

University of Minnesota Junior Dairy Cattle Judging Team – 2014

Accelerated Genetics, Viroqua, WI; North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, KY

During September and November of 2014, six students (Austin Davis, Nathan Donnay, Matthew Hanson, Eric Houdek, Vincent Migliazzo, Dane Thompson) in their junior year at the U of M competed in two regional dairy cattle judging contests.

In the Accelerated Genetics contest in September at Viroqua, WI, the 4-person team of Davis, Donnay, Houdek, and Thompson placed 2nd overall among the 18 teams that competed. Also, the team was 1st in Holstein, 3rd in Guernsey, and 3rd in Milking Shorthorn. The Accelerated Genetics permits more than a single 4-person team per university to participate, so Hanson and Migliazzo also competed as individuals. Among the 73 contestants, Migliazzo was 8th individual overall, 3rd in reasons, 2nd in Holstein, and 5th in Milking Shorthorn. Thompson was 11th individual overall and 4th in reasons. Donnay was 13th overall, and Houdek was 14th overall and 9th in reasons.

In November, the 4-person team of Donnay, Houdek, Migliazzo, and Thompson competed in the collegiate judging contest hosted by the North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, KY. The team placed 5th overall among the 19 teams competing for honors. Also, the team was 1st in Guernsey and 2nd in Holstein. Individually, Houdek was 9th overall among the 73 contestants, 8th in reasons, 1st in Ayrshire, and 5th in Holstein. Migliazzo was 15th overall and 10th in Guernsey, and Thompson was 2nd in Ayrshire.



Dairy cattle judging team from the junior class at the U of M (L-R): Dr. Les Hansen, coach; Dane Thompson, Nathan Donnay, Vincent Migliazzo, Austin Davis, Matthew Hanson, Eric Houdek, Alicia Thurk, coach; and Scott Ellinghuysen, coach (missing from photo, Doug Petzel, coach).