

Gopher Dairy Club

The Showbox

2015 Gopher Dairy Camp is a Great Success

By: Rachael Rostad

The 11th annual Gopher Dairy Camp was held June 7th-9th on the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. 82 youth in grades 6-10 from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan took part in the three day camp where they had the opportunity to gain skills in showing dairy cattle, further their knowledge about the dairy industry, and make new friendships.

Camp kicked off with the participants competing in Minute to Win it games. Campers were able to meet the other members of their group and also earn Moo Money to be used in the Gopher Gold Auction later that evening where they purchased the calf they would use for the rest of camp.

Monday began with workshops where campers learned about preparing for county fair from Katie Schmitt, Dairy Nutrition from Isaac Salfer, and showmanship from Eric Sonnek. Dr. Bob Horton from Ohio State University also returned to camp this year to teach campers about the science and history behind many dairy products. After lunch, group fitting demonstrations were held with professional fitters followed by the campers trying their hand at fitting their calves. The day ended with a trip to the Twins Ballpark to enjoy a night filled with baseball and wonderful weather.

Tuesday started bright and early with campers preparing for the showmanship contest. The showmanship contest was held in the Livestock Pavilion on St. Paul Campus with Staci Sexton and Megan Herberg as our judges. Following the showmanship contest Rebekah LaBerge held a workshop focusing on calf nutrition and care. The campers received a private tour of TCF Bank Stadium and were able to go down on the football field. Camp ended with an awards banquet that included a keynote speech from Jeni Haler, recognition of the top showmen, camp awards, and door prizes.

Gopher Dairy Camp would not be possible without the help of many people including our counselors, alumni co-chairs, speakers, food service, and our generous sponsors: Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association, Minnesota 4-H Foundation, CHS Foundation, Minnesota Farm Bureau, UdderTech, CFANS Student Board, Modern Farm Equipment, Minnesota Select Sires, First District, AMPI, AgStar, Reuhling Milk Transfer, QC Supply, Ellsworth Creamery Cooperative, Hastings Creamery Cooperative, Munson Lakes Nutrition, Accelerated Genetics, and DuPont Pioneer. The help and support of all these people ensured another successful Gopher Dairy Camp!

We are looking forward to hosting the 2016 Gopher Dairy Camp next summer!



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2015 National Dairy Challenge

By: Johanna Knorr

The 2015 National Dairy Challenge Contest and the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Academy were hosted by the North East Region in Syracuse, NY. Led by advisor Dr. Marcia Endres, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities brought a team of four students to the contest and eight students to the Academy.

In its 3rd year, the Academy has been steadily growing in popularity. It is a program designed for sophomores and juniors to prepare them for Dairy Challenge contests. Academy participants are put into teams consisting of 6-8 students from different colleges and two industry advisors. The blended teams look over a farm's records and visit the operation together to prepare a short presentation on the farm's strengths and opportunities. Group advisors and other students are then able to ask questions of the team and have a discussion about the farm.

The Dairy Challenge team visited one of four competition farms, reviewed its records, visited with owners and employees, and built a professional presentation to give to the judges, all between Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon. Although the University of Minnesota's team was not selected as a winner, the team felt confident in their insights on the farm, and that they learned from participating in the contest.

The event featured several additional learning opportunities. Students heard from a panel on beginning a dairy from a young college graduate's perspective, a panel on dairy processing with professionals from DFA, Chobani, a small cheese maker and a milk bottling startup. There were several different "mini" classes for students to attend on topics from activity monitors to NDF content in corn silage. Students also toured one of upstate New York's large farms on the first day of the event, to get a feel for dairy farming in the region. The event had a career fair with some of the country's premier dairy and animal business employers.

All in all, the 2015 Dairy Challenge was a success and a great learning opportunity for University of Minnesota students and Gopher Dairy Club members!



New Student Monetary Awards for 2015-16

Each year, the Gopher Dairy Club presents new student awards to freshmen and new transfer students. An especially large group of recipients were selected for this fall. The cash awards will be presented at GDC's annual recognition banquet on February 21, 2016. The recipients are:

\$2,000 Siem Memorial Award

Trent Dado, Amery, WI -- son of Rick & Gwen Dado

\$1,500 Awards

Jordan Agrimson, Peterson, MN -- son of Steve & Lanita Agrimson

Jax Bauer, Hayfield, MN -- son of Tony & Paula (Hinckley) Bauer

Jake Borst, Rochester, MN -- son of Matt & Julie Borst

Chase DeFrang, Plainview, MN -- son of Kris & Kim (Rott) DeFrang

Alyssa Ellinghuysen, Altura, MN -- daughter of Scott & Sue (Grass) Ellinghuysen

Lauren Hendel, Caledonia, MN -- daughter of Matt & Pam (Hosfield) Hendel

Morgan Krause, Buffalo, MN -- daughter of Charles & Robyn Krause

Kyle Lawstuen, Lanesboro, MN -- son of Dave & Debbie Lawstuen

Haely Leiding, Fountain, MN -- daughter of Todd & Stacy (Fingerson) Leiding

Kayla Leiding, Fountain, MN -- daughter of Todd & Stacy (Fingerson) Leiding

Julia Nunes, Chippewa Falls, WI -- daughter of Matt & Mandy Nunes

Joe Ramstad, Forest Lake, MN -- son of Jane Ramstad

Brooke Roberts, Whitelaw, WI -- daughter of Keith & Beth Roberts



Previous Siem Memorial Award Recipients

The members of GDC are anxious for these new members to join the club this fall!

Meet the Executive Team

By: Nathan Bos

President Mary Liebenstein is a senior from Dundas, MN. She is majoring in Animal Science with a pre-veterinarian emphasis. Mary grew up on her family's 400-cow dairy farm. She serves as a co-chair for the senior trip committee, former chair of dairy judging contests, and has been a member of the University of Minnesota Dairy Judging Team. She is also involved with Block & Bridal, Delta Theta Sigma Little Sisters, and Collegiate Agri-Women. In the future, Mary plans on attending the U of M College of Veterinary Medicine and become a consulting veterinarian for dairy producers.

Vice President Nathan Donnay is a senior in Animal Science- Dairy Production. He grew up on his family's Registered Holstein and Jersey farm near Glencoe, MN. He has served as a camp counselor for Gopher Dairy Camp and is a member of the University of Minnesota Dairy Judging Team. Nathan has been active with Minnesota Junior Holstein Association, 4-H and FFA. On campus, he is a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and the NAMA Student Organization. He plans to work within the dairy industry as an AI or nutrition specialist.

Secretary Rachael Rostad is a senior studying Animal Science- Dairy Production with a Communications Study Minor. She grew up on her family's 60-cow dairy farm near Wanamingo, MN. Rachael has participated in Regional ADSA, the Dairy Networking Evening, and serves as co-chair for Gopher Dairy Camp. Around campus, she is a member of Beta of Clovia Sorority, Delta Theta Sigma Little Sisters, and the CFANS Mentor Program. After graduation, she plans to work within the agriculture industry as a public relations or communications specialist.

Treasurer Eric Houdek is a senior from Caledonia, MN. He is majoring in Animal Science- Dairy Production. He is a member of the University of Minnesota Dairy Judging Team and has served as a chair for dairy contest events. He has been active in 4-H and FFA. Eric is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and the NAMA Student Organization. In the future,

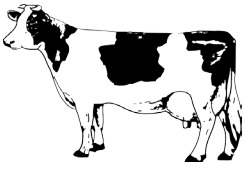


Eric plans to work in the dairy genetics field before returning home to his family's dairy farm.

Reporter Christine Reitsma is a senior double majoring in Agriculture Food Business Management and Agriculture Education. She was raised on her family's 100-cow Holstein farm near Sauk Centre, MN. She has been active in FFA, Stearns County Dairy Princess Program and has served as the 59th Princess Kay of the Milky Way. Within GDC, Christine has worked as chair for the alumni committee. Christine is a member of the Applied Economics Student Organization and Beta of Clovia Sorority. After graduation, she hopes to work within the Farm Credit System.

Officer at Large Dane Thompson grew up on his family's Registered Holstein and Jersey farm near Turtle Lake, WI. Growing up, he was heavily involved in judging and showing organizations. He is a member of the University of Minnesota Judging Team and serves as the current chair for the alumni committee and co-chair of the senior trip committee. He is also a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. In the future, Dane would like to remain in the dairy industry working within the dairy genetics field.

Dr. Les Hansen continues as the adviser for the club.



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Congratulations to Past and Present Members!

Engagements:

Kelsey Mussman & Brett Schwartz recently announced their engagement.

Weddings:

Ben Thorpe & Jena Stommes were married on April 18th, 2015.

Erin Daninger & Micah Christensen were married on June 20th, 2015.

Emily Achen & Keith Hoeing were married on July 4th, 2015.

Births:

Jason & Michele (Dammann) Schroeder welcomed their daughter, April Ann, on January 22, 2015.

Brad & Jessica (Achen) Gaenlock welcomed their daughter, Penny Lou, on May 19th, 2015.

Announcements:

Members Mariah Daninger and Madison Taylor were selected as 2015-2016 Minnesota State FFA Officers.

Members Ethan Dado (WI) and Valerie Earley (MN) were selected as 2015 National FFA Officer Candidates.

Member Ellen Sheehan was selected as a 2015 Princess Kay of the Milky Way Finalist.

Dates to Remember

Gopher Dairy Bar
Minnesota State Fair
Aug. 27 - Sept. 7

First Fall 2015 Gopher Dairy
Club Meeting
Sept. 9

World Dairy Expo
GDC Alumni Reunion
Oct. 2