Honing skills to perfect their craft

49 compete in World Dairy Expo Youth Fitting Contest

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — After the flying hair settled, Wesley Brantner emerged victorious at the World Dairy Expo® Youth Fitting Contest, being named the winner of the third Michael Heath Overall Youth Fitting Award, after topping the senior male division of the 15th edition of the contest, held Sept. 27 in the Sale Pavilion. The contest was judged by Katie Shultz and Evan Stanley.

Forty-nine aspiring young dairy cattle fitters took part in the contest, which was first held in 2010. Shultz was charged with placing the senior division, while Stanley handled the evaluation duties in the intermediate division.

Winning the senior female division was Kayla Trustem, a two-time winner of the intermediate female division. Mason Buckley sorted himself to the top of the intermediate male



PHOTO BY DANIFLLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Monday, September 29, 2025

Judge Katie Shultz, Wesley Brantner, award sponsor Jamie Black and judge Evan Stanley gather at the Youth Fitting Contest Sept. 27, at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Brantner was named the top fitter and the recipient of the Michael Heath Overall Youth Fitting Award from a field of 49 participants in the Youth Fitting Contest.

division, and Olivia VanEvera took top honors in the intermediate female division.

"There are a lot of kids here who are really good," said Shultz. "A lot of them I would trust to clip my animals."

Brantner, age 21, hails from Oxford, Pennsylvania. He described his win after competing in the contest for a third time as a great start to a week that is always full of great experiences and memories.

"Winning the fitting contest, that is something that has been a goal of mine for a long time," Brantner said.

Fitting is a passion that grew on Brantner, who began

Glory, riches abound for

fitting in earnest at the age of 15. He now spends his time fitting, working as an A.I. technician and has gone to school for welding.

originally hated clipping," Brantner said.

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Mike Berry

skies

he baton

Grilled Cheese

Pepper Jack from Arena Cheese, Inc. UW-Madison Cheese Stand next to the Arena Building

Supreme Champion Showmen

reate your schedule

Download Expo's mobile event app for complete show details, today's schedule of events, maps and interactive features. Find it by scanning this QR code.





Zimmerman, Harbaugh top Youth Showmanship Contest

Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — Junior exhibitors from across North America walked onto World Dairy Expo's® famed colored shavings in search of the glory and riches awaiting the Supreme Champion Showman, who would be the recipient of the Annette Ostrom Memorial Supreme Showman Awards.

In three age divisions, nearly 450 exhibitors performed before judges Jonathan Rylaarsdam, Jessica Miller and Jason Zimmerman, in a contest that spanned nearly eight hours of competition.

Throughout 19 heats of competition — six junior, six



PHOTO COURTESY OF COWSMOPOLITAN

Division Champions and Reserve Champions of the World Dairy Expo Youth Showmanship Contest — judge Jonathan Rylaarsdam (from left), Cooper Merrill, Justin Brandel, Logan Harbaugh, William Zimmerman, Isaac Folts and Hannah Adams, and judges Jason Zimmerman and Jessica Miller — celebrate the culmination of a successful contest Sept. 27 in Madison, Wisconsin. William Zimmerman and Logan Harbaugh were selected from the group as the Supreme and Reserve Supreme Champion Showmen, respectively.

intermediate and seven senior - the judges put the contestants through their paces until six division champions were chosen to compete for the final honors.

Intermediate division winner William Zimmerman

of Brodhead was the recipient of the high five that symbolized the ultimate victory, as he was named Expo's thirdever Supreme Champion Showman. Reserve Supreme

Champion honors were bestowed upon Logan Harbaugh of Marion, the winner of the senior division.

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Today IN THE TANBARK

The Tanbark, located in the Arena Building, is a full-service bar and restaurant that serves as the meeting place for attendees and exhibitors. Join us for a meal, Happy Hour, a nightly reception or an industryhosted event!

10:30 A.M. - 3 P.M. Lunch Monday-Friday

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WDE Dairy Show & Sale Schedule _____

The breed shows at World Dairy Expo are held in the Coliseum. Sale locations are noted below. For a complete schedule, download the WDE mobile event app or visit worlddairyexpo. com.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

International Jersey Show - Heifers 7 a.m.

12:30 p.m. International Ayrshire Show

- Heifers

2:30 p.m. International Guernsey Show - Cows

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

7 a.m. International Jersey Show - Cows International Ayrshire Show - Cows 7 a.m.

2:30 p.m. International Brown Swiss Show - Heifers

Top of the World Jersey Sale 6 p.m. (The Tanbark)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

International Brown Swiss Show 7 a.m.

- Cows

7 a.m. International Milking Shorthorn Show

- Heifers

International Red & White Show 2 p.m.

- Heifers

3 p.m. World Premier Brown Swiss Sale

(Sale Pavillion)

Global Opportunity Guernsey Sale 7 p.m.

(Sale Pavillion)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

7 a.m. International Red & White Show

- Cows

International Milking Shorthorn Show 7 a.m.

- Cows

1:30 p.m. International Holstein Show - Heifers World Classic 2025 (The Tanbark)

8:30 p.m. Supreme Champion of the

Heifer Show Selection

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

6 p.m.

International Holstein Show 7 a.m.

- Cows

4 p.m. Parade of Champions and Selection

of Supreme Champions

*Schedule subject to change

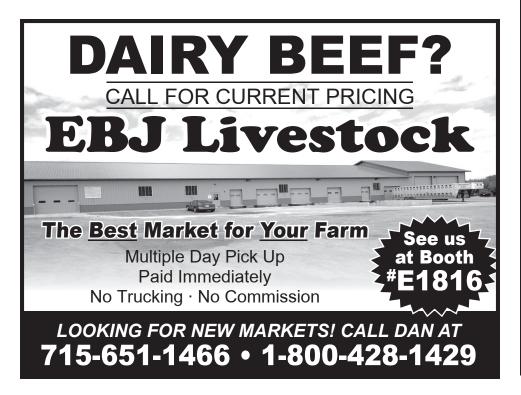






PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Contestants in the senior female division of the Youth Fitting Contest work with their animals Sept. 27 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The contestants have 60 minutes to prepare their animals to be show ring-ready.

"My brother was really into it and he got me started. Then he moved away and I had to step up and start doing my own animals. The more I worked at clipping, the better I got and the more it became something I like doing."

Besides learning alongside his brother, Brantner credits Justin Kaufman as being a mentor for him as a fitter.

"What really makes me enjoy fitting is the people I get to work with," Brantner said. "And I love working with the animals, being able to make an animal look their best — there is a lot of satisfaction in the final product."

The fitting contest is a natural fit for senior female division winner Trustem, age 17, of Evansville. A three-time entrant and three-time winner, Trustem has fitted a different breed of heifer each

"I find clipping very peaceful, it's calming and relaxing for me," Trustem said. "I honestly wish I had time to do more clipping than what I do."

Trustem said she can see the growth she has made since she first picked up a set of clippers.

"I have definitely improved my blending skills — the top, the belly, everything," Trustem said. "I trust my own skills more than I used to. My next goal is to become more comfortable with sprays and paints."

Trustem credits long-time mentors Matt Sloan and Nick Sarbacker with encouraging her to begin clipping, and for teaching her to become passionate about the art form.

The best advice Trustem said she can share with other aspiring fitters is to

"You have to try it, to know if you like doing it," Trustem said. "It is something that takes time to become comfortable doing. Once you get comfortable with the clippers in your hands, that is when you can really start learning and improving."

Buckley, age 16, of Lindsay, Ontario, was the choice of Stanley to top the intermediate male division. Buckley began honing his clipping skills by barn clipping fresh cows and heifers on a nearby dairy farm.

While many have played a hand in helping Buckley get started clipping, he credits fitter Tristan Rae with helping him improve on the details.

"I like that you can completely change how an animal looks, and help her do better," Buckley said. "I want to be able to get my toplines a little crisper,

a little more sharp."
VanEvera, age 16, of Cobleskill, New York, the winner of the intermediate female division, agreed with Buck-

"Every year, I pick something I want to really focus on improving," VanEvera said. "I have always been pretty good at belly hair, I just love doing it. This year, I've been focusing on my tops, getting them crisp and dialed in. My goal for next year is to have ribs perfected. Ribs are tough, but I've been told by multiple people you just have to go out to the barn and go for it, until you get the look you want.

VanEvera began her fitting journey five years ago, being taught by her mother. Now she is helping her younger brother learn to clip.

"I love that it is something I do with my family," VanEvera said. "I thank my mom for teaching me and now I love being able to clip beside my brother, sharing what I've already learned.'

One of the biggest challenges VanEvera said she has faced is learning to work with all types of hair.

'Every cow has different hair, no two really blow up exactly the same," VanEvera said. "Some have way more than you need, others don't have nearly enough, some are thick and coarse, others thin and fine. You just need to work with each one as an individual."

Setting goals and working to accomplish those goals is a key to success, VanĒvera said.

"Every year I'm always working at something new," VanEvera said. "You've always got to push, to keep creeping ahead. Accomplishing them and achieving what you want doesn't happen every day or every year, but that should never keep you from working harder."

Senior Males

- 1. Wesley Brantner, Saegertown, Penn.
- 2. Payton Calvert, Cuba City, Wis. 3. Suton Paulson, Rockford, Ill.
- 4. Dillon Freeman, Bremen, Ind.
- 5. Alexander Burleigh, Muncy, Penn.

Senior Females

- 1. Kayla Trustem, Evansville, Wis. 2. Kathrin Hanemann, Deerfield, Wis.
- 3. Brooklyn Schwoerer, Edgar, Wis.
- 4. Makenna Mase, Cochranton, Penn.
- 5. Kayla Visser, Hutchinson, Minn.

Intermediate Males

- 1. Mason Buckley, Lindsay, Ont.
- 2. Benny Uhe, Evansville, Wis.
- 3. Jacob Schimek, Pine Island, Minn. 4. Nicholas Bourque, St. Paul, N.B.
- 5. Stanley Meacham, Chester, Mass.

Intermediate Females

- 1. Olivia VanEvera, Cobleskill, N.Y.
- 2. Kamrie Mauer, Brownton, Minn. 3. Brooke Mueller, Brodhead, Wis.
- 4. Jadeyn Mueterthies, Lawler, Iowa
- 5. Hailey Kinney, Durand, Ill.



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Continued from YOUTH SHOWMANSHIP | Page 1

Placing second in the intermediate division, behind Zimmerman, was Justin Brandel of Lake Mills, while Isaac Folts of North Collins, New York, placed second behind Harbaugh in the senior division. Cooper Merrill of Seneca Falls, New York, and Hannah Adams of Sharon Springs, New York, were the top showmen in the junior division.

This has been a tremendous show," said senior division judge Jason Zimmerman. "The quality has been unbelievable, from top to bottom, in every heat. These young people have made my job very difficult, but I'm happy with the way it has sorted out."

As they entered the ring for the Supreme Championship selection, each contestant began with a blank slate meaning a divisional Reserve Champion could apply knowledge learned during the contest to be selected as the overall Supreme Champion.

After winning the intermediate division, Zimmerman who is age 14, doubted his day could get better, but time proved him wrong.

"I am just shocked, I really can't believe it," he said. "I just went out there and did what I know works for me. I tried to be relaxed and natural, to just show like myself."

The accolades he earned were born from putting the time and effort into preparing at home, said Zimmerman, who has been honing his skills since he was 6 years old. He credits his parents with laying the foundation of skills he has been able to build on. This year marked his third time participating in Expo's contest.

"I've learned that if you want to win, you have to put in a lot of work at home," Zimmerman said. "I lead her for 30 minutes every day. She is

walked with the skid steer for exercise. That helps her learn that when I take the halter, it is time to get down to business. She knows it's showtime."

Harbaugh, age 18, has been circling show rings at all levels of competition for as long as he can remember. He is a 10-time participant of the Youth Showmanship Contest, but has never earned a blue neck medallion until this year.

While he enjoys the time spent in the show ring, Harbaugh said he gains the most satisfaction from the time spent in the barn.

"I like working with my heifers, watching them develop and change," Harbaugh said. "You think you know what they can develop into, but it is always rewarding to watch the process happen. You can't compete successfully at any level if you don't put the work in behind the scenes."

Working with his family, Harbaugh said he has learned a great deal from his father.

"My dad has taught me pretty much everything I know about cattle," Harbaugh said. "Whether it's showing or judging or just taking care of them, he's always been there showing me how it is done and then letting me do

Although this was his first time competing in the Youth Showmanship Contest, Cooper Merrill, age 11, has years of experience under his belt.

"I showed my first calf when I was 2 years old, I don't even really remember it," Merrill said. "This was very exciting, to show on the colored shavings and win a contest this big."

Merrill credits his father with instilling him with the best showmanship lessons, that helped him stand out among his peers.

"I always kept my eyes on (the

judge) and kept showing my heifer the best I could," Merrill said. "I listened to what he wanted in my heat and I used that to show him what he wanted to see in the finals."

Competing with friends and making new friends is the most rewarding part of showmanship, Merrill said, and he encourages others to take part 3. Addison Brown, Preble, N.Y. in the contests.

You can decide how good you do by the amount of work you do," Merrill said. "You can't ever give up. You have to keep showing until the very end."

A willingness to work hard, combined with dedication and perseverance are the common denominator among the three divisional champions.

With much of his junior exhibitor career in the rear-view mirror, Harbaugh said he would also encourage younger dairy enthusiasts to never give up.

"You have to keep trying," Harbaugh said. "If you give up on yourself, you'll never accomplish your goals or achieve your dreams."

Junior (Ages 9-13):

- 1. Cooper Merrill, Seneca Falls, N.Y.
- 2. Hannah Adams, Sharon Springs, N.Y.
- Paige Zimmerman, Brodhead, Wis.
- Kendall Thomas,
- North Lewisburg, Ohio
- Jaiden Stull, Markdale, Ont. Annette Clougherty, Easton, Md.
- Kendyll Kress, Newton, Wis.
- Molly Meinholz, Deforest, Wis.
- Grace Salter, Wimuama, Fla.
- 10. Jada Rauen, Dyersville, Iowa
- 11. Adella Loehr, Eden, Wis. 12. Camryn Thomas,
- North Lewisburg, Ohio 13. Mia Smith, Elroy, Wis.

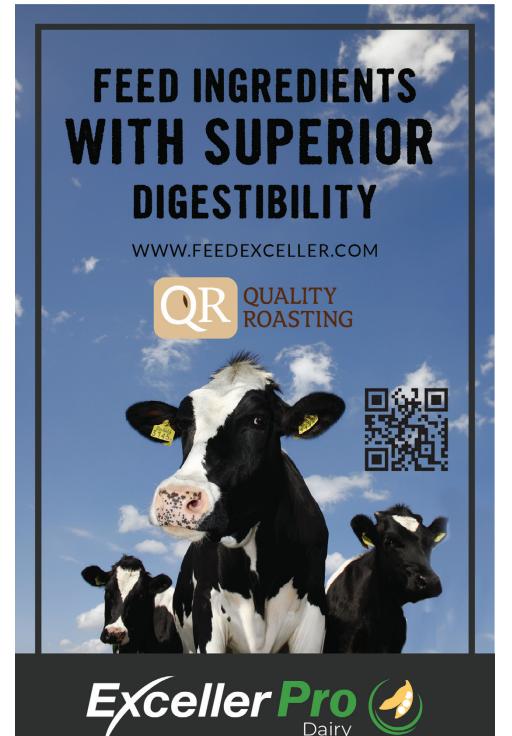
- 14. Kaelyn Tompkins, Salisbury, Conn.
- 15. Titus Mentink, Oostburg, Wis.

Intermediate (Ages 14-16):

- 1. William Zimmerman. Brodhead, Wis.
- Justin Brandel, Lake Mills, Wis.
- 4. Conner Wills, Marathon, N.Y.
- Stella Schmocker, Whitewater, Wis.
- Reid Vandoske, Cleveland, Wis.
- Mallory Nifong, Orfordville, Wis.
- Deanna Wolfe,
- Richfield Springs, N.Y.
- Ian Brick, Greenleaf, Wis.
- 10. Brady McConnell, Lancaster, Wis.
- 11. Kennedy Zimmerman, Brodhead, Wis.
- 12. Alivia Wiese, Greenleaf, Wis.
- 13. Sevanna Fairbank,
- Beaver Dam, Wis.
- 14. Taylor Lawrence, Brooklyn, Conn.
- 15. Stella Jauquet, Luxemburg, Wis.

Senior (Ages 17-21):

- 1. Logan Harbaugh, Marion, Wis.
- Isaac Folts, North Collins, N.Y.
- Sarah Hill, Bristol, Vt.
- Chase Savage, Union Bridge, Md.
- 5. Landen Copenhaver, Lebanon, Penn.
- Lilly Elsass, Wapakoneta, Ohio
- Aubree Topp, Botkins, Ohio
- Alexis Schultz, Marion, N.Y.
- Kyla Johnson, Tomah, Wis.
- 10. Taylor Mathers, Winchester, Ont.
- 11. Kiara Konyn, San Diego, Calif. 12. Josh Brander, Rockwood, Ont.
- 13. Kathrin Hanemann,
- Deerfield, Wis.
- 14. Tessa Schmocker, Whitewater, Wis.
- 15. Kayla Trustem, Evansville, Wis.





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Florida 4-H

Team Members
Kathryn Montes De Oca
Sophia Caves
Josh Larson
Lilly Larson
Coach
Gene Holcomb

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo®? How did you travel, and how long did the trip take? We are about 1,300 miles from Madison. We fly now because of restrictions due to school, but we used to drive up for the National 4-H Dairy Conference. The first year I — Gene Holcomb — came up with the judging team was in 1993.

How is your judging team selected? Our teams are selected from summer workouts as our fairs are in the early springtime. We organize some workouts for late summer, although it is really hot. Everyone has to apply their skills and abilities to prove their qualifications. Then, we send them to some extra workouts out-of-state. Some of the practices are long and intense. This is an opportunity for the students to showcase their talents and communicate with others involved in the same interests. We believe there are many opportunities in agricultural fields.

Tell us about the practice stops you made, traveling to Expo? Being that we do fly up, we try to arrange farm stops ahead of time so we can get right to work when we arrive. This year's team did not get the extra work in as we came up later. However, we were able to join the workouts with other Madison groups.

Did you make any fun stops along the way? We do like to do some unorthodox planning and go to new and exciting venues, and a unique, quiet park. We also try to have an unwind function of some sort. Coming to the contest is a celebration of sorts of the students, for their years of practice and hard work.

What is your team's favorite place to eat while traveling? One of the many highlights is going to eat at new and different restaurants, like mom-and-pop kind of places, but I do believe this team's favorite restaurant would be Texas Roadhouse.



Modesto Junior College Modesto, California

Team Members

Mykel Mull, Chowchilla, California Matthew Pacheco, Los Banos, California Mikayla Silveira, Gustine, California Madeline Zweegman, Lyden, Washington Coach Nicole Morris

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo®? How did you travel, and how long did the trip take? Altogether, the team traveled 2,063 miles by plane. With flights and driving included, the whole trip took about six and a half bours

Turn to Q&A | Page 7

JUDGING TEAM TRAVELS



Aeres University of Applied Sciences Wageningen, Netherlands

Team Members

Maarten Appelman, Beemster Esmee Meijer, Bruinehaar Joeri Groot, Beemster Floor van't Klooster, Hoevelaken Coach

Isa Lammersen

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo®? How did you travel, and how long did the trip take? We traveled 4,100 miles from Amsterdam to Madison for Expo. The flight took about eight hours. We arrived at our partner school, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, for a tour, a meet and greet and our first experience of dairy judging in the U.S.

How is your judging team selected? At our university, we have our "Fokkerij-commissie Dronten," a student association on dairy judging, breeding and discussions. We organize lots of different activities that can be seen on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. To select our team, we organized three selection rounds. During these evenings, everyone who wanted to join the team had to judge two groups and explain their reasoning. A jury then awarded points to each participant. After the three rounds, the four students with the highest scores earned their place on the team to travel to the U.S.

Tell us about the practice stops you made, traveling to Expo? Following the selection, we practiced every other week at different farms to prepare.

Did you make any fun stops along the way? In total, we will spend 12 days in the U.S. During this time, we will visit WDE, a wide variety of farms, universities and cities — including Chicago, and get a touch of life in the U.S.

What is your team's favorite place to eat while traveling? Culver's has been a favorite of ours so far.



Passing the baton

How mentorship, community shaped Nielsen's dairy path

BY MICHELE ACKERMAN Staff Writer

NORTH LAWRENCE, N.Y.

— Bringing non-farm youth into the dairy industry is much like a long-distance relay. Success relies on a dedicated team of mentors, each passing the baton of knowledge, passion and opportunity at just the right moment. For Irene Nielsen, this journey was guided by a series of mentors who stepped in at pivotal moments, ultimately shaping her path toward a career in the dairy industry.

Today, this dairy enthusiast, raised in south-central Michigan by a pair of educators at Michigan State University, is the calf manager at Stauffer Farms LLC, a 4,500-cow dairy in North Lawrence.

The dairy spark came from Nielsen's mother, Miriam Weber Nielsen, who grew up on a dairy farm in Saginaw County, Michigan. When Irene Nielsen was old enough to join 4-H, her mother encouraged her to give it a try. The Nielsens purchased a couple of heifers from a local dairy farmer, and while enthusiastic, they were green.

"The two heifers were pret-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY IRENE NIELSEN

Irene Nielsen (from left), Jenna Langrehr, Lisa Behnke and Katrina Hoesly work behind the scenes in October 2023 to make World Dairy Expo an enjoyable experience for dairy enthusiasts in Madison, Wisconsin. Nielsen twice served as an intern for WDE.

ty much commercial animals," Nielsen said. "They were registered, but nothing fancy, and neither of my parents had any experience showing cattle."

Enter the first baton holders: Sara MacRae, Ron Long and their son, Keagan. Sara and Miriam were college friends and their children, Keagan and Irene, were schoolmates and members of the same 4-H club in Ingham County, Michigan.

"The Longs helped me navigate my first time showing and introduced me to a lot of youth activities," Nielsen said. "I did so many things with them, and we became incredibly close."

Taking her under their wings, the trio traveled with Nielsen to farms across Michigan for dairy judging, quiz bowl and management contest practices, opening doors to the broader dairy world. Beyond the hands-on experience, they were — and continue to be — valued cheerleaders.

"Sara is always the first to comment, congratulate, or reach out whenever something is posted on Facebook," Nielsen said. "She was a huge force in getting me started in the dairy realm."

In her second year of 4-H, Nielsen leased a heifer from Green Meadows Farm of Elsie, Michigan — a pivotal opportunity to tie in with one of the state's most respected Holstein herds and develop a long-standing friendship with the Green family. She continued to exhibit cattle through high school, leasing or purchasing animals from several producers across the state.

"I got to meet a lot of producers in Michigan, and those connections enabled me to attend World Dairy Expo for the first time with the Longs, and then the North American International Livestock Exposition with other individuals," Nielsen said.

Another major influence was

the crew at T&H Dairy in St. Johns, Michigan.

"My partnership with T&H Dairy has probably been the most widespread," she said. "I worked with more of their animals and housed more animals there than anywhere else. Their generosity allows me to continue to keep animals in their herd."

The farm's calf manager, Todd Watts, emerged as another critical mentor.

"He did a lot to involve me and has been a fantastic person to learn from," Nielsen said. "He is a boots-on-the-ground kind of person, and watching him work with calves while I was in high school deepened my love for them."

Like MacRae, Watts remains a steadfast supporter.

"He is always checking in on me," Nielsen said. "I'll send him a photo of some interesting calf thing I have going on, and he'll say, 'Oh, I saw that 10 years ago.' I am grateful for his mentorship, whether it was through showing back then or now, as we navigate similar roles."

Ultimately, it was a sense of community that inspired Nielsen to pursue dairy studies at the college level.

"I chose Iowa State University because I wanted to meet more people and explore a different side of the industry," Nielsen said. "Iowa State offered some good agricultural scholarships and is a very agriculture-focused school with a lot of different opportunities."

Nielsen was a member of the ISU dairy judging and dairy chal-

lenge teams and served as vice president of the Undergraduate Student Division of the American Dairy Science Association during her senior year. She was also an undergraduate research assistant in multiple dairy labs, a peer mentor and a student admissions representative.

It was here that Nielsen met another industry professional, Dr. Gail Carpenter, who carried the baton on the home stretch.

"Dr. Carpenter was involved in nearly every dairy activity offered by Iowa State in one way or another," Nielsen said. "She is focused on student success and celebrating students and does a fantastic job of making sure everybody is heard and that everyone has a seat at the table."

Carpenter also encouraged her to participate in the university's international agriculture program. Nielsen studied abroad in Ghana, Madagascar, the Netherlands and Rome, to expand her global perspective of agriculture.

Summer internships gave Nielsen broad hands-on experience, from roles at Michigan Farm Bureau and CentralStar Cooperative to Stauffer Farms, where she now works full time. She also completed shorter-term positions, including two media internships with World Dairy Expo and a social media internship with the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge.

After graduating from ISU in 2025 with degrees in dairy science, agricultural communication and international agriculture, Nielsen faced the daunting task of narrowing down a career path.

"This was challenging for me because there were so many things I was interested in and loved doing — even within agriculture," Nielsen said. "After working in Rome with the Food and Agriculture Organization on a food security project, I seriously considered pursuing something with an international focus."

But within three weeks of coming home, everything shifted.

"I did a complete 180 and moved to rural New York to take the calf-raising job that had been offered by Stauffer Farms," Nielsen said.

The position is a perfect fit for Nielsen, whose journey began feeding calves at MSU's research dairy in high school.

Of course, the future is never set in stone. Times change. Industries evolve.

One thing is certain, however. For this former non-dairy kid, the dairy industry — and its community of people who welcomed her in — will always feel like home.





How is your judging team selected? Students who are interested in judging start by enrolling in the Dairy Judging Selection and Evaluation course. From there, they practice for months and take part in a spring boot camp. This helps show their skills and dedication. Then the final team is chosen for the fall season.

Tell us about the practice stops you made, traveling to Expo? Practice was a big part of the trip. In central Illinois, the team stopped at Kilgus Farmstead, Mackinson Dairy Farm and Zehrview Holsteins. On the second day, they visited Erbacres Holsteins and Gunderson Family Dairy, before finishing with a stop at Ocean View Genetics in Wisconsin. Each visit gave them valuable judging experience and a chance to see some great cattle.

Did you make any fun stops along the way? After flying into Chicago, the team explored Millennium Park, saw the famous "The Bean" sculpture and walked along the Riverwalk. When they reached Madison, they visited the Wisconsin State Capitol and enjoyed a walk around the square that surrounds it.

What is your team's favorite place to eat while traveling? The team likes to try local restaurants recommended by people they meet along the way. The only rule? Any stop has to serve ice cream and offer whole milk.



SUNY Cobleskill Cobleskill, New York

Team Members

Elsie Donlick, Cortland, New York Rachel Hatch, Centerville, New York Connor MacNeil, Hoosick Falls, New York Mason Ziemba, Durhamville, New York Coach Carrie Edsall

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo®? How did you travel, and how long did the trip take? From Cobleskill, it is 930 miles to Expo. With this distance, our team flies from Albany, New York, into the Dane County Regional Airport.

How is your judging team selected? Our team is selected based off of participation in the spring semester dairy judging class. Those interested in a spot on the team compete at the New York Spring Dairy Carousel and the Great New York State Fair, where the team is finalized. We are excited to be coming off big wins at both The Big E and Harrisburg.

Tell us about the practice stops you made, traveling to Expo? We spent Thursday night practicing for the collegiate practical contest and then Friday traveled to northern Illinois for morning practices at Erbacres Holsteins and Gunderson Family Dairy. The afternoon featured a practice at Mil-R-Mor Farm, with a great history lesson from Bob Miller and his family about Glenridge Citation Roxy, the "Queen of the Breed," and of their farm as well. Saturday morning was reserved for reasons practice, then the team competed in the practical contest in the afternoon. The practical contest is a team event with linear evaluations, matings and purchasing scenarios.

Did you make any fun stops along the way? We arrived in Madison on Thursday and also made that our fun day, visiting the National Dairy Shrine and the Hoard's Dairyman Farm. The day included a return trip to the airport to retrieve some lost luggage. Friday afternoon, we headed back to Wisconsin from our northern Illinois judging stops, we traveled through New Glarus and happened upon their Oktoberfest, and we made a fun pit stop in Little Switzerland.

What is your team's favorite place to eat while traveling? Our team always seems to have a hard time deciding where to eat, so to help make those decisions we have incorporated a spinner app, which helps us narrow in a location. Every morning, however, this team must have a Dunkin' run to caffeinate!







Holstein Ontario 4-H Ontario, Canada

Team Members

Rylan Aitken, Haydon, Ontario Jackson Sim, Embro, Ontario Taylor Mathers, Winchester, Ontario Hailey Smygwaty, Russell, Ontario Coaches

Murray Reissner, Woodstock, Ontario Pam Charlton, Brantford, Ontario

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo®? How did you travel, and how long did the trip take? The team traveled 603 miles, although some team members traveled much further to meet up in Brantford, Ontario, where we left from the Holstein Ontario office as a team. One participant had to fly home from school in Alberta to travel with the team. In total the trip was 10 hours. We drove in a Jeep Wagoneer that we affectionately call "The Tank."

How is your judging team selected? Holstein Ontario hosts a provincial competition called Inter-County Dairy Youth Judging Competition where we judge nine classes — three Holstein, three Jersey and three colored breeds — give oral reasons on six classes and complete a written quiz. The top four overall senior participants earn a place on the team.

Tell us about the practice stops you made, traveling to Expo? Our first stop was near Freeport, Illinois, at Erbacres Holsteins, where we judged three classes of Holsteins. Our next stop brought us to Gunderson Family Dairy, where we judged another two classes and we finished our day at Mil-R-Mor Farm where we judged another three classes and had a very interesting history lesson from Bob Miller himself about the Roxy family.

Did you make any fun stops along the way? No, just many, many traffic stops getting through Chicago.

What is your team's favorite place to eat while traveling? Friday night fish and chips at The Laurel Tavern right here in Madison is our favorite.



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Flying the friendly skies

Cows arrive in style to 1972 Expo

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. Show cows are often thought of as pampered beasts: living a leisurely

life, lying on a deep straw pack complete with fans and a buffet of hay, with their own crew of bovine beauticians at hand.

But have any cows been more pampered than those who made the journey to World Dairy Expo,® flying the friendly skies?

In 1972 the window between the Eastern National Holstein Show held during the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Expo was very short — a mere five days.

Don Reisinger of Allen Dairy Farms Inc., in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, did not believe there was enough time for his cows to make the trip, recover from their travels and be ready to perform for the Central National Holstein Show held during Expo.

With a group of cows he felt was competitive, including Expo's firstever Supreme Champion, Wind Drift Countess Nora, Reisinger was reluctant to be left on the sidelines.

"We knew they were flying heifers to South America all the time," Reisinger said. "We checked



PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLD DAIRY EXPO

Jake Emig (left), Douglas King, O.V. "Benny" Beneke, Bruce Pickering and Louis Prange document unloading a plane full of elite show cattle in 1972 at Truax Field in Madison, Wisconsin. Don Reisinger, president of Allen Dairy Farms Inc., arranged to fly his farm's show herd, along with a few other animals, from the Eastern National Holstein Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to World Dairy Expo in Madison because of the short 5-day window between the shows.

into it and decided it would save a lot of time and be easier on the cows. So instead of not going, we flew the cows out. It's a good thing we did -Countess Nora was named Supreme Champion again that year. It was a fairly expensive endeavor, but ultimately worth it."

With the idea set in motion, Reisinger teamed up with his farm's showman, Jake Emig, and Maryland Holstein breeder Douglas King of King-

stead Farms in Clarksburg to begin preparations for the flight.

Airline stipulations allowed only two people to accompany the cows on the cargo plane during flight, so Emig and King flew alongside their charges to Madison's Truax Field.

The plane was outfitted to accommodate nearly a dozen head.

'We used a plane that was already outfitted for flying cattle for export," Reisinger said of the preparations. "There wasn't much we had to do, just a small amount of adjustments inside the plane to make it work for show cows, as opposed to export heifers.

Besides Countess Nora, three other cows from Allen Dairy made the trip: two-year-old Lockway Mae Rich; Oakenthree-year-old bound Tammy Marquis and aged cow MD-Maple-Lawn Marquis Glamour.

"We had quite a bit of success with all four of those cows," Reisinger recalled.

From Kingstead, Expo entrants included four-year-olds Kingstead

Fond Jill and Kingstead Fond Aggie Jewel.

In the spirit of dairy industry cooperation and camaraderie that still exists today, room was made to include the cow who had beaten Countess Nora for the championship trophy at the Eastern National — the four-year-old cow, Rosemere Fury Iva, owned by Hanover Hill Holsteins, of Armenia, New York. Several other members of Pennsylvania's state herd, as well as a bull owned by George Knight earned their wings as well.

While the cattle, Emig and King awaited take-off at the Harrisburg International Airport, the rest of their crew headed west with tack and supplies to prepare for the arrival of the show string.

Once the plane landed, the task was getting the cows unloaded safely, which had never been attempted at Truax Field.

The Allen Dairy crew had enlisted help from O.V. "Benny" Beneke, out kind of late in the who worked for Price's Dairy of El Paso, Texas, to transport the first-time flyers from the airport to the fairground. Expo

staff sent members of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Badger Dairy Club, Bruce Pickering and Louis Prange, along to help deplane the cows.

"The Madison National Guard wasn't set up for cows; there had never been cattle flown in or out of the airport before," Prange said. "We all worked together to build chutes and a safe ramp to get the cows off the plane and onto the truck.'

It was an exciting and daunting task, Prange recalled.

"Everyone there was pretty pumped about the whole thing," Prange said. "None of us had ever done anything like that before; we just worked together to get the job done. At the time I don't think Bruce and I thought about how incredibly important these cows were; it was just a job we took on to do.'

While a big project, it came with a timeline, Prange said.

"Bruce and I got sent game, and we were there three or four hours, start to finish," Prange said.
"They told us there was a demurrage charge on

the plane; they had three hours from the time the plane landed to get the cows off. Anything over three hours, they paid an enormous hourly sum."

Prange said ironically, the experience turned out to be a harbinger of his fu-

"I've been involved in livestock exports for most of my life, so I've flown plane loads of cattle to pretty much every corner of the world," Prange said. "But unloading those cows in Madison was the first air shipment I participated in.'

Reisinger said the cows took the flight well for the most part and were content upon arrival.

According to the Nov. 10, 1972, Holstein World's Central National Holstein Show write-up, the flight included a rough

Inertia from take-off caused the load to shift, and Countess Nora was knocked off her feet. After the issues at take-off, Emig and King said they were apprehensive of another load shift at landing, but the cows handled that transition well.

Emig later shared with Holstein World correspondent James F. Hill that Countess Nora carried a fever several days at Expo. She recovered well enough to not only win a deep aged cow class, but also to capture the Grand Champion title and her second Supreme Champi-

That year would be the last hurrah for the Allen Dairy show herd, as it was dispersed May 12, 1973, in the Allen Dairy Sale of Champions. MD-Maple-Lawn Marquis Glamour topped the sale, selling for \$74,000 to Leadfield Associates of Rochester, New York. Countess Nora sold for \$31,000 to Rowntree Farms Ltd., of Brampton, Ontario.

When you have these great cows, when you enjoy the sport, you don't look at things like others might," Reisinger said. "It was an expensive proposition, but the reward was priceless. The things we do for those cows, they do for us, too. Especially when they're special like those cows were."



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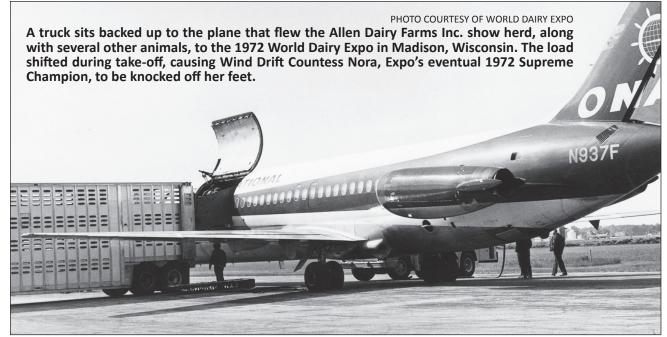
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Leaving the lights on, waiting to greet you

Vet students, volunteers make arrival process seamless

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — As exhibitors converge on the Alliant Energy Center, making the pilgrimage to World Dairy Expo® from near and far, they will be greeted day and night by a team ready to make the move-in process as painless as possible.

"Cattle start arriving on Wednesday, with early arrival requests," said Dave Bollig, Expo's Overall Dairy Cattle Superintendent. "Then starting Thursday morning, the superintendents are working nearly around the clock until everything is on the grounds on Saturday."

Working with the superintendents are a team of students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. They spend the earliest days of Expo congregated around the Arena Building, waiting to tend to the cattle aboard the trucks and trailers that pull in.

The superintendents work with the exhibitors to execute their carefully laid out stalling plans, while the veterinary students handle the duties of collecting health papers and manually checking animals and health charts as the they come off the trailers.

"From a biosecurity standpoint, checking health papers and doing a cursory inspection of animals as they are unloaded is vital," said Dr. Sheila McGuirk, who has volunteered at Expo and assisted with check-in protocols for decades

The current system of utilizing veterinary students dates to 2008, when Canadian exhibitors were first welcomed back to Expo after a 5-year absence due to an outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

McGuirk said Mark Clarke and Bob Kaiser, Expo's General Manager and Overall Dairy Cattle Superintendent at the time, approached her about beefing up health protocols for the world-class show

"At the time, even though every cow needed a health certificate, it often wasn't checked for a couple of days," McGuirk said. "Those cows were on the grounds and bedded down. Having a hands-on look at every cow was impossible because it was just a couple of veterinarians from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection doing it. The focus was pretty much just about the paperwork"

As she pondered how to optimize the process for the health of the cattle and the protection of exhibitors and Expo, McGuirk realized the sheer number of people necessary for laying eyes on every animal and checking every health paper before trailers were un-



PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Jaynie Henn (left) holds a Brown Swiss cow while Abigail Grosh scans the radio-frequency identification tag Sept. 26 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Grosh, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Veterinary Medicine, is part of a group of volunteers who operate Expo's health check-in process.

loaded was the biggest obstacle to overcome. Undaunted, McGuirk looked to the vet school as a resource.

"I decided to get the veterinary students excited about Expo," McGuirk said. "I wanted them to see the significance the show has, to see what a showcase it is. I was just trying to find bodies that would be willing to volunteer for the experience, free meals, a jacket and an Expo pass."

McGuirk was surprised to enlist an army of 50 students that first year.

"It was a great experience for them, to see cattle that got off the trailers on halters, meeting the people who carefully drove those trailers hours and hours to bring their cattle," McGuirk said. "A lot of the animals the students see at the vet school are culls cows — cows that were sold for a reason, and could be hateful animals, difficult to work with."

With her army enlisted, McGuirk worked out schedules and devised a plan for supervising the students. She created an orientation lecture, discussing infectious diseases and went over the various health papers that differ from state to state.

"I realized this really was a valuable learning experience for the students," McGuirk said. "By the next year, I argued to the curriculum committee that this was a creditable course — complete with a 2-hour lecture and 16 hours of hands-on work at Expo. It was approved as a one-credit pass/fail course, open to first, second and third year students."

This year, the program was in jeopardy of losing its accredited status, prompting Expo to shorten the arrival hours for exhibitors, closing the check-

in point from 11:59 p.m. Friday through 5:00 a.m. Saturday.

McGuirk is hopeful that under the guidance of Dr. Theresa Ollivett, who is now overseeing the check-in program, will continue it in a manner that benefits students, Expo and exhibitors.

Realizing that exhibitors on the road may run into travel issues that impede their progress, Bollig said his staff of superintendents was available for emergency situations that landed exhibitors at Expo during the hours the cattle check-in was closed.

"We understand things happen," Bollig said. "When it comes to accommodating our exhibitors and their cattle, we want to do everything we possibly can"

The program is beneficial to all par-

ties, McGuirk noted.

"The exhibitors can rest assured that every measure is being taken to protect the health of their animals," McGuirk said. "Expo can feel confident that every measure is being taken to protect the show and venue."

The biggest winners are the students, McGuirk remarked.

"They get the credit they so richly deserve for their time, but they get so much more," McGuirk said. "They get that training and exposure to health charts from all around the country, they network with dairy farmers and industry professionals, and they make connections and develop friendships with each other that will follow them through both their schooling and their careers."



PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

University of Wisconsin-Madison vet students Abigail Grosh (left) and Addison Ploeger verify health information for Randy Rule's Brown Swiss heifer Sept. 26 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Expo has utilized vet school students to expedite the check-in process since 2008.



Today at—World Dairy Expo

PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN /DAIRY STAR

Lauren Breunig looks over her placings Sept. 28 during the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Breunig is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's dairy cattle judging team.

PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Rob Leach holds his granddaughter, Nova Hildebrandt, as she naps Sept. 26 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. One-month-old Nova, the daughter of Brett and Taylor Hildebrandt of Hustisford is experiencing her first Expo.



PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Grace Mansell (left) and Mishka Tower spread shavings over the showring Sept. 26 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The pair are students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and members of the Badger Dairy Club.



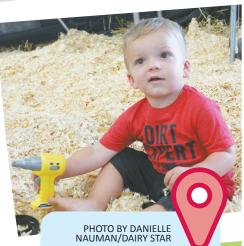
PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Robert Crack works on the topline of his heifer Sept. 27 during the Youth Fitting Contest at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Crack participated in the senior male division.

PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Brian Behnke (left) and his niece, Morgan Conard, catch up Sept. 28 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Expo experiences have been a centerpiece of the Behnke family's lives.

在1000年度中的第三人称单数的1000年度



Blake Schroeder uses his drill to help put together his family's ST-YLE Holsteins display Sept. 26 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Blake is the son of Patrick and Stephanie Schroeder of Lancaster.

PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Alexis Schultz waits with her heifer to enter the senior division finals Sept. 27 during the National Intercollegiate Youth Showmanship Contest at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Nearly 450 youth participated in the event.

Kiefer Anderson blends the belly hair on his Brown Swiss heifer Sept. 27 during the Youth Fitting Contest at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Anderson participated in the intermediate male division.

Judging Contest Results

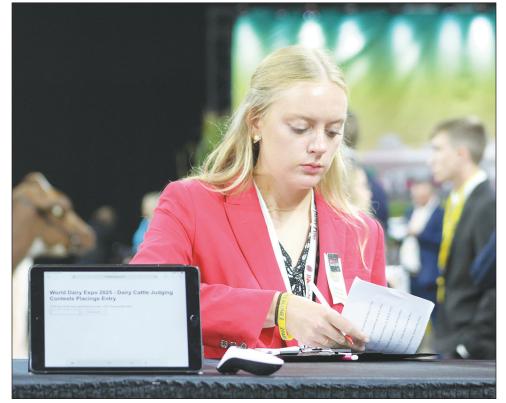


PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Jenna Gries looks over her placings Sept. 28 during the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Gries is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's dairy cattle judging team.

National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest

Overall Individual:

Campbell Booth, 708, Wisconsin **Overall Team:**

Minnesota, 2058, team members Blake Siewert, Emily Mellgren, Nolan Kruger and Ashley Mellgren, coached by Kayla Sexton

Overall Reasons Individual: Campbell Booth, 239, Wisconsin Overall Reasons Team:

Wisconsin, 676, team members Alison Gartman, Campbell Booth, Natalie Mauk and Austin Kreisa coached by Chris Booth, Sara Feldann and Kelly Jens.

International Post-Secondary Dairy Judging Contest

Overall Individual:

Connor MacNeil, 769, SUNY Cobleskill

Overall Team:

SUNY Cobleskill, 2257, team members Elsie Donlick, Mason Ziemba, Connor MacNeil and Rachel Hatch coached by Carrie Edsall.

Overall Reasons Individual:

Mason Ziemba, 227, SUNY Cobleskill Overall Reasons Team:

SUNY Cobleskill, 662, team members Elsie Donlick, Mason Ziemba, Connor MacNeil and Rachel Hatch coached by Carrie Edsall.

National Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest

Overall Individual:

Keenan Thygesen, 579, University of Minnesota

Overall Team:

University of Minnesota, 2505, team members Keenan Thygesen, Brady Gille and Alexis Hoefs coached by Dr. Les Hansen, Dr. Isaac Haagen, Eric Houdek and Gabriella Houdek.

Overall Reasons Individual:

Keenan Thygesen, 287, University of Minnesota

Overall Reasons Team:

University of Minnesota, 821, team members Keenan Thygesen, Brady Gille and Alexis Hoefs coached by Dr. Les Hansen, Dr. Isaac Haagen, Eric Houdek and Gabriella Houdek.

Full judging contest results will be reported in tomorrow's paper.



PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR Contestants enter their class placings into the digital tabulation system Sept. 28 during the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The digital system increases the speed and accuracy of results.



Bernice discovers the pitfalls of procrastination.



Caring for the cows when the chips are down

Veterinary staff, school stand ready to serve

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — Ever since its 1983 inception, the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine has been waiting in the wings, ready to provide care, if needed, for the bovine beauties that flock each year to World Dairy Expo®.

"The relationships we have built with the exhibitors over the years is huge," said Expo veterinarian Dr. Chelsea Holschbach. "They have come to trust us and recognize us as familiar faces. We try to be easily accessible."

Holschbach, a graduate of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, an assistant professor at the school, also serves on the 4-member team of veterinarians who care for the animals on grounds at the Alliant Energy Center. Joining Holschbach are Dr. Mike Miesen of Heritage Vet Partners; Dr. Keith Poulsen, director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Dr. Ryan Breuer, who has a joint appointment at both the veterinary school as an associate professor and the WVDL as a case coordinator.

Dr. Sheila McGuirk, a long-time Expo volunteer and emeritus professor at the vet school, recalls the earliest days of the vet school's support of Expo.

"When I started on the vet school faculty, I volunteered at Expo as a member of the dairy science department, but was also on-call at the hospital for any of the animals at Expo," McGuirk said. "We were able to do things at the vet school that couldn't have been done for the animals on-grounds. When they knew Wisconsin had a new school and had some of the new toys and saw the percentage of the population in the hospital that was dairy cows, the exhibitors started to trust that the school might be a place where extra care could be given."

The school was able to provide exhibitors with diagnostic tools that were not, and are still not, feasible for cow-side practice.

"In those days it wasn't nearly as common to use a lot of the more advanced technologies, like an X-ray on the chest or abdomen of a 1,600-pound cow," McGuirk said. "It certainly couldn't happen in a private practice. It was going to have to be in an institution, and even then, it wasn't prevalent among schools."

Exhibitors traveling to Expo sometimes bring cows along without the intention of exhibiting them, but to check them into the vet school for the week, to have diagnostics done for issues they are experiencing.

"It was kind of an unexpected spinoff, but it was very endearing," McGuirk said. "They bring them to us to get another viewpoint on a cow that was a little off."

The trust that the vet school staff



DHOTO SLIBMITTED

The team of Expo veterinarians — Dr. Keith Poulsen (left), Dr. Chelsea Holschbach, Dr. Ryan Breuer and Dr. Mike Miesen — prepare for a busy day caring for cattle Oct 5, 2023 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Exhibitors and animals alike benefit from the partnership between the Expo vets and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.

earned from exhibitors in the earliest years is the foundation the current Expo yets continue to build on.

"I think we have a good reputation and that is a very positive thing," Holschbach said. "People reach out to us sooner to look at their cattle. They trust the process and the fact that we can provide a spectrum of care."

McGuirk, who worked with long-time Expo veterinarian Dr. Lee Allenstein, said the cases that made their way to the vet school from the Expo grounds covered a wide range of ailments.

"Not unlike the general population, respiratory issues, followed by gastro-intestinal issues were the two main categories of issues we saw," McGuirk said. "These cows were going through being transported. They saw changes in their diet, the environment and climate, the population they were exposed to, they're maybe not drinking water the way they should — all things that could cause a small problem to become a more serious problem."

Holschbach said GI diseases are the primary reason cows make the trip to the vet school now.

"I would say we see a fair number of displaced abomasums — both right and left — and every year it seems we'll see at least one case of hardware," Holschbach said. "There's a lot of variety; you never know what you'll walk into with that many cows, from that many places."

In addition to advanced diagnostics and surgical interventions, the vet school can provide rumen transfusions from canulated cows and blood transfusions. All donors are tested clear of infectious diseases, ready to be called into service on short notice.

Over half the animals that travel from John Nolan Drive to the vet school respond to fluids and other palliative types of care, McGuirk said. Holschbach added that different years bring their own unique challenges.

"Last year was a rough year," Holschbach said. "I think we sent maybe 20 cows over to the vet school; that was off the charts. They aren't all there, all week — most are able to come back to Expo in a couple days, and we'll care for them here."

One of the more memorable cases McGuirk recalled working with was a heifer in the late 1980s, that was ultimately diagnosed with rabies.

"Both Dr. Allenstein and I had examined her and couldn't figure out what was wrong, she ended up at the vet school, where she was diagnosed," McGuirk said. "She was very depressed, and slobbering, but she had been at a couple of shows right before coming to Expo — you don't automatically think about rabies for some-

Another memorable case McGuirk recalls in her career was when Huronia Centurion Veronica occupied a stall at the vet school in 2006, a mere pit-stop on her way to a Supreme Champion banner.

thing that has been on the show circuit."

With the vet staff uncertain of exactly what had ailed the well-traveled cow, McGuirk said she was able to witness the cow's storied grit and determination, first-hand.

"Veronica stands out because not only did we get her going, and not only was she able to show, but she won," McGuirk said. "We had left the catheter sewn in on her off-side, just in case. I was sitting near the announcer, on the second floor of the Coliseum, when she walked in the ring like a queen who just knew it was her time to shine. I cheered, then the tears just started rolling. I still get goosebumps thinking about it. That is why we all do it — any time we can put a cow back on a trailer, headed back to her owners, it brings a great deal of satisfaction."



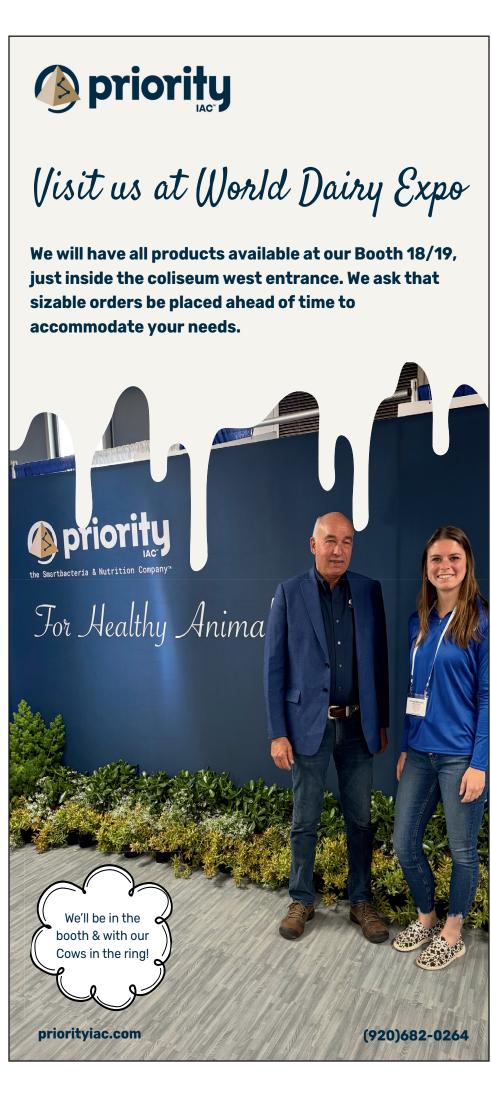
PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Gregg Borchardt (left) shows the health paper for his animals to Dr. Sheila Mc-Guirk Sept. 26 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. McGuirk has a long history of working with Expo as a volunteer and a veterinarian.









Mike BerryPowell **Butte, Oregon** Pavilion 1, Aisle 6N

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long did the trip take? Round trip, it is about 5,000 to Expo and back home. The trip usually takes 40-48 hours, depending on weather and how everything goes. It was a smooth trip coming out this year, we drove in a little rain, but nothing bad. I made the trip with my brother and nephew.

bring and care for while traveling to Expo? We had five milk cows and all the feed we would need for traveling and at Expo.

How do you care for the animals while traveling? We travel with a truck and gooseneck trailer. The trailer is bedded with about six inches of shavings and then deep straw. We like shorterchopped straw, they'll work Labor Day weekend. We find their manure down into the out who is going and figure

We add another three-string bale of straw every time we chore, and we make sure water tubs are full and feed hay every time we stop, probably every three to four hours. We come from the Tillamook area and travel to Bozeman, Montana, where we milk at a small dairy. We are able to get the cows off the trailer to chore — we feed grain, milk, clean everything and refill the water tubs and tank. Our next stop is in southeast South Dakota where we pull everything off to chore again — this time we slept for six How many head did you hours. We started back up and drove to Doug Nifong's in Orfordville, Wisconsin. We stayed there two days, for the cows to rest before moving into Expo on Thurs-

> How did you prepare for the trip, and when did you start making those preparations? We start planning and preparing at our Western National Show that is held

straw and they stay cleaner. everything out after that. We typically work with someone out here that has the tack, so we only have to bring the cows and their feed. We want to keep them on the same feed and hay, if possible. We fill the nose with grain, then basically make a wall in the front with like 20-plus three-string bales of hay, that way if you have to hit the brakes, it doesn't fall on anything. There's another seven or eight bales up on the hay rack on top.

> How many times have you made the trip, bringing animals to Expo? I have probably made the trip from Oregon to Expo, at least 20 times. I first started coming in 1992, but for several years I was in Michigan — a much shorter trip.

> Tell us about a memorable experience (good or bad) you've had traveling to Expo, with cattle? Knock on wood, in our travels to and from Madison, we have never had many issues. My brother came out on a trip

MIKE BERRY

PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

Mike Berry takes a moment Sept. 26, with one of the Jersey cows he brought from Oregon to World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Berry has made the 5,000-mile round trip from Oregon to Expo and back at least 20 times.

once where they had significant tire issues. You can hit snow driving through Montana and the mountains. One year, maybe 10 or 12 years ago, we had good weather

coming and going, but while we were here there was a blizzard that killed thousands of cows — it rained, then snowed and got windy and they froze to death.





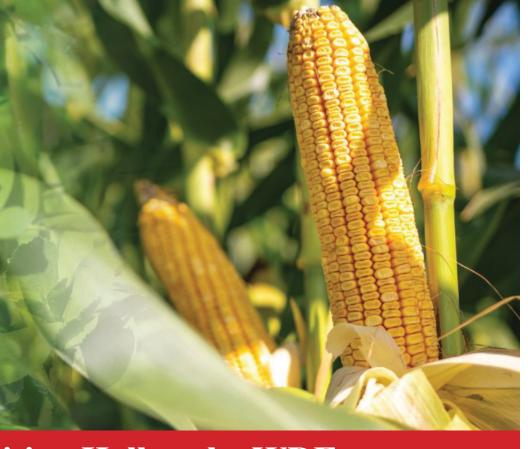






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