

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 13, 2018



Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation

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Cuba City FFA, Prairie du Chien FFA, Lansing FFA Top Tri-State Dairy Ag and Expo Contests

Nearly 350 FFA members from 26 Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin high schools participated in the annual Tri-State Ag and Dairy Expo held on Thursday, Sept. 13, at Iowa's Dairy Center in Calmar. The expo featured dairy judging and dairy products contests where students enhanced their evaluation skills on dairy cattle and products.

Cuba City FFA chapter of Cuba City, Wis. was named the champion dairy judging team. Team members included Payton Van Schyndle, Madison Calvert, McKenzie Calvert and Cory Stich. Mason Kruse, of Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter, was the high-scoring individual of the contest.

In the non-reasons dairy judging contest, Prairie du Chien FFA chapter of Prairie du Chien, Wis. was named the champion team. Team members included Avery Cornford, Danielle Cornford, Hailey Ohlert and Aisja Achenbach. Achenbach was also named the high-scoring individual of the non-reasons contest.

Lansing FFA chapter of Lansing, Iowa was named the champion dairy products judging team. Team members included Charles Stendel, Brooke Stanley, Peter Boland and Kristina Dibert. Stendel was also named the high-scoring individual of the dairy products contest.

Additionally, the Tri-State Ag and Dairy Expo presented an annual award in memory of Dennis Rud, a former FFA instructor and longtime employee of Nelson Dairy Consultants. The award is given to an individual who has had a significant role in the success of the expo. The recipient of the second annual award was Dale Thoreson, who was recognized for his dedication to the expo.

The Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Dairy Science Club and agriculture students helped with the preparation of cattle, contests and seminars. In addition to a competition for students, the expo offered seminars on agriculture topics which included linear dairy cattle evaluation, drone technology, soil health and conservation. The seminars were presented by Matt Frana and Michelle Elliott of Winneshiek County NRCS and Tad Mueller of NICC.

Tri-State Ag and Dairy Expo would not be possible without support from local businesses and organizations. A special thanks to Nelson Dairy Consultants for donating of all the plaques and ribbons for top scorers of the contests.

A board of directors representing several sectors of the dairy industry organized the annual expo. The board members are: President Ron Lenth, ISU Extension and Outreach; Vice President Roger Lenius, Prairie Farms Dairy; Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Sorum; LeRoy Messler and Wade Brusman, Wapsie Valley Creamery; Carrie Corlett, Dairy Farmers of America; Jim Kuennen, Associated Milk Producers Inc.; Karen Van De Walle, Northeast District FFA; Jennifer Bentley, Stephanie Clark and Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension and Outreach; Sara Franzen and Staci Kuboshek, NICC; Mariah Schmitt, Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation.

Competition results were as follows:

Dairy Judging with Reasons

Top Individuals

1. Mason Kruse, Maquoketa Valley FFA
2. Madison Calvert, Cuba City FFA
3. Faith Palmer, Little Switzerland FFA
4. Grace Howe, Little Switzerland FFA
5. Payton Van Schyndle, Cuba City FFA

Top Teams

1. Cuba City FFA
2. Little Switzerland FFA
3. Decorah FFA

Dairy Judging without Reasons

Top Individuals

1. Aisja Achenbach, Prairie du Chien FFA
2. Carter Zander, Ed-Co FFA
3. Cameron Knipper, Ed-Co FFA
4. Preston Shaffer, Central City FFA
5. Lane Rose, Jesup FFA

Top Teams

1. Prairie du Chien FFA
2. Ed-Co FFA
3. Maquoketa Valley FFA

Dairy Products Contest

Top Individuals

1. Charles Stendel, Lansing FFA
2. Liz Holty, Spring Grove FFA
3. Stacia Sexton, Decorah FFA
4. Hailey Bergfeld, Starmont FFA
5. Bailey Miculinich, Decorah FFA

Top Teams

1. Lansing FFA
2. Decorah FFA
3. Crestwood FFA

Photos:

Top team of the dairy judging contest, Cuba City FFA of Cuba City, Wis. Team members include Maidson Calvert, Payton Van Schyndel, Mckenzie Calvert and Cory Stich. Presenting the awards was Kent Nelson.

Mason Kruse of Maquoketa Valley FFA was the high-scoring individual of the dairy judging contest.

The recipient of the second annual award in memory of Dennis Rud was Dale Thoreson.

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