



## Northeast Iowa Dairy & Agriculture Foundation

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **More Than 450 FFA Members Participate in Tri-State Ag & Dairy Expo**

More than 450 FFA members from 35 Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin high schools participated in the annual Tri-State Ag & Dairy Expo held on Thursday, Sept. 15, 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.

North Fayette Valley FFA was named the champion dairy judging team. Team members included Kerigan Alexander, Kylie Oakland, Dillon Sparrgrove and Lexi Steffans. Klaudia Biel of Fillmore Central FFA was the high-scoring individual of the contest.

Denver FFA topped the non-reasons dairy judging contest. The team consisted of Jillian Clayton, Eric Kiefer, Cody Koepke and Joseph Rabenhorst. Riley Brandt, also of Denver FFA, was named the high-scoring individual of the non-reasons contest.

Kee High FFA was named the champion dairy products judging team. Team members included Kevin Ashbacher, Anissa Stanley and Dustin Stendel. Anissa was also named the high-scoring individual of the dairy products contest.

Additionally, the Tri-State Ag & 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 annual award was LeRoy Messler who was recognized for his dedication to the expo.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig was in attendance at the expo, welcoming the students to the event. In addition to the contests, the expo offered seminars on agriculture topics including calf care and dairy advocacy. The Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Dairy Science Club and agriculture students helped with the preparation of cattle for the dairy cattle judging contests.

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

Competition results were as follows:

**Dairy Judging with Reasons**

**Top Individuals**

1. Klaudia Biel, Fillmore Central FFA
2. Caryn Miklas, Zumbrota-Mazeppa FFA
3. Katie Klug, Spring Grove FFA
4. Lexi Steffens, North Fayette Valley FFA
5. Lilly Crow, Oelwein FFA

**Top Teams**

1. North Fayette Valley FFA
2. Waukon FFA
3. Spring Grove FFA

**Dairy Judging without Reasons**

**Top Individuals**

1. Riley Brandt, Denver FFA
2. Adeline Baskett, Waverly-Shell Rock FFA
3. Kyle Mauss, Kee High FFA
4. Phoebe Kuhse, Independence FFA
5. Eric Kiefer, Denver FFA

**Top Teams**

1. Denver FFA
2. Waverly-Shell Rock FFA
3. Decorah FFA

**Dairy Products Contest**

**Top Individuals**

1. Anissa Stanley, Kee High FFA
2. Kendra Gibbs, Waukon FFA
3. Kyla Higgins, Western Dubuque FFA
4. Payton Becker, Kee High FFA
5. Audrey Palas, Central FFA

**Top Teams**

1. Kee High FFA
2. Western Dubuque FFA
3. Waukon FFA

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**Photos:**

Top team of the dairy judging contest, North Fayette Valley FFA: Kerigan Alexander, Kylie Oakland, Dillon Sparrgrove and Lexi Steffans.

Klaudia Biel of Fillmore Central FFA was the high-scoring individual of the dairy judging contest.

The recipient of the third annual award in memory of Dennis Rud was LeRoy Messler pictured with Dr. Kent Nelson.