and Josh Karn. Welk was named the top fitter from 40 participants in the Youth Fitting Contest.

bottom, it was just incredible." Karn, who milks 90 cows at Karnview Farms in addition to fitting agreed with Nickels.

"It's a great thing for the industry, to have so many kids wanting to clip," Karn said. "Good fitters are getting hard to find, but the quality in the contest was really good."

Welk, 20, was overwhelmed by his selection as the top fitter.

"It means a lot to me, that

I'm reaching and accomplishing some of my goals as a fitter," Welk said.

Welk sorted himself to the top, easily, for Nickels and Karn.

"Kyle did such a nice job," Nickels said. "His attention to detail was flawless."

Welk, who is fitting full-time, began clipping in earnest about four years ago. He credits Michael Bosley as a mentor who began to help him build

his confidence.

"Michael was fitting my calves in 4-H for me before I ever picked up a set of clippers," Welk said. "He encouraged me to start and helped me along."

Welk said that is the best advice he can give an aspiring fitter.

Turn to YOUTH FITTING
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Building the future

Hellenbrand Lasting Legacy grows industry leaders

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN
Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — While it was not his first world, the late Mike Hellenbrand became passionate about the world of showing dairy cattle, and about World Dairy Expo. After his untimely death in 2020, his wife, Linda, and a group of their friends chose to commemorate his memory by establishing the Hellenbrand Lasting Legacy Award (HLLA).

"Mike loved cattle and he loved kids," said Bryan Voegeli, a long-time friend and member of the HLLA board of directors. "Of all the things he did for our industry, the greatest was what he did for the youth."

Giving youth the opportunity to experience the colored shavings, on the halter of a great heifer was a passion of Hellenbrand, Voegeli said.

That passion became the foundation upon which the



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Logan Harbaugh (left) and the late Mike Hellenbrand pose for a photo with Millborne HP Fabulous-ETV, Oct. 3, 2019, at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Hellenbrand had a passion for providing calves for youth to show on the colored shavings.

HLLA was built.

Since its inception, three youth have been awarded the opportunity to own daughters of past Expo champions. The

fourth calf will be awarded early next year. She is a daughter of the 2022 International Red & White Show Grand Champion, Ms Ransom-Rail Beth-Red-ET,

donated by MilkSource Genetics, Ransom-Rail and Laurie Fischer.

Applicants must be high-school aged. They are not required to live on a farm, but they must provide information about the farm where the animal will be housed, detailing their relationship with the farm, and the responsibilities they have there.

"We want to see evidence that the applicant has sufficient knowledge to know what they're getting, and some 4-H and FFA experience," said HLLA board member Dr. Sheila McGuirk. "We want this to be a unique opportunity for the winner to get to Expo, to show on the colored shavings, that they might not have otherwise gotten."

A key piece of the application process is the selection of a mentor.

"We want them to choose a mentor they'll have repeated close contact with, and we prefer the mentor not be a parent,"

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TODAY IN THE TANBARK

The Tanbark, located in the Arena Building, is a full-service bar and restaurant that serves as the meeting place for attendees and exhibitors. Join us for a meal, Happy Hour, a nightly reception or an industry-hosted event!

11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Lunch

Monday - Friday

11 A.M. - CLOSE

Bar

Monday - Friday

HAPPY HOUR - 4 P.M. - 6 P.M.

Tuesday - Thursday

Join fellow attendees and exhibitors in The Tanbark for Happy Hour.

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WDE DAIRY SHOW & SALE SCHEDULE

The breed shows at World Dairy Expo are held in the Coliseum. Sale locations are noted below. For a complete schedule, download the WDE mobile event app or visit worlddairyexpo.com.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

7 a.m. International Jersey Show - Heifers

10 a.m. International Ayrshire Show

1:30 p.m. International Milking Shorthorn Show - Heifers

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

7 a.m. International Jersey Show - Cows/Groups

7 a.m. International Milking Shorthorn Show - Cows/Groups

2:30 p.m. International Brown Swiss Show - Heifers

6 p.m. Top of the World Jersey Sale (The Tanbark)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

7 a.m. International Brown Swiss Show - Cows/Groups

7 a.m. International Guernsey Show - Heifers

2 p.m. International Red & White Show - Heifers

3 p.m. World Premier Brown Swiss Sale (Sale Pavilion)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

7 a.m. International Red & White Show - Cows/Groups

7 a.m. International Guernsey Show - Cows/Groups

1:30 p.m. International Holstein Show - Heifers

6 p.m. World Classic 2024 (The Tanbark)

8:30 p.m. Supreme Champion of the Heifer Show Selection

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

7 a.m. International Holstein Show - Cows/Groups

4 p.m. Parade of Champions and Selection of Supreme Champions

*Schedule subject to change.

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McGuirk said. “We ask the mentor to spell out their plan — what their interactions will be, what strengths they bring to that applicant and how to best support the applicant’s strengths and weaknesses. The three winning applicants thus far have had exceptional mentors.”

The 2024 HLLA winner, Wesley Winch of Fennimore, is looking forward to stepping on the colored shavings with Top Acres Winsome-ETV, the Brown Swiss winter calf he received. Winch and Winsome have had a successful summer, working with mentor Ryan Weigel. Winsome is a daughter of Top Acres Supreme Wizard-ET, the 2017 International Brown Swiss Show Grand Champion.

The original HLLA winner, Alison Gartman of Sheboygan, landed a third-place finish, a best udder ribbon and was the top junior exhibitor in the Yearling Heifer in Milk class at last year’s International Guernsey Show with Springhill TK Jazprit-ETV, the calf she was given in 2022.

Jazprit is a daughter of the 2017 International Guernsey Show Grand Champion, Springhill Mentor Jazzy-ET. Gartman has begun to utilize Jazprit’s pedigree, making her first public sale consignment to this year’s National Guernsey Convention Sale, selling an embryo lot from Jazprit.

Nicole Arrowsmith of Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania, was given Budjon-Vail Rynlds Kiwi as the 2023 HLLA winner.

“Being selected for this was very emotional, probably one of the coolest things that will ever happen to me,” Arrowsmith said. “It’s opened doors and exposed me to a whole new network of people and taken me beyond my Jersey world. Everyone on the board is so sup-



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Nicole Arrowsmith (center) is presented with the Hellenbrand Lasting Legacy Award by her mentor Terri Packard (left) and Hellenbrand Lasting Legacy board member Dr. Sheila McGuirk (right) April 14, 2023, in Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania. Arrowsmith is holding Budjon-Vail Rynlds Kiwi, the Ayrshire calf she was awarded in 2023.

DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR
Wesley Winch puts the finishing touches on his Brown Swiss Winter Calf Aug. 17 at the Wisconsin Brown Swiss State Show in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Winch was given the calf, Top-Acres Winsome-ETV, as the winner of the 2024 Hellenbrand Lasting Legacy Award.

portive and involved, which is so fun. Dr. McGuirk has become a great mentor, as well.”

Kiwi, a daughter of the 2021 International Ayrshire Show Grand Champion, Marilie Gentleman Karmina, placed fourth and was the second junior-owned entry in the Fall Heifer Calf class at last year’s Expo. Having already been named the junior show junior champion at the National Ayrshire Summer Spectacular Show, Arrowsmith is looking forward to Kiwi’s return trip to Expo.

Selecting Terri Packard as a mentor was an easy choice for Arrowsmith.

“Terri is a great role model — I’ve grown up watching her in the showring,” Arrowsmith

said. “She is someone I have always admired and wanted to learn from. She has a lot of knowledge to share.”

Although she has grown up showing her family’s Jerseys, Arrowsmith said her time spent preparing Kiwi has afforded her new skills.

“I’ve never really been the one making the decisions in our show program,” Arrowsmith said. “Working with my family and Terri this year, I have learned so much about how to develop a good heifer into a great heifer.”

Like Gartman, Arrowsmith has plans to begin marketing from Kiwi’s high-powered pedigree.

“I want to start doing some



IVF (in-vitro fertilization) work to make calves and embryos,” Arrowsmith said. “Since Karmina is gone now, Kiwi has even more value.”

For McGuirk, the growth she has watched in each of the winners is her reward, and she believes Hellenbrand would approve of the youth showing

calves in memory of him.

“It didn’t matter what he did, Mike always wanted to do it better,” McGuirk said. “I think we’re doing that — making these young people better prepared to be leaders in our industry, and they are having amazing experiences.”

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DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Kyle Welk (right) is the winner of the senior male division of the Youth Fitting Contest Sept. 28 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Pictured (from left) are judge Dawson Nickels, Evan Cooper, Wesley Brantner, Payton Calvert, Kolby Stoltzfus and Kyle Welk.

“Pay attention to the people who are the experts — watch what they’re doing,” Welk said. “Confidence will come with lots of practice.”

Alexis Blankenberg, a 19-year-old University of Wisconsin-Platteville student, earned top honors in the senior female division.

“I’m a perfectionist when it comes to clipping,” said Blankenberg, who won the intermediate female contest in 2021. “I have a hard time letting good enough, be good enough.”

Since her first foray into the fitting contest, Blankenberg said she has spent a lot of time working on achieving the results she wants when blending belly hair.

“I’m still working to perfect my tops to the level I want,” Blankenberg said. “Making Swiss heifers look sharp is challenging. I admire the look Matt Sloan achieves, and that look is my goal.”

The winner of the intermediate male division was Jayse Pudwill, 16, of Da-

kota, Illinois. Pudwill has been clipping for about four years. This year marked his second time entering the Youth Fitting Contest.

“I like seeing how much I can change an animal by carving out their topline,” Pudwill said. “Belly hair is the area I find the most challenging.”

Pudwill enjoys being at Expo, creating a network of friends and mentors.

“Garrett Schmidt and Grayson Gahring have helped me a lot in getting started,” Pudwill said. “They have helped me with the areas I need to work on, showing me how I can improve.”

For the second year in a row, Kayla Trustem, 16, of Evansville, Wisconsin, took first-place honors in the intermediate female division of the contest.

“Clipping is very calming for me,” Trustem said. “It takes me to a different zone. I’m able to block out everything around me and really focus in on what I’m doing.”

Trustem has been learning to clip at the side of Matt Sloan and Nick Sar-



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Alexis Blankenberg (second from right) is the winner of the senior female division of the Youth Fitting Contest Sept. 28 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Pictured (from left) are Kayla Visser, Hannah Gingerich, Olivia Jennrich, Jamie Gibbs, Alexis Blankenberg and judge Dawson Nickels.

backer, whom she credits with encouraging her to become passionate about the art of fitting and to persevere through the challenges.

“Blending the belly hair is an area that I spend a lot of time working on,” Trustem said. “I also want to work on making my tops straighter, more crisp.”

Fitting is the gateway for Trustem to enjoy the experience of exhibiting at Expo.

“There is always someone new to meet,” Trustem said. “It’s a great place to connect with others who share your passion.”

The art of fitting and presentation are always evolving, Welk said.

“That is what I enjoy about the industry, about clipping,” Welk said. “There is always something new to learn, you never know everything — it’s always changing.”

Senior Males

1. Kyle Welk, Peach Bottom, Pa.
2. Kolby Stoltzfus, East Earl, Pa.

3. Payton Calvert, Cuba City, Wis.
4. Wesley Brantner, Saegertown, Pa.
5. Evan Cooper, New Braintree, Mass.

Senior Females

1. Alexis Blankenberg, Platteville, Wis.
2. Jamie Gibbs, Rollingstone, Minn.
3. Olivia Jennrich, Jefferson, Wis.
4. Hannah Gingerich, Shippensburg, Pa.
5. Kayla Visser, Hutchinson, Minn.

Intermediate Males

1. Jayse Pudwill, Dakota, Ill.
2. Braeden Bechel, Ellsworth, Wis.
3. Devin Coleman, Brantford, Ont.
4. Benny Uhe, Evansville, Wis.
5. Ethan Staudinger, Reedsville, Wis.

Intermediate Females

1. Kayla Trustem, Evansville, Wis.
2. Kamrie Mauer, Brownton, Minn.
3. Jazlynn Olson, Galesville, Wis.
4. Emma Roeben, Portsmouth, R.I.

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5	40	36
6	39	35
7	38	34
8	37	33
9	36	32
10	35	31
11	34	30
12	33	29
13	32	28
14	31	27
15	30	26
16	29	25
17	28	24

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YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



Alaina Dinderman
Orangeville, Illinois

Tell us about your tie to the industry. Both of my parents grew up on a dairy farm and took over my grandparents' farm when I was born. I have been showing pretty much ever since I could walk. I am also involved in the Guernsey and Holstein youth associations. I have done quiz bowl at the national Holstein and Guernsey conventions and jeopardy at the Holstein convention. In 2023, I was the captain of the Illinois junior team that came home from the convention as National Dairy Bowl Champions. I am currently serving my third term as president of the American Guernsey Youth Association.

What was your first impression of World Dairy Expo? I have come every year since I was born. As a young child, I remember that it was so big it was kind of scary, but also cool at the same time.

How many years have you attended WDE? Every year since I was born, so 16 due to COVID year.

Tell us about the heifer/cow you are showing at WDE? I am showing Hi-Guern-View Asias Africa EX-93 and Hi-Guern-View Drone Antigua. Africa's sire is Loyal Acres YB Bucky. This year will be my fifth time showing Africa on the colored shavings and she will be in the Lifetime Production Cow class. In 2022, she was Senior and Grand Champion of the International Junior Guernsey Show. In 2023, she was Senior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of the Junior Show. Antigua is a Summer Junior Two-Year-Old sired by Hi-Guern-View Levi Drone. Her granddam is Africa. At the Illinois State Fair this year, she was Reserve Grand Champion of the open and junior shows.

What did you do to prepare for WDE? To prepare for Expo I will practice leading them and rinse them with cold water, along with adjusting their diets.

What is the most valuable thing you learned by attending WDE? I would say the most valuable thing I have learned is all the careers within the industry and getting to explore colleges a little bit too.

Who is a mentor to you in the dairy industry? Oh my goodness, this is a hard one. I have so many people I look up to in the industry. I think the one I want to mention is Riley Zettle. I grew up watching him participate in dairy quiz bowl and show with my family. When I was younger, I knew I wanted to be as good as him at quiz bowl. He is always there supporting me. He is also a big help at home on the farm when our family is busy.

Besides exhibiting, what is the highlight of WDE? I would say the highlight is getting to eat a lot of ice cream, chocolate shakes and grilled cheese.

Future Plans? My future plans are to study dairy or animal science on the pre-vet track. I have not decided on what college yet, but it will most likely be one of the following: the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, UW-Platteville, Virginia Tech, Iowa State University or the University of Illinois.



Ella Raatz
Colby, Wisconsin

Tell us about your tie to the industry. My connection to the dairy industry started a little differently than most kids. I started at the age of 5 when I borrowed a Brown Swiss calf from a local farm and took her to the Clark County Little Britches show. After that, I started leasing animals to show in the Clark County open show and eventually junior show. In 2021, I was able to purchase my first registered Holstein calf with the help of two FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience grants. Today, all my animals are now housed at Heeg Bros Dairy LLC, located about 5 miles from my house. I currently own five registered Holsteins, three Jerseys and one Guernsey with my younger brother.

What was your first impression of WDE? My first impression of World Dairy Expo was one of amazement. I knew someday that I wanted to be able to walk on the colored shavings with an animal of my own. Exhibiting at my first Expo in 2021 was something I will never forget. I will admit I was a little intimidated and scared because I just had one heifer, and I knew there would be people and animals from all over North America attending and exhibiting. After I got those nerves out, I soaked in every moment I could and knew I wanted to come back every year I could, whether that meant exhibiting or coming to watch.

How many years have you attended WDE? My first year attending World Dairy Expo was in 2017 when I was 7 years old. I then attended again in 2019 with my FFA chapter and exhibited for the first time in 2021. Every year since then, I have exhibited one heifer at World Dairy Expo. While anyone can show there, my family believes your animal should earn their way to be there. My first year I knew this might be my one and only time showing there. But the following year I had another good heifer I brought back. She earned the title of honorable mention Junior All-American Fall Yearling and received an All-American nomination also. It looked like I would be sitting this year's show out and just be on the sidelines, but then I won a calf through the Wisconsin Guernsey Association. She has been doing well in the showing, so I plan to exhibit her this year.

Tell us about the animal(s) you are showing at WDE. The heifer that I am exhibiting is a Guernsey winter calf named Empire Breezy Sunset-ET. She is a James Dean and has had six sisters — two full and four maternal — nominated All-American. Earlier this spring, the Wisconsin Guernsey Association had an essay contest, and the winner would receive a calf. After knowing I would not have much to show this year, I decided to give it a shot and wrote an essay. On my birthday, I got the call that I was the winner and would be receiving a Guernsey calf. I was so excited and thankful to be able to get involved in a breed that I have grown fond of over the past few years.

Turn to Q&A | Page 7



Isaac Folts
North Collins, New York

Tell us about your tie to the industry. I live on my family's 120-cow dairy farm in North Collins, New York. The cows are milked with two Lely robotic milking machines. We raise our own feed and all our heifers. On the farm I play an active role in daily chores, vaccinating and treating sick cows. I also have my own genetics barn and herd that I have been operating for four years. It has been a successful venture, breeding All-American and All-Canadian nominations and exhibiting champions at national shows, including the Grand Champion of the 2021 International Junior Holstein Show, Tusc-Vu Avalanche Cali EX-95.

Genetics have been a passion of mine since my youngest days. I am fortunate to have supportive parents who have trusted me with our herd's genetics. I started making our herd's genetics decisions at the age of 8. Some decisions I made early failed, but some were successful. Those years have added up to my experience and knowledge of genetics. I also took a breeding class and do the majority of the breeding technician work on the farm.

What was your first impression of WDE? The first time I showed at Expo was 2017. I exhibited Cali as a fall calf. That year she was 10th in the International Junior Holstein show, and I was ecstatic. I have had an amazing journey with Cali, which has helped shape me into the individual I am today. I remember that first trip. Everything was amazing — walking around the barns at Expo and being blown away by all the famous cows, seeing them in person for the first time, watching the shows in awe, and all of the incredible technology featured in the Trade Show. After that trip to Expo, I was determined to better myself so I could make a return.

How many years have you attended WDE? I have attended Expo for five years. The first few years we tied with Reyncrest Farm, where I learned a lot and was fortunate to have their mentorship. We have brought our own string to Expo since 2021.

Tell us about the heifer/cow you are showing at WDE? For Expo this year I will be taking approximately eight head of my own. I have some exciting heifers and cows, including Cali. Our string will consist of approximately 15 head, including animals belonging to family and friends.

What did you do to prepare for WDE? We work non-stop preparing for Expo, and working towards our Expo goals never ends. My family and I are extremely passionate about our show cows, working with them every day to develop them, with the goal of improving them one day at a time. As soon as Expo ends, we are working toward next year's show. Preparing for WDE takes a ton of work, discipline, determination and patience.

What is the most valuable thing you learned by attending WDE? The most valuable thing I learned by attending Expo is how to compete. I learned that there are a ton of people out there with the same goals as me, who also work extremely hard for their goals, making it extremely competitive at Expo. This taught me that I have to work as hard as humanly possible, and then two times harder to become a successful competitor. World Dairy Expo has taught me the great value of friendly competition, as it helps improve us and the industry we love.

Who is a mentor to you in the dairy industry? I have many mentors in the dairy industry, but first and foremost would be my parents. They have always been great supporters of mine, and they have given me an example of how to work hard, progress and help others along the way. Other great mentors of mine would include Anthony Crothers, the Reynolds family, Katie Coyne, Joe Nash, Jason Lloyd and Ryan Lawton. They have been extremely supportive of me, and I have learned a lot from them.

Besides exhibiting, what is the highlight of WDE? Besides exhibiting, a highlight of WDE is being able to appreciate all the hard work put into the cows, and simply admire great cows. It is awesome after a year's worth of hard work to be able to admire amazing cows.

Future Plans? My future career plan after receiving my dairy science degree from Cornell is to take over the family business. I have always been passionate about the dairy industry and cows. I am extremely competitive, always looking for ways I can improve the industry, the cows and the family farm. I would use the lessons learned from Cornell to adapt to the farm and maximize potential. I would continue to focus on the genetics barn. Operating the business has been a learning curve with multiple challenges and keeping track of the quickly evolving genetics around the world. The challenges coming at me quickly and my need to make progress caused me to become an avid learner, focusing on what successful businessmen do to overcome hurdles. I made numerous private sales and have had two successful tag sales. It was a dream come true to have such successful sales. There is so much potential in the dairy industry, I believe the sky is the limit. With my passion, work ethic and lessons learned from higher education, I may propel the family farm to its greatest potential.



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BY STACEY SMART
Staff Writer

RICHMOND, Quebec — Savannah Crack has had a halter in her hands for as long as she can remember. Starting as a pee-wee showman at her local fair, the 22-year-old has accomplished nearly everything a junior exhibitor can.

"It takes time, passion and dedication," Crack said. "You can't get anywhere if you don't put the work in."

Last year, Crack earned the highest recognition a junior exhibitor can attain when she was named the 19th Merle Howard Award winner at World Dairy Expo. Crack is the first Canadian to win the award, which is given in honor of Merle Howard — a respected dairy industry pioneer and winner of the 1954 Klussendorf Award.

"I was not expecting it at all," Crack said. "My dad had convinced me to go down to the ring to watch the last cow from our pack parade around the ring. Little did I know they started talking about a woman from Quebec, and

my name was called. I was very honored."

Crack farms with her dad, David, and her brother, Kolton, on their family farm, Crackholm Holsteins, in Richmond, Quebec. The Cracks built a freestall set up in 2018 and milk 60 cows in a parallel parlor.

"We are a fourth-generation farm and believe in breeding and developing a profitable dairy cow," Crack said. "It was my grandfather who switched us from Jerseys to Holsteins many years ago."

Also in 2023, Crack was the first recipient of the Michael Heath Overall Youth Fitting Award when she topped the Youth Fitting Contest after winning the senior female division.

"Winning the two big titles last year at Expo was my proudest moment," Crack said.

Crack also won top showman honors at the Quebec Classique in 2023, which Crack said is the provincial youth show for Quebec.

Crack found success in the showing at World Dairy Expo in her younger years as well. In 2015 and 2016 she won back-to-back

showmanship titles, taking first in the junior showmanship and intermediate showmanship classes, respectively.

Learning from her father, Crack said her dad has been her mentor in dairy since day one.

"He taught me everything, from eyeing out the good calves and cows to learning and improving my showmanship skills to clipping and getting ready for the ring," she said.

Crack's family has stood in the spotlight at Expo multiple times, such as in 2016 when Crackholm Holsteins had the Reserve Intermediate Champion, Winterbay Dude Guinness. Another influential cow in the family's Holstein herd was Dreane Astre Inksou. Purchased by the Cracks in 1997, Inksou was the Global Cow of the Year in 2006 and the first Canadian cow to score EX-96.

For Crack, technology has been instrumental in helping share good news with others in the industry.

"When something successful occurs, Facebook helps spread the word," she said.

Crack's future plans include running the family farm with her brother. Following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather, Crack said she would also



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Savannah Crack holds the Merle Howard Award, the highest recognition a junior exhibitor can attain, at the 2023 World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Crack is the first Canadian to win the award, which is given in honor of Merle Howard — a respected dairy industry pioneer and winner of the 1954 Klussendorf Award.

like to dabble in judging.

With her junior show career now in the rearview mirror, Crack moves up to the open show at this year's World Dairy Expo. For dairy youth striving to achieve similar success, details make all the difference.

"Pay attention to detail, and keep on learning," Crack said. "It's all about the little things — that's what differentiates you from the others. And never let yourself feel like this is all you can learn. We learn every day, and times are always changing."

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Continued from Q&A | Page 5

What did you do to prepare for WDE? I have a variety of different things I do to prepare for World Dairy Expo. I have made feeding decisions for my heifer and help make sure she is receiving the correct hay and feed to keep her growing but not put on too much weight. I go out to the farm almost every night to feed hay, keep the pens clean and walk and rinse her topline to grow nice hair. I have helped coordinate the supplies that we will be taking to Expo and have also had to coordinate missing school with my teachers, making sure that they know I will be gone and keeping up with all of the assignments that I will be missing.

What is the most valuable thing you learned by attending WDE? The most valuable thing I learned attending World Dairy Expo is the value of making connections with people from all across the world. The dairy industry is one huge family, and everyone is always willing to jump in and help each other and offer advice. I have made so many new friends and valuable connections that I will forever be grateful for. I have also learned the value of hard work and to push yourself out of your comfort zone. I have learned that my hard work will pay off in my future career aspirations.

Who is a mentor to you in the dairy industry? I would say I have a team of mentors in the dairy industry, but one member of that team is Kathleen O'Keefe. My mom, who also did not grow up on a dairy farm, showed dairy cattle with Kathleen and her family when she was my age, and I have grown very close with Kathleen over my years of showing dairy cattle. Kathleen always has a smile on her face, and I know she is always just a phone call or text away when I need some advice on something. She has helped me with many things along my journey including breeding decisions and has even allowed me to help out with her business, Cowsmopolitan, allowing me to see that side of the dairy industry. She has inspired me to always do my best and is always pushing me to try new things. But most importantly she has taught me to always do what's best for the animal and to put the animal's well-being first.

Besides exhibiting, what is the highlight of WDE? Other than exhibiting, another highlight at World Dairy Expo is seeing all the cattle and people come together for one week in the state that I call home. I think that it is so amazing to watch so many people come together because they all have the same interest as me — the dairy industry. Getting to catch up with some of my friends and make new ones is a highlight. Getting to watch all the animals grace the colored shavings and see who will be named Supreme Champion is another highlight.

Future plans? I am a senior at Colby High School. I am serving as president of the Colby FFA Chapter. After graduation, I hope to attend the University of Wisconsin-River Falls or UW-Madison and major in dairy science with a minor in ag business or ag communications. After college, I hope to get a job in the dairy industry, be that on the social media side or the genetics side. I also hope to still be involved with all the organizations that I am currently involved with.



Aubree Topp
Botkins, Ohio

Tell us about your tie to the industry. My tie to the dairy industry started at a young age when I followed my dad around the farm while he milked, fed calves and did chores. Our farm is Topp-View-PC, where we raise all breeds and milk 40 cows. Growing up, this industry has been a part of my life. As I have gotten older, I realize that I have my own passion and love for it. I have been involved in the professional development side of the industry by serving as Ohio Holstein queen and now as a representative for the National Junior Advisory Committee of Holstein Association USA.

What was your first impression of WDE? It was nothing short of incredible. I was in fifth grade when I first got to go to World Dairy Expo. I was 10 when I first got to show my Holstein Spring Calf, Topp-View Sid Layla, on the gold shavings that year. Layla was 15th in the junior show and 19th in the open show. It's such an awesome experience to be able to see the colored shavings, all the exceptional cattle and all the dairy producers.

How many years have you attended WDE? This year will be my eighth year attending and showing at World Dairy Expo.

Tell us about the heifer/cow you are showing at WDE? This year I plan on showing two cows and one heifer at Expo. I plan on showing my Four-Year-Old Milking Shorthorn, sired by Greek. She was Grand Champion of the junior and open shows at the Ohio State Fair and last year at Expo she was Intermediate Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of the International Junior Milking Shorthorn Show. I plan on showing my Junior Two-Year-Old Red & White Holstein, sired by Moovin. She was Intermediate Champion of the Mid-East Summer National Red & White Show and Reserve Grand Champion of the junior and open Red & White shows at the Ohio State Fair. I also plan on showing my Holstein Winter Calf, sired by Sidekick. She was Junior Champion at the Ohio State Fair 4-H Show and Reserve Junior Champion of the Mid-East Summer National Junior Show.

What did you do to prepare for WDE? To prepare for Expo I rinse my animals twice a day — morning and night — to ensure they have healthy and thick hair. I also walk my animals once a day in the yard in front of our show barn. My show animals are on a different diet before Expo as well.

What is the most valuable thing you learned by attending WDE? One thing I have learned by attending Expo is that while the purple banners are the end goal, there is always an underlying one I need to remind myself about occasionally. World Dairy Expo is called the "big dance" for a reason. Even if I don't go home with a blue neck medallion or banner, I know that I have been part of raising good quality animals that I can be proud of.

Who is a mentor to you in the dairy industry? There are many people in the dairy industry who are great mentors, but my biggest mentor is my dad, Phillip Topp. My dad has taught me almost everything I know about cows, such as how to show cows, what kind of feed they need, how to milk and much more. We have a relationship where we do not always need words to communicate. We just get each other.

Besides exhibiting, what is the highlight of WDE? Being able to see all my friends in the dairy industry who live across the country, whom I might only see one other time during the year at the National Holstein Convention.

Future Plans? This fall I am enrolled at Northeast Iowa Community College and will transfer to a four-year university upon completing two years at NICC. My goal is to earn a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications or a similar field and continue to work in the dairy industry for my professional career.

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A great cowman, a better person

The legacy of Michael Heath

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN
Staff Writer

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Genuine, passionate, enthusiastic, determined, dedicated, honest, caring, encouraging, incredible and legendary — all adjectives used to describe Michael Heath.

“Michael was always honest with people,” said his father, Billy Heath. “When he started in the cow business, I told him, ‘Be honest, it won’t take people long to figure out if you aren’t. Once you get the title of being dishonest, it never leaves you.’ He remembered that.”

Michael became a legend in the business, but those who knew him best say he did not see himself that way.

“Michael was passionate about everything he did,” said his friend, Kelly Barbee. “But he didn’t realize the impact — the almost iconic status — he had in the industry. He saw himself as just another Jersey breeder.”

Michael passed away March 23, 2023, after suffering injuries in an accident on his family’s farm, near Westminster.

At World Dairy Expo, Michael’s memory will be honored with the presentation of the Michael Heath Overall Fitter Award to the top competitor in the Youth Fitting Contest. Rosettes presented to the best bred and owned entries in the International Jersey Show will pay tribute to Michael’s legacy in the breed.

“Everyone was distraught after the accident, then I came to the realization — what was I doing, feeling sorry for Michael?” Kelly said. “He’s what everybody wants to be. He’s never actually

worked a day in his life — he has done exactly what he loves, and he died doing what he loved. How many of us can say that? What better life to live, than that?”

Michael was born cow-crazy, his parents said.

“Billy was a technician for Curtiss when Michael was little, he rode with Billy a lot, seeing all kinds of cows,” said Michael’s mother Betty Heath. “When he got older, he would go looking at cows with his Uncle Wayne. He said Wayne was the one who taught him to go roading.”

From a young age, Michael was driven to soak up knowledge, his family said.

“His first year showing in Louisville, we’d have to get him from the Canadian aisle all the time,” Betty said. “We’d apologize for him bothering them, but they seemed happy to answer his questions. He said they always won everything, he wanted to see what they did to win.”

That desire to learn carried over to judging.

Allen Stiles recalled judging cows with his nephew during milking.

“He would ask me to pick classes for him to judge,” Allen said. “We’d talk about those cows. Then my dad would come in the barn and wonder why I wasn’t done milking yet. That got Michael banned from the barn while I was milking for a couple of months.”

Those milking-time classes served Michael well. He made the competitive Maryland State 4-H Dairy Judging team in 1980, his first year as a senior.

“He was beyond his

years with his enthusiasm, discipline and perseverance,” said Bonnie Remsberg, who coached Michael on the judging team. “He would give reasons with such conviction. His parents asked me if I thought he was ready. Absolutely, he was.”

Michael placed 11th overall in the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest that year. He was second individual in Brown Swiss, while his team won the breed.

That Expo judging appearance at age 15 ended Michael’s 4-H dairy judging career but opened the door for him to try livestock judging. He made the state 4-H livestock judging team and judged livestock at Hawkeye Technical College, where he won a national barrow judging contest.

That enthusiasm is what first struck Callum McKinven.

“We had a group of Jerseys at the Big E; one day, here comes this kid from the judging contest, walking through the barns,” Callum said. “He started talking about the cows. He knew the pedigree of every cow — he knew our cows better than I did.”

Michael loved ‘roading,’ seeking the next great one.

“It’s easy to find a nice heifer, fitted up,” Allen said. “Michael could go out into the pasture and find one in her work clothes.”

Allen recalled one of Michael’s early roading trips to Canada, traveling with a friend.

“There was a Jersey farm Michael saw and asked about,” Allen said. “His friend said they didn’t have anything. Before he came home, Michael stopped and found Glenyle Jody’s Eleanor, the National Junior Champion in 1986.”

Michael later returned to that farm, purchasing Glenyle SJ Hetty, the dam of Heaths Imperial Helen and granddam of Pleasant Valley Primetime Heather — cows that would impact his career as a breeder.

“Selling Helen to Piedmont Jerseys in Canada gave Michael a start in marketing,” Allen said. “Michael was a top-flight fitter, but he didn’t want to be a fitter his entire life. Marketing became the next step.”

Michael’s personality shone while visiting farms.

“I enjoyed his interaction with the farmers,” Kelly said. “Michael liked talking to them about their cows and their breeding programs.”

Callum concurred.

“Farmers loved him,” Callum said. “He knew the pedigrees of their cows. They’d be shocked. I never knew anyone that knew pedigrees like Michael.”

That ability to recall served Michael well as a judge.

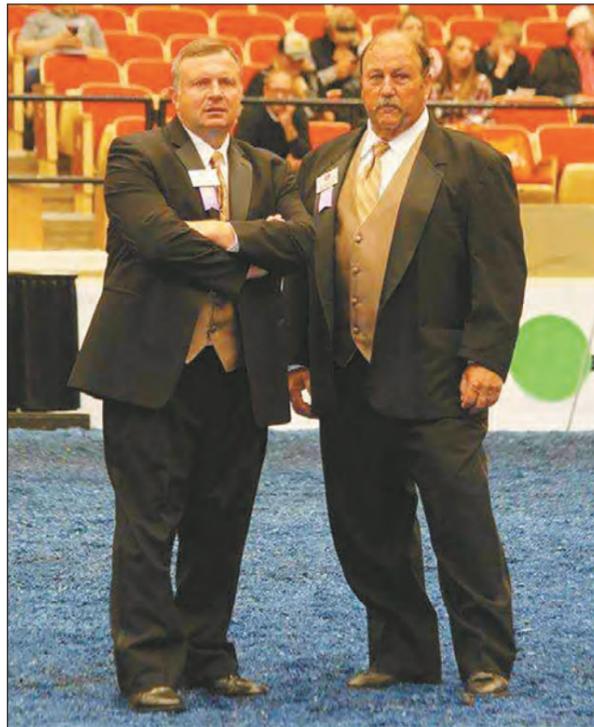


PHOTO COURTESY OF LEANNE STROUT

The late Michael Heath (left) and his uncle, Wayne Stiles, look over a class during the International Jersey Show Sept. 29, 2015, at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. 2015 marked the second time Heath officiated Expo’s Jersey show.

“He probably had a photographic memory — the way he knew cows, the history, the pedigrees,” Bonnie said.

The cows Michael owned — and the stories that went with them — were woven into the fabric of many partnerships and friendships. Among them were cows like Friendly Acres Linjet Murphy, Vandenberg Amadeo Gorgeous, Starmark Ad Hotstuff-Red, Kingstead Chief Adeen and MD-Delight Durham Atlee.

“Michael was passionate about placing cows in the right home for each one,” Kelly said.

Everything typically had a price — with one exception.

Ricky Allyn, a partner on Atlee, recounted the first time she was priced as a recently fresh two-year-old.

“Michael said, ‘Nope, we ain’t selling her right away — she’s got future written all over her,’” Ricky said. “That might be the only time Michael ever said those words. Any other time, they all had a price, they all got

sold.” For over 30 years Michael would apply his know-how to a variety of sales.

While buying and selling cattle became Michael’s bread and butter, he found joy in judging dairy cattle shows.

“He loved to judge, 100%,” said his partner and friend Nathan Thomas. “It didn’t matter if it was a county fair or Expo.”

Billy recalled taking Michael with him when he judged shows.

“Michael would tag along when I judged shows,” Billy said. “Afterwards he’d tell me which ones I’d placed wrong. He learned from watching, he had a good eye. He always placed them the way he saw them — it didn’t matter who was leading the cow or what she’d done before. People would get mad at him sometimes, but it didn’t bother him — he had the guts to do it.”

Michael’s presence as a top-level show judge did not surprise Bonnie.

“His enthusiasm, flair and energy were all so

genuine,” Bonnie said. “When he slapped his champions at Expo, it was genuine.”

Michael impacted registered dairy cattle breeding — particularly in the Jersey breed — in ways his friends and family say he did not even realize.

“He was like a figurehead of the breed,” Nathan said. “He was the guy everyone went to for advice, including me, especially on breeding cows and cow families.”

The verve Michael approached anything cow-related with, was echoed in the way he lived his life.

“Michael wasn’t always on top, but he never gave up,” Betty said. “He always helped the underdog. He felt comfortable with everybody.”

Mentoring young people was important to Michael.

“He would remember people had time for him, he wanted to give back,” Betty said. “His faith had a lot to do with that, he learned to love everybody. He was very loyal.”

Michael’s impact was immense, Kelly added.

“Forget about the cows, his most important legacy was the way he treated people,” Kelly said. “He always had time for everybody.”

With a catch in his voice, Nathan summed up his friend’s life.

“Michael was a genuine guy, one-of-a-kind, there’ll never be another like him,” Nathan said. “He was a great cowman, but at the end of the day, he was an even better person.”

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PHOTO BY/DAIRY STAR

The late Michael Heath (left) and his parents, Betty and Billy Heath, display an award at the Maryland State Fair in Timonium, Maryland. Michael Heath’s family and friends are sponsoring the Michael Heath Overall Fitter Award at the World Dairy Expo Youth Fitting Contest and rosettes for the best bred and owned entries at the International Jersey Show in his memory.

Poise and determination abound

Leuch, Trustem top Youth Showmanship Contest

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN
Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — The first round of white pants to grace the famed World Dairy Expo colored shavings were worn by the 445 eager young people vying for the title of the second Supreme Champion Showman, with the generous Annette Ostrom Memorial Showmanship awards awaiting the winners.

The final handshake of the day was given to Tyler Leuch, 17, of Pulaski, the winner of the senior division. The Reserve Supreme Champion went to 16-year-old Kayla Trustem of Evansville, the winner of the intermediate division.

Carla Stetzer of Alma Center was charged with sorting through the senior division while Kelli Cull of Lomira worked through the intermediate division. Brent Howe of Aylmer, Ontario, placed the junior division. Katie Coyne of Geneseo, New York, put the six top showmen through their paces during the selection of the eventual Supreme, with the three divisional judges casting unanimous ballots.

As he gave his reasons for the junior division, Howe said he found the contest impressive from top to bottom, and he imparted some advice to the young leadsmen.

“It’s not over until it’s over,” Howe said. “It doesn’t matter what show is going on, the rest of the week of World Dairy Expo. It’s not over until it’s over.”

For his winning efforts, Leuch received \$3,500 in prize money for being named Supreme Champion while Trustem received a prize of \$1,500 for capturing Reserve Supreme Champion honors. The three divisional winners were awarded \$1,500 each while those placing second earned a prize of \$750. The awards were all presented by the family of the late Annette Ostrom.

Placing second in the senior division was Katelyn Poitras of Brimfield, Massachusetts. Justin Brandel of Lake Mills placed second in the intermediate division.

In the junior division, Brady McConnell, 13, of Lancaster took the top honors, followed by Paige Zimmerman of Brodhead.

“This has been the best day of my life,” Leuch said after the contest. “A lot of hard work has gone into being here tonight.”

Leuch credits his cousins, Trent and Laura Styczynski, with providing the knowledge needed to achieve his dreams.

“Trent and Laura have taught me so much about the little details,” Leuch said. “They’ve given me the tools I need to reach my goals.”



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Tyler Leuch and Kayla Trustem are named the Supreme and Reserve Supreme Showmen, respectively, of the World Dairy Expo Youth Showmanship Contest Sept. 28, in Madison, Wisconsin. Pictured (from left) are judges Brent Howe and Carla Stetzer, award sponsor Jim Ostrom, Tyler Leuch, Kayla Trustem, award sponsor Tristen Ostrom, and judges Kelli Cull and Katie Coyne.

The win Saturday night was extra special for Leuch, who first grabbed hold of a lead strap at the age of three, taking part in peewee showmanship at the Shawano County Fair. The heifer he led throughout the contest is the second generation of a cow family he has started working with.

For Trustem, the handshake she received was one she did not expect.

“I really didn’t think things were going that well, my heifer wasn’t behaving as well as I had hoped,” Trustem said. “She was getting tired — she’d been in the fitting contest in the morning and three rounds of showmanship.”

Leaning on what she called the best advice Matt Sloan and Nick Sarbacker had given her, Trustem persevered through the final heat.

“Matt and Nick have always told me to never give up, to always stick to your game and believe in yourself,” Trustem said. “You put so much time and effort into everything, it’s always worth a little more.”

Trustem describes showmanship as the final piece of the puzzle in her mind.

“I just enjoy being out there, the connection that I have with my heifer,” Trustem said.

For McConnell, winning the junior contest and having the opportunity to compete for the overall championship was something he never imagined happening.

“When I first started showing, my dad taught me all the fundamentals,” McConnell said. “He’s always been there to support me and help me learn and get better.”

“Showing is so much fun because of all the people you meet and the friends you make,” McConnell said. “It makes the experience so much better when you find a great group of people.”

Cull was amazed at the level of competition she witnessed while sorting through the intermediate division and selecting the overall winner.

“Things really came down to the finest details — the shine, the feet

shined and painted, the fitting — every single little detail that makes the big picture,” Cull said. “The presentation of these animals was incredible, second to none really.”

Playing a role in the Youth Showmanship Contest as a judge was uplifting, Stetzer said, as she concluded the senior division.

“These kids are fantastic — not only their showmanship skills, they have great attitudes and are passionate about our business,” Stetzer said. “It re-instills my faith in humanity, to see all these great kids out here, the future of our industry.”

Junior (Ages 9-13):

1. Brady McConnell, Lancaster, Wis.
2. Paige Zimmerman, Brodhead, Wis.
3. Evelyn Wyse, Blanchardville, Wis.
4. Jaedyn McPherson, Grandview, Texas
5. Karlie Supplee, Chambersburg, Pa.
6. Madison Sarbacker, Whitewater, Wis.
7. Logan Vanevera, Cobleskill, N.Y.
8. William Zimmerman, Brodhead, Wis.
9. Chance Primmer, Bagley, Wis.
10. Alexis Arbaugh, Westminster, Md.
11. Royce Booth, Plymouth, Wis.
12. Molly Meinholz, DeForest, Wis.
13. Aiden Hodge, Janesville, Wis.
14. Eli Arp, Norwalk, Ohio
15. Kate Kasbergen, Tulare, Calif.

Intermediate (Ages 14-16):

1. Kayla Trustem, Evansville, Wis.
2. Justin Brandel, Lake Mills, Wis.
3. Ava Hebgen, Deforest, Wis.
4. Jadeyn Muetherthies, Lawler, Iowa
5. Cameron Ryan, Fond Du Lac, Wis.
6. Jacob Schimek, Pine Island, Minn.
7. Abby Meyer, Chilton, Wis.
8. Kaylee Jackson, Barron, Wis.
9. Alison Gartman, Sheboygan, Wis.
10. Taylor Lawrence, Brooklyn, Conn.
11. Libby Carpenter, Earth, Texas
12. Avery Best, Lakeland, Fla.
13. Taylor Ferguson, Janesville, Wis.
14. Landen Copenhaver, Pa.
15. Braeden Bechel, Elmwood, Wis.

Senior (Ages 17-21):

1. Tyler Leuch, Pulaski, Wis.
2. Katelyn Poitras, Brimfield, Mass.
3. Kyla Johnson, Tomah, Wis.
4. Logan Harbaugh, Marion, Wis.
5. Dana Johnson, Tomah, Wis.
6. Lilly Johnson, River Falls, Wis.
7. Emily Goode, Liberty, Ky.
8. Aubree Topp, Botkins, Ohio
9. Ava Booth, Plymouth, Wis.
10. Kelsey Hardy, Dodgeville, Wis.
11. Olivia Finke, London, Ohio
12. Amy Hughes, Killbuck, Ohio
13. Kaelyn Weigel, Platteville, Wis.
14. Ainsley Noble, Lancaster, Wis.
15. Summer Hammann, Barron, Wis.



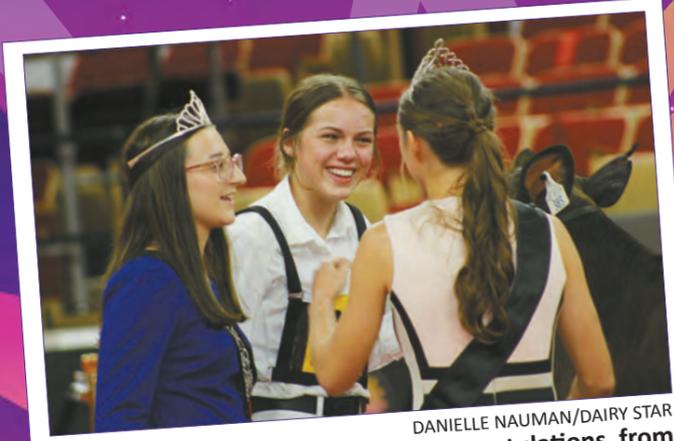
DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Judge Carla Stetzer (back, left) presents her top 15 senior contestants in the World Dairy Expo Youth Showmanship Contest Sept. 28 in Madison, Wisconsin. The contest’s senior division had 168 showmen participate.

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TODAY AT WORLD DAIRY EXPO



Kayla Trustem (center) accepts congratulations from Wisconsin Holstein Association Royalty Madison Weise (left) and Lauren Breunig (right) as she is named the Reserve Supreme Showman of the World Dairy Expo Youth Showmanship Contest Sept. 28 in Madison, Wisconsin. Trustem also won the intermediate division of the Youth Fitting Contest earlier in the day.

DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR



Brooklyn Schwoerer works on blending her heifer's belly hair during the World Dairy Expo Youth Fitting Contest Sept. 28 in Madison, Wisconsin. Forty youth competed in the contest

DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR



Katie Brandel reacts while watching her brother, Justin, place second in the intermediate division of the World Dairy Expo Showmanship Contest Sept. 28 in Madison, Wisconsin. The Brandel family dairy farms in Lake Mills, Wisconsin.

DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR



Collegiate, post-secondary and 4-H dairy judging teams compete for top honors at World Dairy Expo Sept. 29 in Madison, Wisconsin. Contest winners can be found in today's issue of the Expo Daily Edition, and full results can be found in Tuesday's issue.

DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR



Summer Hammann touches down her heifer during the senior division of the World Dairy Expo Youth Showmanship Contest Sept. 28 in Madison, Wisconsin. Hammann placed 15th in the contest.

DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR



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A New York kind of night

Empire State duo tops International Junior Holstein Show

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN
Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. - Oakfield Tatoo Tender-ET, the top-placing Five-Year-Old cow, was selected by judge Mandi Bue as her Senior and Grand Champion cow of the International Junior Holstein Show Sept. 29. Tender is exhibited by sisters Chloe and Claire Lamb of Oakfield, New York. Bue went on to name her Reserve Senior Champion, Liddleholme Mucho-ET, exhibited by Derek George of Arcade, New York, as her Reserve Grand Champion cow. Mucho topped the Four-Year-Old class.

Bue's Intermediate Champion, Peace&Plenty Tat Jubie41-ET, was her selection for Honorable Mention Grand Champion. Jubie41, the winning Senior Two-Year-Old, was exhibited by Hadley Faye Ross of Delavan, Wisconsin. Reserve Intermediate Champion was the winning Junior Three-Year-Old, Kings Ransom Doc Drizzlin, exhibited by Lauren King of Schuylerville, New York. Earning a handshake as Honorable Mention was the winning Summer Junior Two-Year-Old, Ladys Lambda Loretta Lynn-ET, exhibited by Calvin Bening of Lomira.

Honorable Mention Senior Champion honors went to the second-place Five-Year-Old, SS-Maplecrest Tatoo Jasmine, exhibited by Tyler Leuch of Pulaski, Wisconsin.

The Champion Bred and Owned Cow was Toppl Glenn Awesome Whodey-ET, the second-place Senior Two-Year-Old exhibited by Audrey Sidle and Logan Topp of North Lewisburg, Ohio.

When the heifer classes wrapped up, Ocean-View Sassin Me Back, the top-placing Summer Yearling owned by the partnership of Lily Alayna Jenson and Sage Dornan of Deerfield, was named the show's Junior Champion. She was followed by the winning Winter Calf, Shadow-W Sk Adored-ET, taking home

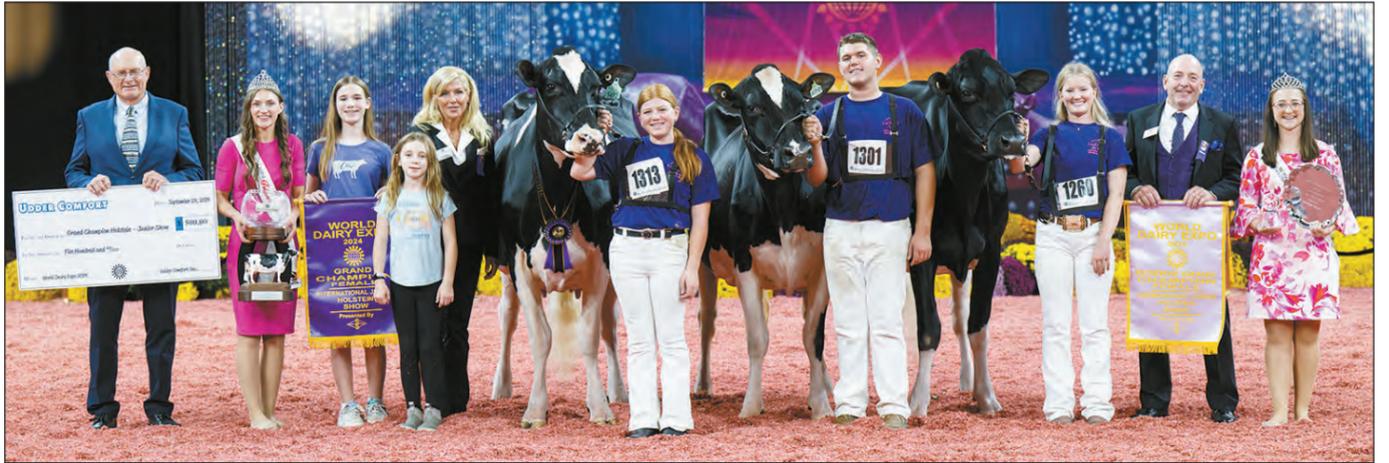


PHOTO COURTESY OF COWSMOPOLITAN

Oakfield Tatoo Tender-ET is named the Senior and Grand Champion of the International Junior Holstein Show after winning the Five-Year-Old Class. Tender is owned by Chloe and Claire Lamb. Liddleholme Mucho-ET, the winner of the Four-Year-Old Class, is named the Reserve Senior and Reserve Grand Champion. Mucho is owned by Derek George. Peace&Plenty Tat Jubie41-ET was selected as the Intermediate and Honorable Mention Grand Champion, after winning the Senior Two-Year-Old Class. Jubie41 was exhibited by Hadley Faye Ross.

Reserve Junior Champion honors for owners Madison and Macray Price of Chebanse, Illinois. The Honorable Mention Junior Champion was Mell-View Sfest Darla, the top-placing Winter Yearling exhibited by Callie and Conway Krohlow and Paige Sweatt of Poynette.

The Junior Champion Bred and Owned Heifer of the show was Ms Masal Master Sangria, exhibited by Kale, Kley, Ryan and Logan Beer of Berne, Indiana. Sangria was the third-place Fall Calf.

Official judge Mandi Bue of Freedom and her associate judge John Erbsen of Lanark, Illinois were charged with placing 260 head of junior-owned Holsteins in the International Junior Holstein Show. Complete show results are available online at www.worlddairyexpo.com.

**Oakfield Tatoo Tender-ET
Chloe and Claire Lamb
Oakfield, New York**

Tell us about yourself (Chloe). My sister, Claire, and I live on our family's farm, Lamb Farms, where we milk a total of 10,000 cows

and have another 10,000 youngstock. Oakfield Corners Dairy is the show part of our farm. This is the second time we have exhibited a milking cow at Expo and the first time we have shown a black and white cow here. We enjoy exhibiting at shows like the New York State Fair, New York State Holstein Show, the All-American Dairy Show and Premier National Junior Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and at the New York State Fair, and she was Grand Champion of the junior show at the New York Spring Dairy Carousel and honorable mention Grand Champion of the open show there.

Tell us about your animal. Tender is scored EX-94. She is a Duckett Crush Tatoo daughter of Oakfield Windbrook Tiffany EX-94. Tender was Grand Champion at the Premier National Junior Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and at the New York State Fair, and she was Grand Champion of the junior show at the New York Spring Dairy Carousel and honorable mention Grand Champion of the open show there.

What was your reaction when your cow was named Grand Champion of the Junior Show? It was the most crazy experience — something we never expected, only hoped for. It was unreal, just a dream come true.

How did you get involved in dairy cattle showing? Our uncle, Jonathan Lamb, got us involved in showing when we were really young. We started with a few embryos and then started buying some embryos and building our herd.

Who has been a mentor for your showing career? What has been the best advice they have given you? We've been lucky to have lots of people to help us along the way. Our parents, Kendra and Matthew, have always been very supportive of getting us involved in showing. Jamie Black has helped us a lot, he was the previous owner of Tender and encouraged us to purchase her. Our Uncle Jonathan has helped us and taught us a lot. We wouldn't be where we are without any of them.

What is your favorite memory of showing dairy cattle? Besides tonight, my favorite memory has been showing Tender for the first time at the New York Spring Dairy Carousel last spring. That was the first time I ever experienced anything like that.

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DYNAMIC DUOS

DUSTY & NICOLE SCHIRM
TILLAMOOK, OREGON

The dreamer, the realist

Capitalizing on complementary strengths

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN
Staff Writer

In December 2023, Dusty and Nicole Schirm packed their belongings and, along with their three sons, headed west from Ohio to Tillamook, Oregon. There, they joined forces with the Hogan family of Misty Meadows Dairy.

Misty Meadows Dairy is home to nearly 3,500 head, including 150 milking females and 400 type heifers that live on the show farm.

The Schirms' goal is to turn the farm into a homebred marketing powerhouse.

"We really want to focus on creating those animals that are in high demand for their type, pedigrees, genetics and production," Dusty said. "We're really focusing on that with the sales we have

been hosting."

World Dairy Expo provided a backdrop for the beginning of the couple's relationship.

"We met here in 2008," Nicole said. "I was working as the executive secretary of the Red & White Dairy Cattle Association, and Dusty owned a heifer with Josef Osinga that had been Junior Champion at Harrisburg and was second here."

The couple married in 2010 and worked with renowned show cattle at farms like Butlerview and River Valley. They established The Franchise Kind as their prefix and hosted a sale series bearing the same name. The Franchise Kind II sale in 2013 featured the Jersey breed's record-breaking sale of Page-Crest Excitation Karlie, who sold for \$170,000 in Syracuse, New York.

Raising their family in the industry they both grew up in is important to the Schirms.

"Our boys love the cows, showing and everything about it," Nicole said. "Two of them are getting old enough to show in the junior show, and the third one isn't far behind them."

The couple agreed the differences



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Nicole and Dusty Schirm take a moment from caring for Misty Meadows Dairy's show string Sept. 29, at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The Schirms, of Tillamook, Oregon, have been working with top show herds around the country since their marriage in 2010.

in their personalities play a role in their success, both with cattle and in their marriage.

"I am the dreamer, the one with the

crazy ideas," Dusty said. "Nicole is the reality; she's the one who makes everything work and tries to keep my feet on the ground."

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Judging Contest results



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Contestants in the World Dairy Expo judging contests log their placings digitally using iPads Sept. 29 in Madison, Wisconsin. The technology was first adopted by the contests beginning in 2018.

National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest

Overall Individual:

Alexis Schultz, 702, New York

Overall Team:

New York, 2057, team members: Elsie Donlick, Alysha Kuhn, Alexis Schultz and Mason Ziemba coached by Dr. Douglas Waterman

Overall Reasons Individual:

Alexis Schultz, 237, New York

Overall Reasons Team:

New York, 691, team members: Elsie Donlick, Alysha Kuhn, Alexis Schultz and Mason Ziemba coached by Dr. Douglas Waterman

International Post-Secondary Dairy Judging Contest

Overall Individual:

Lauryn Young, 783, Modesto Junior College

Overall Team:

Modesto Junior College, 2296, team members: Jon Chapman, Logan Silveira, Teresa Sousa and Lauryn Young coached by Nicole Morris

Overall Reasons Individual:

Lauryn Young, 229, Modesto Junior College

Overall Reasons Team:

Modesto Junior College, 645, team members: Jon Chapman, Logan Silveira, Teresa Sousa and Lauryn Young coached by Nicole Morris

National Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest

Overall Individual:

Kylie Konyn, 861, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Overall Team:

University of Minnesota, 2530, team members: Sarah Hagenow, Megan Meyer and Megan Ratka coached by Dr. Les Hansen, Isaac Haagen, Eric Houdek, Gabriella Houdek

Overall Reasons Individual:

Kylie Konyn, 283, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Overall Reasons Team:

University of Minnesota, 845, team members: Sarah Hagenow, Megan Meyer and Megan Ratka coached by Dr. Les Hansen, Isaac Hagen, Eric Houdek and Gabriella Houdek

Full judging contest results will be reported in tomorrow's paper.



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Mason Ziemba takes notes for oral reasons during the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Ziemba placed fourth overall and second in oral reasons, helping his team secure wins in reasons and the contest overall.

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