

Expo Daily Edition

Monday, Oct. 3, 2022

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FLAVORS OF THE DAY

Grilled Cheese

Muenster, Klondike, Monroe, Wis.
UW-Madison Cheese Stand next to The Tanbark

ATTENDEE

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#WDE22



Twister tragedy fuels fire for reconstruction

Leach family rises above tornado devastation

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN
Staff Writer

LINWOOD, Kan. – For a period of time, the Leach family may have been down, but they were never out.

A combination of family members, friends, community and faith gave them the strength to rise above the tornado that leveled their eastern Kansas dairy farm May 28, 2019. The Leaches have come out stronger on the other end.

Lin-Crest Farm is home to Rob and Lisa Leach and their three daughters – Taylor, Erin and Sophie – and their herd of registered Holsteins and Jerseys.

The day of the storm, Rob was doing the outside chores while Lisa milked. The girls were in Wisconsin attending the dispersal sale of a friend.

"It is something I will never forget," Rob said. "It was a very well warned storm, and I downloaded a new weather app just for that reason. I got the warning a big one was 23 minutes away headed in our direction."

Lisa was finishing milking when Rob told her of the EF-4 tornado heading their way.

"I asked if I had time to finish the last six (cows)," Lisa said. "He said no. I locked them



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Leach family – (from left) Lisa, Taylor, Sophie, Erin and Rob – milk 40 cows at Lin-Crest Farm near Linwood, Kansas. The Leaches lost 20 head as a result of injuries sustained when an EF-4 tornado leveled their farm May 28, 2019.

in the holding pen to finish after the storm passed."

Lisa was not able to finish milking those last cows. By the time the storm did pass, it had leveled the entire farm.

"We had 125 head here at the time," Rob said. "We lost 11 buildings in the storm. My sister's house was completely destroyed."

The highest clocked wind speed was 191 mph, and the mile-wide tornado stayed on

the ground for 31 miles.

Only one animal on the farm perished during the storm which was one of the six cows left in the holding pen. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, Rob put down 12 head.

The Leaches lost 20 head as a result of injuries sustained in the storm, mostly milk cows.

Within hours, word spread and trucks, trailers and semis were there to help. The Leaches were left with no fences, but

said the cattle did not wander but instead seemed stunned.

"The only trailers that got through right away were the two Christy Ratliff brought," Rob said. "The police weren't letting anyone through, but she pretty much explained to them how it was going to work."

Together, the Leaches and Ratliff triaged the animals, taking two trailers loads 60 miles away to Ratliff's farm near

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A taste of Dane County

Destination Madison welcomes attendees, sponsors Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Appreciation Picnic

BY KATE RECHTZIGEL
Staff Writer

The perfect combination of outdoor attractions, agricultural history and city life makes Madison the perfect place for World Dairy Expo.

"Dane County is very welcoming to visitors coming in," said Sarah Warner, public relations and communications manager at Destination Madison. "No matter where you are from, there is something for everyone everywhere, and you'll be met with a warm welcome and a friendly smile wherever you go."

Destination Madison is the voice of the community



PHOTO SUBMITTED

World Dairy Expo fills the Madison, Wisconsin, area each fall. Destination Madison is the voice of the community that helps attract visitors to Dane County.

that attracts meetings, events and visitors both to Madison and Dane County. The company works to share the stories that make up the area as well as sharing the activities, businesses or cultural events visitors may be interested in experiencing.

"Wisconsin has such a strong and proud dairy

heritage and has been a leader in the dairy industry for quite some time," said Rob Gard, director of communications and public affairs for Destination Madison. "To bring people from around the world to the heart of America's dairy production is an awesome responsibility and opportunity, and we feel

responsible for telling that story as best as we can."

Destination Madison is sponsoring the Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Appreciation Picnic this year.

"Our mission is to welcome people to Madison and support the efforts of people who bring events to Madison," Gard said. "WDE is one of our biggest events and a tentpole event for Madison so we like to be involved and support in any way we can."

Since the first years of the show, the financial return of World Dairy Expo has been over \$27 million for the city of Madison, according to Gard.

"Expo has been here for more than half a century so they are on top of working with the county and Alliant Energy Center to get everything set up," Gard said. "We are just the butter cream frosting on the cake, if you will, in that we are on

Turn to DANE COUNTY

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Garnett.
“Christy had to put several more down,” Rob said. “One was an 8-month-old calf; her heart had been bruised and part of it had died.”

The morning after the tornado hit, the Leaches loaded the remaining animals with some creative logistics. Cattle were trailered into town to load onto a semi. At various points throughout their two-year-long saga of rebuilding, the Leaches had cattle housed at as many as 15 farms.

The clean-up effort took months. The Leaches are grateful for the droves of people who helped clear the farmstead of debris.

“We would have as many as 100 people here helping for the better part of three weeks,” Lisa said. “There was so much debris and metal; we are still finding stuff, and we probably will for a long time.”

One of things the Leach family wonders about is a miss-

ing refrigerator.
“We have 220 acres, and not a one was without debris,” Rob said. “I hauled out 365,000 pounds of scrap metal. We lost six ponds; we drained them all because of the debris that was in them. We never found my sister’s refrigerator. We thought for sure we’d find it at the bottom of a pond, but it is simply not on this farm any longer.”

It took days for the Leach family to shift gears from recovery mode to thinking about what the future might look like.

“We finally sat down as a family and talked about what direction we wanted to take,” Lisa said. “We all wanted to continue forward working with the show cows.”

Rob was nearing his retirement from the local fire department, and the couple had always planned that paring down the herd and focusing on show cows would be their job in retirement.

“We didn’t want to let the



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Leaches are grateful for the hundreds of volunteers that helped them begin clearing their farmstead of rubble following the storm.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Leaches' milking parlor is severely damaged after the tornado that took place May 28, 2019. Lisa Leach was milking just minutes before the tornado hit their farm.

storm change our plans,” Rob said.

From that point forward, the Leach family began looking toward rebuilding, which turned out to be a long and arduous endeavor.

“Our insurance covered us well, and that went quickly,” Lisa said. “But there was no insurance to cover the replacement of the fences or ponds so for that we needed to work through (the Farm Service Agency), which was a lot more paperwork.”

The Leaches rebuilt their farm, replacing all of their underground utility infrastructure and laying the farm out in a more modern fashion. They rebuilt 4 miles of fencing as well.

A new 58- by 100-foot pack barn was built to house the milk cows. The barn features a covered feed alley, a fan and sprinkler system, and LED lighting. The milk barn, which houses their new seven-stall

parlor, will also include five box stalls and a holding pen when it is completed.

A 40- by 80-foot commodity shed was built to store all of their feed, hay and bedding along with a small heated utility shed. Calves are raised in hutches, but they will soon begin building a 40- by 100-foot pole barn to house heifers.

“We really focused on making everything energy efficient,” Rob said. “We installed solar panels on the roof of the milk barn and are able to run the entire farm off of that.”

The Leaches were able to bring their herd home and start milking in their new parlor in May 2021, nearly two years after that fateful night. They resumed shipping milk to Dairy Farmers of America June 1, 2021. Today, they are milking 40 cows.

Each year as the hot Kansas summer begins to fade to autumn, the Leaches find them-

selves thinking about all of the industry support they received as events like World Dairy Expo roll around.

“Attending Expo has been a tradition for our family, whether we have exhibited or not,” Lisa said. “We don’t take vacations; we don’t have a boat. Going to the shows is what we do. The people are the best. They make the experience what it is.”

The family has many Expo-related memories they recall fondly. One of the most recent was the Expo following the tornado. Rob and Lisa had stopped to look at a display of calf hutches, and a salesperson from CalfTel recognized them and knew of what they had been through.

“CalfTel donated 15 new hutches to us after the stop at their Expo booth,” Rob said. “I always thought that was a great gesture. It is symbolic of our whole industry.”

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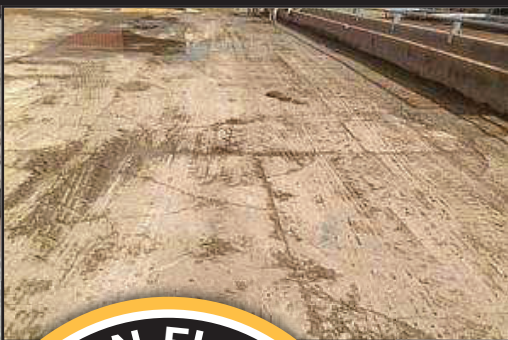
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site to answer visitor questions and direct them to some of the great things Madison has to offer.”

During Expo, Gard loves to look at the displays of each cattle string in the New Holland Pavilions.

“I used to cover county fairs, and Expo is like the world’s biggest 4-H fair,” he said. “I love getting in, seeing the stalls and the hard effort it took to design them.”

On the other hand, Warner enjoys seeing the dairy industry showcased.

“It is important for Madison and the world,” she said. “To have Expo here in Madison is just incredible.”

When attending Expo, Ward and Warner encourage visitors and exhibitors to check out area attractions such as the Wisconsin Historical Museum, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, the Chazen Museum of Art, the state Capitol and the National Mustard Museum in Middleton.

“The thing I love about Madison is that so much is free,” Warner said.

To get the outdoor and city life experience, there are a number of lakes and outdoor attractions as well as many different ice cream and cheese shops.

“We have a strong bike culture and have an all-electric bike share system where people can rent a bike to take around one of the lakes or neighborhoods,” Gard said. “And, across from the Capitol building is the Fromagination cheese store which has dozens of artisanal cheeses local to Wisconsin and from around the world. They also have sandwiches, soups and locally made items such as jams, crackers and chocolates.”

For nightlife, there will be live music at the Memorial Union Terrace and elsewhere in town and a number of restaurants to pick from including barbeque, seafood, Italian and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

During World Dairy Expo, Destination Madison encourages visitors and exhibitors to check out area attractions. There is an abundance to explore in Madison, from museums to lakes and parks.

Mexican cuisines.

“It all depends on what type of cuisine you are looking for,” Gard said. “We have the best fried cheese curds, and if you are in town for chocolate, there are a number of local chocolate makers.”

New attractions this year include the Garver Feed Mill, the Arts + Literature Laboratory and the new exhibit at Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

“The Gardens will be having an exhibit every night of the week during Expo called GLEAM,” Warner said. “It is a lighted art installation in the

garden grounds so people can explore the garden at night.”

Visitors can also catch a sporting event or experience the indigenous culture. People can visit visitmadison.com to find specific events and restaurants as well as special offers for WDE attendees.

For Gard and Warner, their favorite part about Madison is the easy access and food.

“Everything is easy in Madison,” Gard said. “It’s easy to get around, find great food, outdoor activities, music or art.”

Warner agreed.

“I love that I can buy awesome local ingredients that farmers grew at our local farmers market and cook it at home,” she said. “It is ingrained in our area of the county that food is community, and community is food.”

Both of them encourage attendees and exhibitors to extend their stay and take time to go downtown.

“It is very walkable,” Gard said. “And once you’re down there, you can get a taste of every part of Madison from the state Capitol, museums and to the food. It’s all right there.”



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- Cris Peterson,
Four Cubs Farm, Grantsburg, WI

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ESSENTIAL TO THE INDUSTRY

Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Committee Members



Jennifer Hill
Thurmont, Maryland
MD-Hillbrook Sales and Service

Why were you interested in getting involved with the World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Committee? I decided to get involved in the committee because I wanted to be a voice for the show cattle exhibitors. My personality leans to the stronger side, and I am not afraid to speak my mind and share concerns and ideas. Too many times people sit on committees and do just that, sit. My goal is to actively represent my fellow dairy exhibitors.

What are your responsibilities during the show as a committee member? My responsibilities during the show include anything from answering exhibitor questions and sharing their concerns with the committee, to trouble shooting and assisting wherever to help provide a successful show with a positive exhibitor experience.

What do you look forward to most during WDE? I look forward to seeing how our cattle stack up against the rest and having the opportunity to merchandise. WDE is an excellent avenue to promote the many facets of our business and reconnect with friends, partners and business colleagues.

What do you enjoy about exhibiting at WDE? I enjoy the atmosphere that WDE brings. There is a special kind of electricity in the air this week that is not duplicated anywhere else.

How do you hope to influence the Dairy Cattle Show in years to come? My hope is that my involvement will continue to grow the show in a positive way. I never want the importance of the cattle to get lost in the grand scheme of WDE.



Joe Rocha
Tillamook, Oregon
Pacific Edge Jerseys

Why were you interested in getting involved with the World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Committee? They needed someone from the far west to represent the western district. The amount of exhibitors that travel the 36 hours like we do is a small number but are important to the show and industry, nonetheless. I am excited to get ideas from the western district and make Expo a better show for everyone. Our area is a little like a minority because we are so few at Expo, but I'm excited to be a representative and bring ideas to the table.

What are your responsibilities during the show as a committee member? Being it is my first year on the committee, I'm not sure what my role will be. I believe my job will be to communicate and get input from western exhibitors. I hope to get ideas to make the show more user friendly.

What do you look forward to most about WDE? The cattle exhibitors as a whole are a great group of individuals all with the same interest. WDE is the most unique show for herds to showcase their cattle.

What do you enjoy about exhibiting at WDE? I love the high energy at WDE and walking the aisles looking at high caliber cattle. WDE is one of the best all breeds show. Nowhere else can you get the amount of industry connections related to dairy all in one place.

How do you hope to influence the Dairy Cattle Show in years to come? This goes back to the importance of cattle shows to be user friendly. And, my goal is to find things to help make Expo more user friendly for exhibitors near and far. For our group, it ends up being a long trip. This year we left Sept. 25 and made stops along the way. I hope to help ease the process for people who also have to make long treks across the country to get here.



Emily Hartmann
Mulberry Grove, Illinois
Hartdale Guernseys

Why were you interested in getting involved with the World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Committee? I have a passion for the industry and want to represent my breed and my fellow breeders. I want to be a liaison for my breed association and make sure we have a voice at the table

What are your responsibilities during the show as a committee member? As a new member of the committee, I am still learning about my role and responsibilities.

What do you look forward to most about WDE? I look forward to seeing so many outstanding cattle and reconnecting with my dairy friends and family.

What do you enjoy about exhibiting at WDE? I enjoy the competition and having an opportunity to see top cattle from across the country.

How do you hope to influence the Dairy Cattle Show in years to come? I want to work with the committee to ensure the show is a positive experience for the exhibitors, vendors and everyone attending Expo.



Dusty Schirm
Ashville, Ohio
Franchise Kind

Why were you interested in getting involved with the World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Committee? I hoped to be an asset to the committee by sharing my perspective and experiences to help execute a successful show for all exhibitors and take part in shaping the future.

What are your responsibilities during the show as a committee member? As my first year on the committee, my goal is to be the eyes and ears for all the exhibitors to

help facilitate any improvements as well as continuing the time-honored traditions that make WDE so elite.

What do you look forward to most about WDE? This is the event we work toward and look forward to all year. We get together with all our friends and fellow breeders to share our very best cattle, hospitality and ideas with hopes to always improve our own herds and come back as strong or stronger in competition the next year.

What do you enjoy about exhibiting at WDE? Competition, camaraderie and celebrating the elite dairy genetics.

How do you hope to influence the Dairy Cattle Show in years to come? Our industry is ever changing, and it is up to us to help influence the way the cattle are exhibited in the future. When I look at my own children, I want them to see and continue to improve themselves as well as teach me what we can do better on a daily basis on the farm. Our youth hold our future so what better way than to teach and support them in everything we can to see the industry flourish in years to come.



Erica Enright
Winchester, Ontario, Canada
Winright Holsteins

Why were you interested in getting involved with the World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Committee? I am a firm believer in getting involved. It is important to be a part of the discussion and decisions that are made if you plan on being in this business long term.

What are your responsibilities during the show as a committee member? I'm the newly appointed eastern Canada representative on the committee. My job is to

represent the exhibitors of my area. So that means I am to be their voice for ideas, things they like or don't like, or even suggestions going forward on how to make Expo the best it can be.

What do you look forward to most about WDE? I'm not sure I can just pick one. But, it's the place where you can find the best of the best all in one spot. The people it brings to Madison from all over the world is truly unique. It's the place we get to catch up with so many of our friends year after year. It's seeing the cattle that have been winning all over come together and go head-to-head. It's the lineup for the grilled cheese stand and the Wisconsin cheese. It's really about the whole thing. The air is electric.

What do you enjoy about exhibiting at WDE? Showing on the colored shavings.

How do you hope to influence the Dairy Cattle Show in years to come? I hope to be an approachable member of the committee who is always up for a challenge and willing to adapt and evolve with the show and the industry.



Chad Ryan
Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin
Ryan-vu Dairy

Why were you interested in getting involved with the World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Committee? I was approached by a few people who had been on the committee in the past. They suggested I get involved. I enjoy talking to other exhibitors about trying to make WDE better. I'm passionate about WDE and want to do anything I can to help. I enjoy being the ears in the barns and the voice in the board room.

What are your responsibilities during the show as a committee member? I'm not on grounds all of the time because I am also a judge, but I diligently reach out to people to see if there is a way to improve the way the show is run. It's been a challenge the last few years because there isn't much I can do until after the breed shows.

What do you look forward to most about WDE? I look forward to serving as a judge for the Ayrshire show. I look forward to my two boys showing and having the opportunity to do that. I enjoy watching them compete in the other breeds. The camaraderie is still second to none for me. People spend vacation boating or in Mexico, and we spend it at WDE. Talking with everyone that I haven't seen in a while is a good aspect of the show as well.

What do you enjoy about exhibiting at WDE? Talking and catching up with old friends and bouncing ideas off each other is a great part of the show. The international contacts are great too. I like to see how they breed cattle versus us. I enjoy those connections a lot; it's something I really look forward to.

How do you hope to influence the Dairy Cattle Show in years to come? I really like to be the connection from the exhibitor to the board; it's nice being a set of eyes and ears for fellow exhibitors. I also serve on the WDE Board of Directors. There is always room for change. After this year, we'll address what we think could be improved on and go from there. I'm grateful to be serving alongside other dairymen and women who are equally as passionate about WDE.

International companies return to World Dairy Expo

Ambic Equipment Limited, Intermizoo overcome challenges to attend

BY ABBY WIEDMEYER
Staff Writer

Representatives of many companies are looking forward to attending World Dairy Expo this year now that borders have reopened and people are finding ways to manage the coronavirus pandemic.



Richard Hiley
Ambic Equipment Limited

The onset of the pandemic was difficult for businesses that relied on international travel to promote their products and services. For Richard Hiley, a director for Ambic Equipment Limited, business ebbed and flowed.

“It’s better now that trade shows are happening, and we can travel,” he said.

Ambic was founded in 1978 in Witney, United Kingdom. It began as a plastic molding operation and has expanded over the last 40 years to include its own range of products for the dairy industry.

Ambic has focused on mastitis prevention, being the first to market the teat dip cup in the 1980s. Variations of the product have been introduced since then, including the non-return dip cup marketed in 1992 and the foaming dip cup in 1995. The company was also the first to manufacture a teat spray system. Ambic has worked in close collaboration with the National Institute for Research in Dairying to develop products in mastitis prevention.

Ambic now sells products to more than 55 countries around the world.

Hiley said the pandemic caused Ambic to close operations while safety procedures were put in place such as working practices and sanitizing protocols. Being a food-based industry kept the demand for their product strong.

“Like many businesses, we will have lost a number of working days due to isolation and furloughed staff,” Hiley said. “But that’s the beauty of a great team. We all pulled together to keep the product going out the door.”

For Hiley, returning to WDE means seeing customers again and showcasing new products. They also support their U.S. distributor, The Coburn Company, Inc.

“Coburn remains a loyal distributor, friend and colleague in excess of 30 years,” Hiley said. “So, while telephone calls, email, teams and Zoom have been staple communication for the past essentially three years; you can’t second a face-to-face meeting with Joe Thayer and the team in Madison both on the show ground and hopefully socially too where we can share market intelligence and support each other’s ambitions.”



Alessandro Ravanelli
Intermizoo

Intermizoo, an Italian A.I. company, is also returning to WDE this year.

The last couple of years were difficult for Alessandro Ravanelli’s company as they rely on the interaction with international clients. Not being able to attend WDE in 2021 was a challenge.

“We missed the personal contact we make with partners and breeders worldwide at WDE,” Ravanelli said.

Intermizoo was established in 1974 with

a mission to make genetic tools available to the dairy industry in Italy to increase profitability for farmers. Their main focus is on Holstein-Friesian dairy cows. The company also works with Brown Swiss, Simmental and other beef breeds to offer genetic diversity.

During the last 40 years, Intermizoo has tested more than 2,000 bulls, some of which have played an important role in the Italian Holstein-Friesian dairy cow population. It has also expanded the worldwide export market for the company as well. The company gives particular focus to the progeny test. This allows them to evaluate as much data as possible in the young bulls and gives them more credibility over time.

“The biggest challenges were to start with new distributors without meeting them personally,” Ravanelli said. “To follow the healthy protocol for the new potential countries, most of the ministry offices were just working on COVID problems.”

Intermizoo exports to more than 50 countries and works with more than 40 distributors.

“Now traveling is getting more and more expensive,” Ravanelli said. “In our experience, it is really important to visit clients and distributors directly.”

In the last couple years, international companies adjusted and found solutions to pandemic-related issues. Many are eager to return to the world-renowned dairy show for connection and tradition, while others are attending to see how WDE fits in with their updated business model.

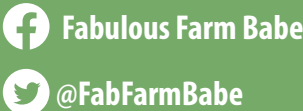
For Ravanelli, this year’s show will tell. “It’s a big commitment for European companies,” she said. “WDE is a great place to be, and we have to think about that as we consider the future of our company.”

Stay in tune with all the World Dairy Expo daily happenings.



*Fabulous Farm Babe,
Pam Jahnke, will be on the grounds all week with updates!*

Tune in or stream Q106 106.3FM and The Farm 97.7FM/1550AM for ag updates and follow the Fabulous Farm Babe on social media.



Pennsylvania nabs high team, individual titles in 4-H contest

Michigan, Minnesota teams round out top three

BY SHERRY NEWELL
Staff Writer

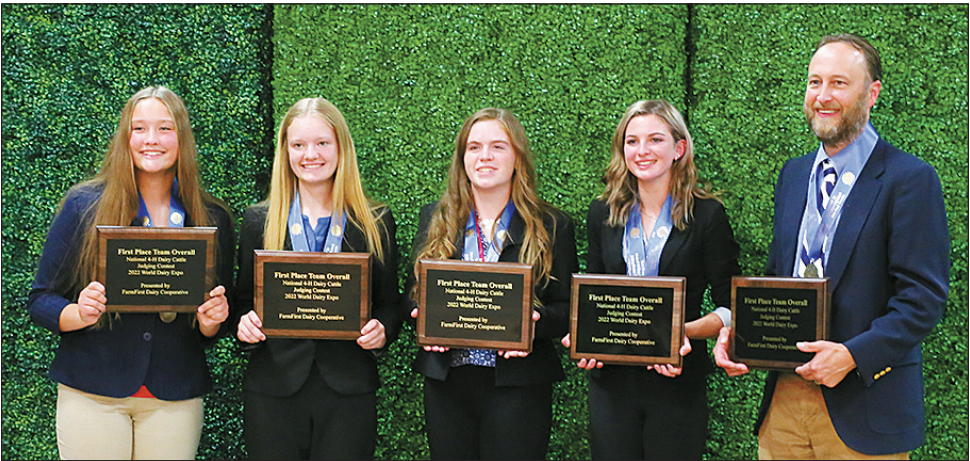
MADISON, Wis. – With 44 points to spare, the team from Pennsylvania won the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Oct. 2 at World Dairy Expo with a score of 1,994. The four members were led by the contest’s high individual, Sara Haag, who edged out her teammate, Madelynn Hoffman, by just five points with a score of 671.



LAURA SELJAN/DAIRY STAR
Sara Haag of Mohrsville, Pennsylvania, is high individual at the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Oct. 2 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin.

Haag also had the highest placings-only score of the day.
Morgan Smoker and Ellie Curtis rounded out the Pennsylvania team, which also won the Jersey breed. Haag and Hoffman were fourth and fifth in reasons, respectively.
“This has been my dream since I was little,” said Haag, who has been judging since she was nine years old. Haag is from Mohrsville, Pennsylvania, where her family milks 76 cows in a tiestall barn; her father is the seventh generation.
“I didn’t see this coming,” Smoker said.
Smoker, of Manheim, Pennsylvania, had the second-highest placings score in the 4-H division, while Hoffman’s score earned her fifth in placings only.

“We’re like sisters,” said Haag of the four women on the team.
But, the women were not well acquainted prior to August when the statewide team was formed. Haag and Hoffman, from Belleville, Pennsylvania, knew each other, but the others did not.
Together, they wiped back tears as the final standings were announced Sunday night in The Tanbark on the WDE grounds in Madison.
“There weren’t many tears in practice,” said their coach, Chad Dechow, as he congratulated the team on their success.
Michigan’s team claimed second place overall with a score of 1,950, followed by Minnesota, who topped the reasons contest with 638 points and came in third overall with a total of 1,944. Michigan had the third-high individual in Brianna Hill and eighth



LAURA SELJAN/DAIRY STAR
Pennsylvania’s Ellie Curtis (from left), Morgan Smoker, Madelynn Hoffman, Sara Haag and coach, Chad Dechow, are members of the winning team in the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest.

place in Grace Brown. Hill also earned third in reasons. Their teammates were Laken Durussel and Irie Moussiaux.
Minnesota’s Megan Ratka scored a full seven points more than the nearest competitor to win individual reasons with 225 points. Her teammates, Tyler Ratka, Dan Frericks and Lanna Walter, collected 638 reasons points followed by the Pennsylvania team with 632 and Michigan with 625.
“It felt good,” said Ratka as she finished reasons for the day. “My favorite part of this is reasons.”
The Texas team of second-place talker Tom Kuiper and teammates Kaleb Osinga, Carmen Kuiper and Makayla Osinga won two breeds – Guernsey and Ayrshire. Minnesota was first place in Holsteins while Michigan took home the Brown Swiss title.
The top three teams earn an invitation to Scotland’s Royal Highland Show.

Top 10 teams

1. Pennsylvania 1,994
2. Michigan 1,950
3. Minnesota 1,944
4. Iowa 1,910
5. Texas 1,900
6. Missouri 1,883
7. Tennessee 1,868
8. North Carolina 1,861
9. Wisconsin 1,859
10. Ohio 1,851

Top 10 individuals

1. Sara Haag, Pennsylvania, 671
2. Madelynn Hoffman, Pennsylvania, 666
3. Brianna Hill, Michigan, 662
4. Tyler Ratka, Minnesota, 659
5. Laurel Gray, North Carolina, 658
6. Morgan Smoker, Pennsylvania, 657
7. Megan Ratka, Minnesota, 651
8. Grace Brown, Michigan, 650
9. Morgan Stone, Indiana, 649
10. Tom Kuiper, Texas, 645

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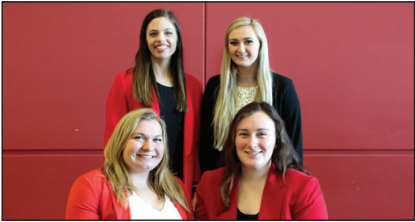
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Cobleskill ekes out win

New York team wins International Post-Secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest

BY ABBY WIEDMEYER
Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — In a close contest, SUNY Cobleskill Dairy Judging Team earned the highest overall score of 2,264, declaring them winners of the International Post-Secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Oct. 2. The second place went to Kaskaskia College



LAURA SELJAN/DAIRY STAR
Jacob Raber stands with his plaque Oct. 2 at the International Post-Secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest awards ceremony. Raber won first place individual overall.

with an overall score of 2,260. The New York team members of Cobleskill are Kailey Kuhn, Addison Hubbell, Karrie Ayer and Kyler Meisner. They are led by Carrie Edsall. “This is a very inexperienced team,” Edsall said. “Some of them have never judged before. We worked really hard on what to do.” With a difference of only four points, Edsall said the contest was intense. “It was a roller coaster because we would win a breed and then lose one,” Edsall said. “It was neck and neck the whole time.” The top individual honors were claimed by Jacob Raber of Kaskaskia College, with a score of 784. Raber said he was surprised to win.

“I was hoping to be in the top five to be honest,” Raber said. “This is unreal. I’m blown away to be honest.” He said the contest was more difficult than he anticipated. “I was scared the entire time,” Raber said. “There were a few classes that I didn’t know what to do so I went with my gut.” Second place individual honors went to Kailey Kuhn of Cobleskill, with a score of 777. Kaskaskia College took the top place for overall reasons with a score of 662. It was followed by Cobleskill with an overall reasons score of 651. Nick Hammer of Kaskaskia College earned a top overall reasons score of 231, followed by Kailey Kuhn of Cobleskill with an individual overall reasons score of 226. To round out the contest, Modesto Junior College, Michigan State University and University of Minnesota-Crookston placed third through fifth, respectively. In the practical contest, Modesto Junior College placed first overall followed by Southwest Technical College No. 1 placing second.



LAURA SELJAN/DAIRY STAR
The judging team from SUNY Cobleskill (from left) coach, Carrie Edsall, Karrie Ayer, Addison Hubbell, Kailey Kuhn and Kyler Meisner stand with their plaques Oct. 2 at the International Post-Secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest awards ceremony in Madison, Wisconsin. The team took home first place overall with a score of 2,264.

Top 10 individuals

1. Jacob Raber, 784, Kaskaskia College
2. Kailey Kuhn, 777, SUNY Cobleskill
3. Hartley Silva, 766, Modesto Junior College
4. Addison Hubbell, 751, SUNY Cobleskill
5. Anthony Diniz, 749, Modesto Junior College
6. Naomi Scott, 741, Kaskaskia College
7. Karrie Ayer, 736, SUNY Cobleskill
8. Nick Hammer, 735, Kaskaskia College
9. Juanita Bulloch, 727, Michigan State University
10. Avery Oliveira, 726, Modesto Junior College

Top five teams

1. SUNY Cobleskill 2,264
2. Kaskaskia College 2,260
3. Modesto Junior College 2,241
4. Michigan State University 2,122
5. University of Minnesota-Crookston 2,052

Top practical contest teams:

1. Modesto Junior College 737
2. Southwest Technical College No.1 675
3. Kaskaskia College 656
4. Southwest Technical College No. 2 601



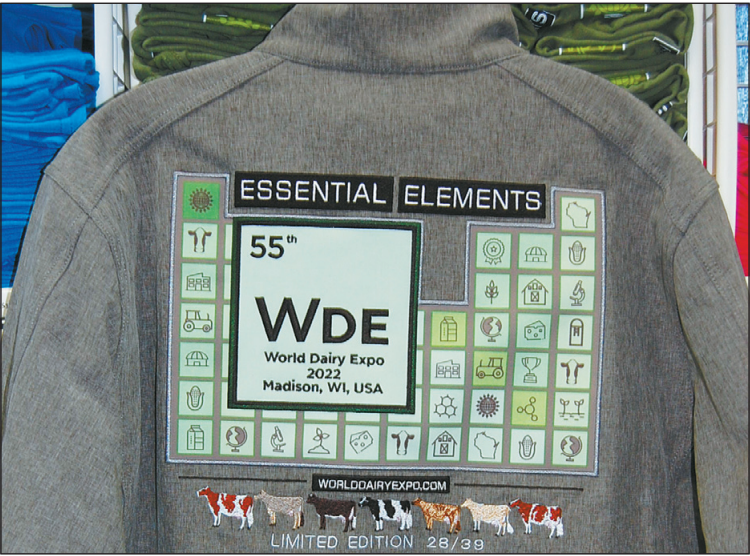
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TODAY AT WDE



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR
Brad Kinney (left) and Jill Vail clip cows Oct. 2 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin, as part of their honeymoon celebration. The couple was married Sept. 27.



SHERRY NEWELL/DAIRY STAR
Adelaide Lee eats a grilled cheese sandwich from the UW-Madison Cheese Stand Sunday at World Dairy Expo. Lee and her family are exhibiting Mill Wheel's Brown Swiss from Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.



SHERRY NEWELL/DAIRY STAR
Reid Balzer (left) and Steve Kraft unload a fiberglass cow as part of the Lely exhibit in the Outdoor Trade Mall. Not pictured is Lance Brown.



SHERRY NEWELL/DAIRY STAR
Niek Vermü (from left), Dennis Yeboah and Huub Van der Stouwe from Aeres University in Dronten, Netherlands, watch and discuss Sunday's dairy judging classes in the Coliseum. The three are among 10 students and a teacher visiting World Dairy Expo, four of whom were in the contest. This year will be the third time the university has participated in the contest.



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR
(Left) Aubree Topp presents her Holstein heifer during the Intermediate Division of the Youth Showmanship Contest Oct. 2. Watch for contest highlights in Tuesday's Expo Daily Edition.



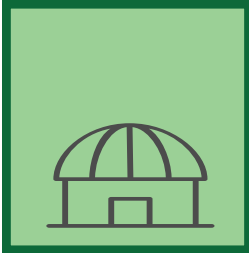
DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR
Brian McCullough clips the top line on his heifer during the WDE Youth Fitting Contest Oct. 2 in the Sale Pavilion.



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR
Tim Coon (center) works to check in his Brown Swiss cows with Katie Palmer (left) and Lee Haag.



SHERRY NEWELL/DAIRY STAR
Pat Reap, a retired dairyman from Plant City, Florida, looks for family photos Oct. 2 in the giant World Dairy Expo letters featured in The Tanbark. Reap and his wife, Diane, stopped by for the free milk offered there courtesy of WDE.



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR
Youth line their animals up during a heat of the Intermediate Division of the WDE Youth Showmanship Contest Oct. 2. Check out Tuesday's Expo Daily Edition for contest results.

Exploding with excitement



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Robert Nagel (far right) is the winner of the Senior Male Division and the Overall Fitter at the World Dairy Expo Youth Fitting Contest Oct. 2. Pictured (from left) are Keenan Thygesen, Brian McCullough, Wesley Brantner, Evan Cooper and Robert Nagel.



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Brooke Hammann (far right) is the winner of the Senior Female Division of the World Dairy Expo Youth Fitting Contest Oct. 2. Pictured (from left) are Sophie Leach, Alexis Blankenberg, Haley Beukema, Jamie Gibbs and Brooke Hammann.



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Logan Shoop (far right) is the winner of the Intermediate Male Division of the World Dairy Expo Youth Fitting Contest Oct. 2. Pictured (from left) are Sutton Paulson, Oliver Nisen, Matthew Winch, Carter Major and Logan Shoop.



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Adhyn Schell (far right) is the winner of the Intermediate Female Division of the World Dairy Expo Youth Fitting Contest Oct. 2. Pictured (from left) are Makenna Mase, Lindsey Gibbs, Emily Goode, Ellie Larson and Adhyn Schell.

New York youth wins largest-ever fitting contest

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN
Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. – Fifty-nine young dairy cattle fitters arrived at the Sale Pavilion Oct. 2 with hopes of emerging victorious in one of four age divisions of the Youth Fitting Contest. Kyle Natzke of Tulare, California, was tasked with the job of sorting through the competitors with the help of associate judge Garrett Schmidt of Melrose, Wisconsin.

“This was an amazing contest,” Natzke said. “The quality was exceptional. To see so many youth showing an interest in the art of fitting is phenomenal.”

Schmidt agreed. “I was astounded at what I saw this morning,” he said. “These kids at the top, they are really good.”

Taking overall honors after winning the Senior Male Division was Robert Nagel of Clymer, New York. Brooke Hammann, of Barron, Wisconsin, took first in the Senior Female Division. Logan Shoop of Wimauma, Florida, won the Intermediate Male Division, while Adhyn Schell of Lewiston, Minnesota, was named top intermediate female.

Nagel became serious about honing his fitting skills at the age of 16. After high school, he began working as a fitter.

“I wanted to do whatever I could to make my animals look their best,” Nagel

said. “That is why I really started working to develop my fitting skills.”

Nagel said he is grateful to have had good teachers as he polished his skills, crediting fitters like Eddie Sekerek, Joe Britton and Michael Bosley.

“I would encourage young kids to just dive in and pick up a set of clippers,” Nagel said. “Work hard and put the time in.”

Hammann’s win in the senior female contest marks the fifth year she has competed in the Youth Fitting Contest, but she has been clipping for much longer.

“I started clipping heads and legs when I was maybe 10 years old,” Hammann said. “By the time I started showing at the Wisconsin Junior State Fair, when I was 12, I was doing all my own fitting.”

Hammann credits her father, Scott, and family friend, Mark Riebe, for teaching her how to handle a set of clippers.

“I helped Dad and Mark at the shows,” Hammann said. “I clipped heifers at home, and in the winters, I kept working on the topline.”

Hammann said the biggest challenge she has faced was becoming comfortable with clipping and blending belly hair.

“I love seeing how much I can change and improve on an animal simply by taking the hair off,” Hammann said. “I like making them look the best I can.”

Hammann advises young fitters to not be discouraged.

“Don’t be afraid to ask questions,” Hammann said. “Find someone who you think does a good job and learn from them, watch and listen.”

Shoop will not soon forget his first

trip to World Dairy Expo after topping the intermediate male division of the contest.

“I have always wanted to come up to Expo, and this year, I got the chance to come work for Wincrest Genetics,” Shoop said.

Shoop’s family milks Jersey cows on their farm in Florida, and Shoop shows cattle in his home state.

“I have been clipping for about eight years,” Shoop said. “I like seeing the before and after, seeing how I can improve a heifer by clipping her.”

Shoop said he has learned from watching others. The best advice Shoop said he can give is to practice.

“Practice a lot at home,” Shoop said. “And, never forget that you can always take more hair off, but you cannot put it back on.”

Schell started to clip around the age of nine and developed an interest in fitting dairy after watching fitters at shows.

“My uncle started teaching me how to clip, that is how I started,” Schell said. “It is something I have always wanted to do.”

Schell said developing a core of mentors has given her a foundation, and along with her uncle, she credits fitters like Tanner Morrison, Steven Nelson, Grant Fremstad and David Petersheim as helping her grow her skills.

“Those guys really have helped me fine-tune my skills recently,” Schell said.

This contest marked Schell’s fourth year competing, and she encourages all youth to give it a try.

“Picture what you want to do in your mind,” Schell said. “Think about what you want to be, what you want to do, and then just go out there and make it happen.”

Senior male

1. Robert Nagel, Clymer, New York
2. Evan Cooper, New Braintree, Massachusetts
3. Wesley Brantner, Saegertown, Pennsylvania
4. Brian McCullough, Juda, Wisconsin
5. Keenan Thygesen, Tunbridge, Vermont

Senior female

1. Brooke Hammann, Barron, Wisconsin
2. Jamie Gibbs, Rollingstone, Minnesota
3. Haley Beukema, New Richmond, Wisconsin
4. Alexis Blankenberg, Platteville, Wisconsin
5. Sophie Leach, Linwood, Kansas

Intermediate male

1. Logan Shoop, Wimauma, Florida
2. Carter Major, Lebanon, Tennessee
3. Matthew Winch, Fennimore, Wisconsin
4. Oliver Nisen, Leesburg, Indiana
5. Sutton Paulson, Rockford, Illinois

Intermediate female

1. Adhyn Schell, Lewiston, Minnesota
2. Ellie Larson, Evansville, Wisconsin
3. Emily Goode, Liberty, Kentucky
4. Lindsey Gibbs, Rollingstone, Minnesota
5. Makenna Mase, Cochranton, Pennsylvania



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Virginia Tech tops intercollegiate contest

Michigan State student earns top individual

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN
 Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. – In a high scoring contest, the team from Virginia Tech dominated the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Oct. 2 with a 36-point lead over the second-place team from California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo, averaging nearly 46 points across the contest. Taking home the honor of high individual was Jessie Nash of Michigan State University, while Madison Sifford of Virginia Tech placed second overall.

The Virginia Tech team, coached by Dr. Katharine Knowlton and Joseph Real, included team members Madison Sifford, Jenna Marston, Brooke Noel and Jaiden Cain. The team also took the top honors in the oral reasons portion of the contest,

with team member Jenna Marston topping the contest individually.

“This is the hardest working team,” Knowlton said. “The amount of practice they put in is astounding. And, they are a unique team for us having judged together as a team for two years.”

Knowlton credits the newly-created Dr. Mike Barnes Judging Team Endowment with allowing the Virginia Tech judging program to continue to thrive, providing funds to facilitate the extensive practice travel schedule. This team and their victory has a special place for Knowlton, being the first team she has coached without her husband Dr. Barnes, who passed away last fall.

“Over the past two years, we have probably placed over 300 classes,” Cain said. “Dr. Knowlton tells us we have placed more classes and given more sets of reasons than any other team at the contests. That is really a confidence builder.”

Stepping out onto the colored shavings brought nerves for the team, but keeping all they have learned about mental toughness from Knowlton helped them keep their heads in the game.

“Once the nerves calmed down, I found the contest to be fairly placeable,” Noel said.

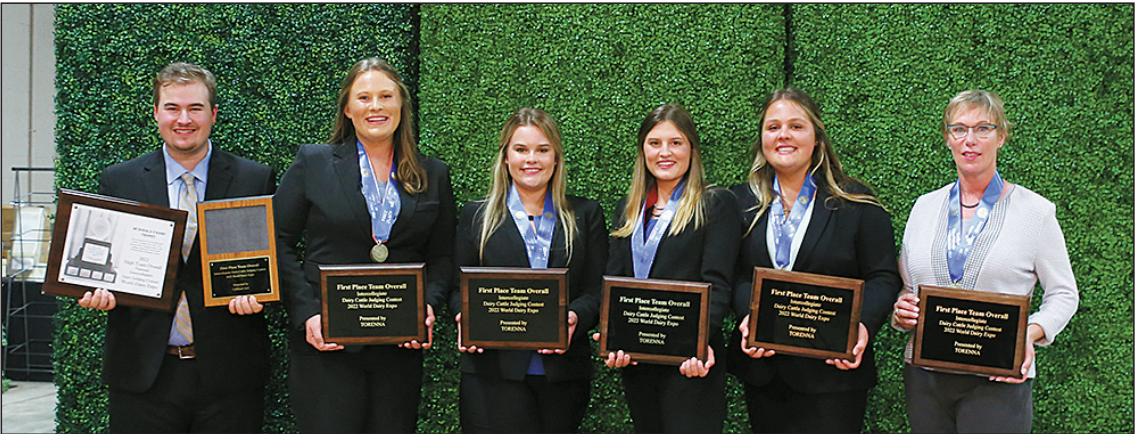
Sifford agreed.

“I told myself I was going to pick the cows I like, and that I was going to have a good day,” Sifford said.

The four women are appreciative of the commitment Knowlton expects of her judging teams.

“Over the past two years, I have missed some things I love, showing and some family events, and sometimes I have cried about it,” Sifford said. “But, I came to Tech to judge, so that is what we are doing.”

The four teammates agreed the closeness they have developed as a team



LAURA SELJAN/DAIRY STAR

Virginia Tech won the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Oct. 2 at World Dairy Expo. Pictured are coach Joseph Real (from left), Jenna Marston, Brooke Noel, Madison Sifford, Jaiden Cain and coach Dr. Katharine Knowlton.

has helped them deal with the strains of the rigorous schedule.

“We are really close, and I think that really helps us when it comes to competing,” said Marston, who is referred to as the most improved member of the team.

Marston grew up judging horses and did not begin her dairy judging career until she was drafted onto the FFA judging team her senior year in high school.

“What Jenna has done, to win the reasons contest tonight, that is remarkable,” Sifford said. “She has worked so hard and come so far. We are so proud of that.”

Individually, Nash topped the contest, averaging nearly 47 points across the entire contest. Last month, Nash also topped the contest held at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

“This is the icing on the cake, winning this contest,” Nash said. “But what I love most about dairy judging is the family aspect. The awards are great, but the people I have met and the friends I have made, that is what makes it special.”

The memories made on judging trips are what stick out in Nash’s mind as favorites.

“Every year we go to the Maryland State Fair for practice, and those trips are just so much fun,” Nash said.

A senior majoring in agricultural business management, Nash said she finds oral reasons to be the most challenging part of the contest.

“I am better at seeing the cows than talking them,” Nash said. “I am more of a conversationalist than a speech giver, so sometimes I feel like I struggle with

the reasons. The best advice I can give is to not get frustrated or quit but to allow yourself to grow along the way.”

Top 10 individuals

- Jessie Nash, 840, Michigan State University
- Madison Sifford, 838, Virginia Tech
- Marcus Marsigli, 836, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo
- Jenna Marston, 835, Virginia Tech
- Nathan Daniels, 831, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Kendal Jenkins, 828, The Pennsylvania State University
- Ashley Waymire, 821, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo
- Isabel Hall, 820, Cornell University
- Mason Jauquet, 820, Iowa State University
- Josie Burbrink, 819, Purdue University

Top 10 teams

- Virginia Tech 2,479
- California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo 2,443
- Purdue University 2,430
- Pennsylvania State University 2,429
- Cornell University 2,426
- University of Minnesota 2,421
- Michigan State University 2,414
- University of Illinois 2,398
- Iowa State University 2,393
- Ohio State University 2,369



LAURA SELJAN/DAIRY STAR

Jessie Nash of Michigan State University topped the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Oct. 2 at World Dairy Expo.

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"Sleep on your side again?"

WORLD DAIRY EXPO EXHIBITOR PROFILE

Isaac Folts
North Collins, New York

Tell us about your involvement in the dairy industry. I live on my family dairy farm in North Collins, New York. We milk 120 cows with two Lely robots. In addition to the robot barn, in 2020, I renovated a separate barn on the property into my show barn. I own and operate this barn myself. Currently, I have 40 animals including 12 milk cows with 15 of them boarded for others. I am also an active member of the New York Junior Holstein Association and serve on the executive board.

Tell us about the animals you brought to World Dairy Expo. Ryan Lawton and I have a string at WDE. In our string, Ryan has his cattle, and I have my own animals as well as cattle boarded at my farm. There are six milk cows and five heifers representing Holsteins, Red & White Holsteins, Jerseys and a Milking Shorthorn.

What has been a highlight of showing dairy cattle? Every day showing dairy cattle is a highlight to me. I get to wake up every morning and work with amazing cows doing what I love. The show cows have provided countless blessings. I have made great friends, great connections, am having an abundance of fun and am making a lifetime worth of memories. Winning grand champion of the International Junior Holstein Show at the 2021 WDE with Tusc-Vu Avalanche Cali-ET was the most memorable event for me.

Describe your favorite animal you have shown. I do not necessarily have a favorite, but the best cow I have ever shown is Tusc-Vu Avalanche Cali-ET. She is a very easy cow to work with, except in the showing. In the showing, she has a mind of her own and gives me a real workout. Every other time she is a sweetheart. I love to show Cali, even though she gives me a workout because I am proud to show off a cow I have worked with since she was a calf. I am truly honored to be a part of this cow's amazing story. I am living the dream when I get to show her.

What are you most excited about showing at WDE? I am most excited to showcase my dairy cattle and the



DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Isaac Folts poses with a herd favorite, Tusc-Vu Avalanche Cali-ET.

dairy cattle boarded at my place. I have worked very hard with them day in and day out, and I am proud of how they look.

Who has been influential in your showing career? My parents have been the most influential in my showing career. They have always guided, supported and helped me with the show cows and everything in life. No one and nothing could replace their help and support for me. I have also received an abundance of support and guidance from countless people in the industry who have been very influential to me, especially

Anthony Crothers, Ryan Lawton, the late Dean Sharp, Katie Coyne, and Tyler and Kelly Reynolds. Honestly, there have been so many people who have given me great advice I could not name them all, but I really appreciate each and every one.

How do you see yourself as a part of the future of the dairy industry? I see myself as part of the future of the dairy industry as a major breeder. I hope to breed many winners and strengthen and change the breeds for the better. I hope to elevate the bar and develop ideal cows for their respective breeds.

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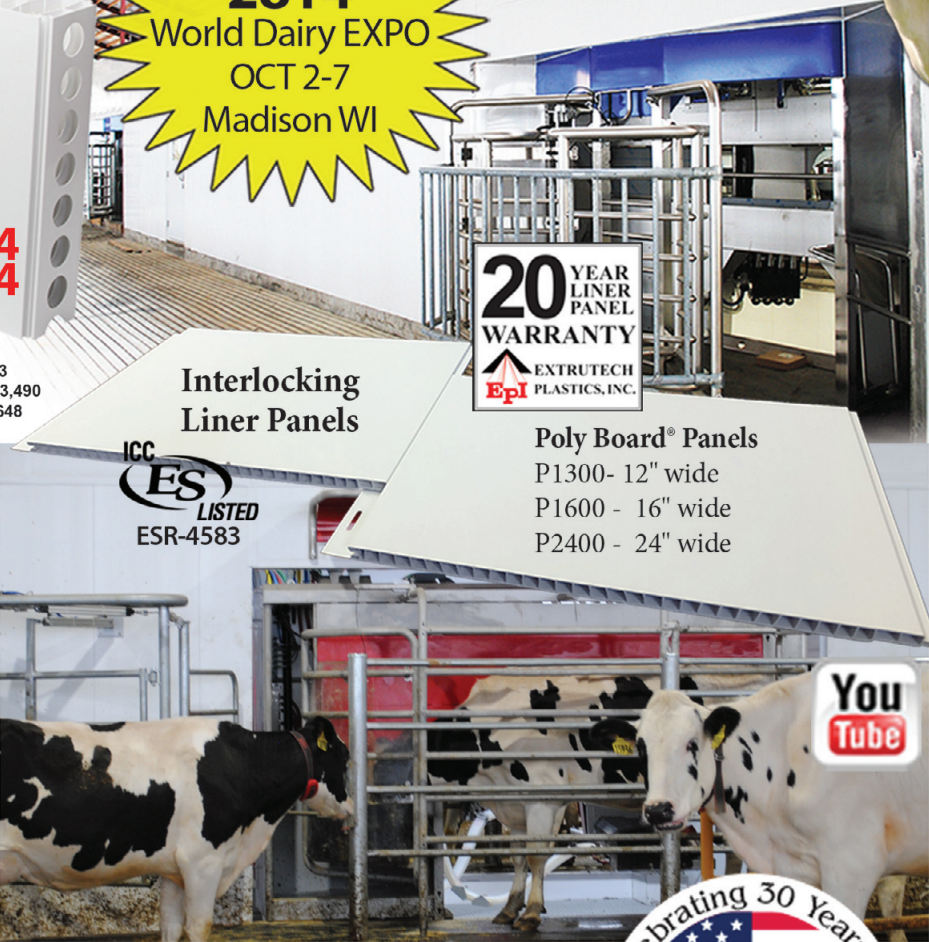
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STgenetics
Trans Ova Genetics
Udder Comfort Inc.
Vytelle LLC
Zoetis



Agri-Plastics Mfg.
Allflex Livestock Intelligence
Amlan International
Beco Dairy Automation, Inc.
Cargill Animal Nutrition
Cattle Connection
Channel Seed
Comfort Hoof Care
Compeer Financial
Corteva
Cowsmopolitan Dairy Magazine
Dairy Global
Danone North America
Datamars Livestock
Destination Madison
Fight Bac
Frenchville Trailers Sales LLC
FutureCow
Jetstream Genetics, Inc.
Land O'Lakes
Lely
Madero Dairy Systems
Milkplan SA
MilkSource Genetics
Nasco Farm & Ranch
Pivot Bio
Quality Liquid Feeds, Inc.

Soy Best
St. Jacobs ABC
Sun-North Systems, Ltd.



ABS Global
Ag-Bag by RCI
Agri-King, Inc.
Alliant Energy Corporation
Arkion Life Sciences
ARM & HAMMER Animal and Food Production
Ayrshire Breeders Association
Barenburg USA
Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association
Buildings by Alpha
Central Life Sciences
Chr. Hansen
Coburn Company, Inc.
Cotton Incorporated
Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
Dane County Dairy Promotion Committee
Gallagher USA
GenOvations
Holstein Association USA, Inc.
Holstein International
International Protein Sires
Kemin Animal Nutrition & Health
Kemps Dairy Products
Kwik Trip
Legacy Seeds
Mid-West Farm Report
National Dairy Shrine
NEXGROW Alfalfa
NutraDrip Irrigation Systems
PortaCheck
Progressive Publishing
Revolution
Scherer Inc.
Sheraton Madison Hotel
US VET
VAS
VES-Artex
W-L Alfalfa



AC Hotel by Marriott Madison Downtown
ADM Animal Nutrition
Agpro, Inc.
AgroChem, Inc.
AHV USA
Alforex Seeds
American Guernsey Association
American Guernsey Association Youth Fund
American Jersey Cattle Association
American Milking Shorthorn Society
Andis Company
Armor Animal Health
Arthur W. Nesbitt

Avid Hotels Madison-Monona
Balchem Corp.
Baymont Inn & Suites by Wyndham
Best Western Premier Park Hotel
Bio-Vet, Inc.
Boehringer Ingelheim
Bos Dairy LLC & The Franchise Kind
Cambria Hotel Madison East
Can-Am
Clarion Suites at Alliant Energy Center
Clipper Parts & Repair
CMP Impianti
Conewango Products Corp.
Courtyard Madison East
CROPLAN
Digested Organics LLC
DoubleTree by Hilton Madison East
Dynasty Genetics
Easy Boss E
Econoprint
EfferCept
ENDOVAC Animal Health
Equipment Blades
Fairfield Inn & Suites Madison East
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
Feedworks USA, Ltd.
Forage Genetics International
Hampton Inn & Suites Madison-West
Hilton Garden Inn Madison Downtown
Home2 Suites by Hilton Madison Central AEC
Homewood Suites by Hilton Madison West
Iconic Energy
Intermizoo
International Stock Food Corporation
Klussendorf Memorial Association
McLanahan Corporation
Misty Meadow Dairy
National Milk Producers Federation
O&T Farms
Passion Ag, Inc.
ProCROSS
Provimi
Red & White Dairy Cattle Association
Ritchie Industries, Inc.
SiloSTOP
Si-Ware Systems
SMITH Surface-Prep Solutions
Sustainable Environmental Consultants
The Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club
The National Dairy FARM Program
Tom Morris Ltd.
Tru by Hilton Madison West
Udder Tech, Inc.
Vita Plus Corporation
Weaver Livestock
Woodchuck Bedding Spreader
WTA Technologies, LLC

ONE ON ONE



Jason French
Fergus, Ontario
WDE Youth Showmanship Contest, Junior Division

Tell us about yourself and your experience in the dairy industry. I live in Fergus, Ontario, with my partner, Andrea, and I have two daughters in their 20s who are in the accounting and marketing field. I grew up in Peterborough County on a small dairy farm. After my post-secondary education from the University of Guelph, I began working in the A.I. industry within the Semex family of companies. I started with Eastern Breeders in eastern Ontario as an A.I. technician then moved to Gencor in both east central and western Ontario as a sales representative which entailed 12 years of work. I then moved to the Ontario Holstein Branch of Holstein Canada in 2006 where I was the general manager for nearly nine years. Alongside a great team, we managed many events for the Holstein breeders and youth development programs to encourage more involvement in the industry. In 2015, I decided to enter the milking equipment industry with taking on a robotic sales role with DeLaval that led to becoming a district manager for Ontario and the Maritimes. For the last two years, I have been working in my current role as VMS solution manager where I provide sales and marketing support to our North American team. The 4-H program has always been a big part of my life as my grandfather and father were 4-H leaders, and I have been a leader of our local 4-H dairy club for over 20 years. I was a 4-H member throughout my youth. A highlight of my 4-H career was being part of the Ontario 4-H dairy judging team that competed at World Dairy Expo. My daughters, Connor and Blaire, were part of the 4-H program taking on many clubs with particular focus on the dairy club where they showed their calves at many different levels of shows. I am the vice chairperson for the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic show at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto where we host 350 dairy members at the premier 4-H dairy show in the country.

with Jason French, showmanship judge



What is your favorite part about judging showmanship? My favorite part of judging showmanship is that everyone has a chance to win. Regardless of the conformation of your calf, if you show off the calf to demonstrate its strengths, then you have done a great job. This is what I bring up to members when teaching showmanship as it gives the members confidence that they can achieve many things if they go into the ring with the right attitude. The 4-H members put in so much work to train and prepare their calves, and I like to see the progression over time with them improving their skills they have learned.

Who is a mentor for you in the dairy industry and what have you learned from them? When you have been in the industry as long as I have, you have learned many things from many people. It's not always trying to be like one person but taking different things you appreciate from many people that generally shape the person you become. I was always encouraged to do my own work and do it with confidence as although I may fail, I will have the energy to try again.

What is the value of having a youth showmanship competition at WDE? We have heard the saying that the youth are our future many times, and if you don't have programs or events that involve them in the industry, then we will see a decreasing effect of participation. The youth showmanship competition gives them that opportunity to step out on those colored shavings that many of them have dreamed to do. With that opportunity will spark more desire to be a larger part of WDE activities but also take that passion back to their own community to support their local dairy activities. It's that drive of involvement at the local level that will bring more people to WDE to compete at a national level in the future.



What is a tip you have for youth competing in the showmanship contest? I would suggest that when you are in the Showing, you stay focused and be patient as you lead your calf. It is how you react to how your calf is leading at the time that will get the attention you deserve. You are a part of 4-H to have fun, and you should show that when you are in the Showing with a pleasant smile and a positive attitude. Good luck to you all.

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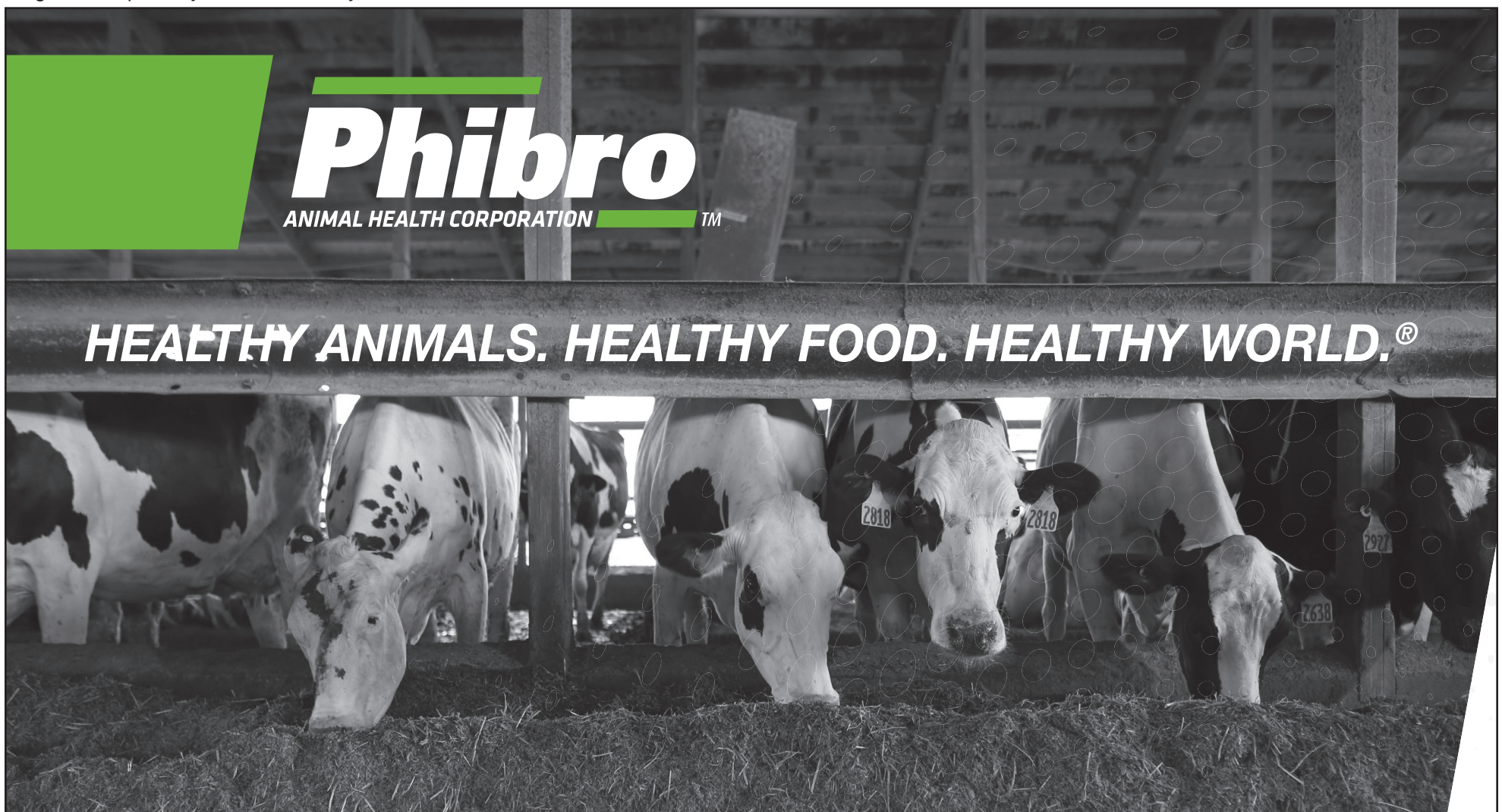
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