

## WORLD DAIRY EXPO

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## Flavors OF THE DAY

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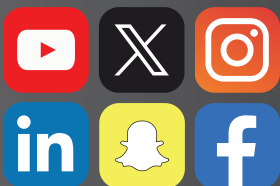
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#WDE25

# Daily EDITION

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

## Setting a Lovely Kadence



PHOTO COURTESY OF COWSMOPOLITAN

**Kadence Fames Lovely** is named the Senior and Grand Champion of the International Guernsey Show after winning the Aged Cow Class Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Lovely is owned by Kadence Farm. Donnybrook Ammo Stevie is named the Intermediate and Reserve Grand Champion after winning the Senior Three-Year-Old class. Stevie is exhibited by Brittany Taylor and Laylaa Schuler. Cape May Latimer Honey is named the Honorable Mention Grand and Reserve Senior Champion after winning the Four-Year-Old class. Honey is owned by Savannah Thomas.

## Wisconsin cows dominate International Guernsey Show

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN  
AND SHERRY NEWELL  
Staff Writers

**MADISON, Wis.** — The  
Grand and Reserve Grand

Champions of the International Guernsey Show both call Kadence Farm in New Glarus home. At the end of the evening, the final handshake was given to Kadence

Fames Lovely, the winning Aged Cow, exhibited by Kadence Farm. Following her barnmate as the Reserve Grand Champion was the day's Intermediate Champion, Donnybrook Ammo Stevie. Stevie, the winner of the Senior Three-Year-Old class is exhibited by Brittany Taylor

and Laylaa Schuler, also of New Glarus.

Honorable Mention Grand Championship honors were bestowed upon the Reserve Senior Champion, Cape May Latimer Honey, the winning

Turn to **INTERNATIONAL  
GUERNSEY RESULTS** | Page 3

## Time to talk about a tremendous show

### Wisconsin, New York cows top International Junior Holstein Show

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN  
& SHERRY NEWELL  
Staff Writers

**MADISON, Wis.** — At the end of what he called a tremendous show, judge Pierre Boulet selected his winning Lifetime Milk Production cow, Luck-E Merjack Asalia, to be his Senior and Grand Champion of the International Junior Holstein Show Sept. 28. Asalia is exhibited by Tessa and Stella Schmocker of Whitewater. Following as the Reserve Senior and Reserve Grand Champion was the winning Aged Cow, Oakfield Tattoo Tender-ET, exhibited



PHOTO COURTESY OF COWSMOPOLITAN

**Luck-E Merjack Asalia** is named the Senior and Grand Champion of the International Junior Holstein Show after winning the Lifetime Milk Production class Sept. 28 in Madison, Wisconsin. Asalia is owned by Tessa and Stella Schmocker. Oakfield Tatoo Tender-ET is named the Reserve Senior and Reserve Grand Champion after winning the Aged Cow class. Tender is owned by Chloe and Claire Lamb. Tusc-Vu Avalanche Cali-ET, the second place Lifetime Production Cow, owned by Isaac Folts, was named the Honorable Mention Senior and Honorable Mention Grand Champion.

by Chloe and Claire Lamb of Oakfield, New York. Honorable Mention recognition was given to the second place

Lifetime Milk Production cow, Tusc-Vu Avalanche Cali-ET. Cali is owned by Isaac

Turn to **JR. HOLSTEIN  
RESULTS** | Page 4

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Continued from INTERNATIONAL GUERNSEY RESULTS | Page 1

Four-Year-Old cow owned by Savannah Thomas of West Liberty, Ohio.

Joining Stevie in the center of the ring earlier in the day, as the Reserve Intermediate Champion was the winning Senior Two-Year-Old, RHG Breezy Venus-ET, exhibited by Alison E. Gartman of Sheboygan. Honorable Mention Intermediate Champion honors went to Hi Guern View Drone Antigua, the first prize Junior Three-Year-Old exhibited by Alaina Dinderman of Orangeville, Illinois.

The overall Premier Breeder banner was awarded to Valley Gem Farm of Cumberland, while the overall Premier Exhibitor banner went to Springhill of Big Prairie, Ohio. Hi Guern View Levi Drone was named the overall Premier Sire.

In Sunday's heifer show, Wil-San James Dean Tori-ET, the winning Winter Yearling, got the nod for Junior Champion honors. Tori is exhibited by Cindy Bates and Lorrie Dietz of Southington, Ohio. The Reserve Junior Champion honors went to Prairie Moon Cadet Annie, the top-placing Summer Yearling owned by Mike Dilly of Dyersville, Iowa. The Honorable Mention Junior Champion was the winning Spring Yearling, Adams Creek Boston-ETV, exhibited by Kayleigh, Kelsey and Karlee Haag and Josie Varney of Dane.

Valley Gem Farms of Cumberland captured the Premier Breeder of the Heifer Show banner and Kayleigh Haag was named the Premier Exhibitor of the Heifer Show. Springhill James Dean-ETV garnered enough points to again claim the Premier Sire of the Heifer Show banner.

Official judge Mark Rueth of Oxford and his associate Tina Vilter McDonald of Signal Mountain, Ten-

nessee were charged with placing 247 head of Guernseys in the International Guernsey Show. Complete show results are available online at [www.worlddairyexpo.com](http://www.worlddairyexpo.com).

**Kadence Fames Lovely  
Jesse Dorn, Kadence Farm  
New Glarus, Wisconsin**

**Tell us about your animal.** We bred Lovely, and she's been shown almost every single year of her life, except last year she had the year off. And this is our pride and joy. She just went 96 points this year, and that really tops off the year for us.

**What does receiving this title mean to you?** It means the world to us, for my family. Lovely has never quite got to the top before and it feels so good to finally get her there.

**How did you prepare for the show and who helped you?** We are just a small family farm with 60 cows. And it is me and my wife at night, and my parents take care of the chores in the morning. These cows are housed in box stalls, with just our family caring for them.

**What trait do you like most about your animal?** We love her youthfulness. She is just so youthful for having six calves and she just looks so young for being eight years old.

**Why do you enjoy showing at WDE?** I enjoy the family atmosphere. I have always been with my family here, growing up over the years. And I enjoy keeping it that way and raising my kids that way, bringing them here also.



**RAILBIRD**  
*Winner*

PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR  
**Nicole Steinbach wins the Railbird contest held during the International Guernsey Show Four-Year-Old class Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Steinbach is from Boscobel, Wisconsin.**



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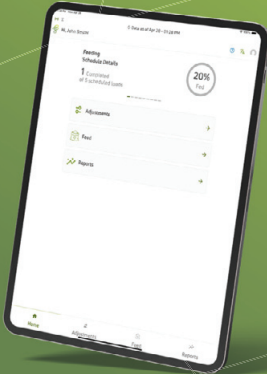
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Folts of North Collins, New York.

Boulet's Intermediate Champion, Toppglen Awesome Whodey-ET, exhibited by Chloe Yerina of Johnstown, New York, was the winning Senior Three-Year-Old cow. Following Whodey as the Reserve Intermediate Champion was the winning Junior Three-Year-Old cow, Heritage Drive Me Crazy-ET, exhibited by sisters Madison and Melanie Sarbacker of Whitewater. Drive Me Crazy was also the Champion Bred and Owned cow. Earning a handshake as Honorable Mention was the second place Senior Three-Year-Old, Liddleholme Kingdoc Morgan, exhibited by Makayla, Kaleb, Kylie, Katie and Jaclyn Osinga of Hico, Texas.

When the heifer classes wrapped up, Karnview Bullseye Aboom-ET, the top-placing Summer Yearling, owned by Caroline Egolf and Ellianna Cummings of North Lewisburg, Ohio, was named the show's Junior Champion. She was followed by the winning Spring Yearling, Weigland Icandy Alexevie-ET, taking home Reserve Junior Champion honors for owner Britney Smith. The Honorable Mention Junior Champion was Milksource Eye Candy Cruz-ET, the first place Fall Yearling, exhibited by Ken-

lee Philips of Lingleville, Texas.

The Junior Champion Bred and Owned Heifer of the show was Bella-Ridge Master Desire, exhibited by the partnership of Jacob, Logan and Madison Harbaugh along with Adella and Ainsley Loehr of Marion. Desire was the third-place Winter Yearling.

Official judge Pierre Boulet of Montmagny, Quebec, Canada, and his associate judge, Richard Landry, of Ste-Brigitte-des-Saults, Quebec, were charged with placing 302 head of junior-owned Holsteins in the International Junior Holstein Show. Complete show results are available online at [www.worlddairyexpo.com](http://www.worlddairyexpo.com).

**Luck-E Merjack Asalia Tessa and Stella Schmocker Whitewater, Wisconsin**

**Tell us about yourself.** (Tessa) I am from Whitewater, Wisconsin, and I've been showing basically my entire life. My first year showing was when I was 9 years old in 2016. I'm 19 now.

**Tell us about your animal.** Asalia is a production cow bred by Luck-E Holsteins. We purchased her in 2023 from the Best of Luck-E sale, and she quickly became our favorite. She is

just an exceptional cow, a once-in-a-lifetime cow. This year, in the spring she was the Grand Champion of the Junior Show at the Midwest National Spring Show. She has been taking a break gearing up for this. We are so lucky to be part of her story.

**What was your reaction when your cow was named Grand Champion of the Junior Show?** I was very emotional, very emotional. Whenever we talk about Expo, our family always says our goal is to win the junior show at Madison, and we did that. And it is just super cool to be a part of it. We do a lot of work to get there, and I am really grateful for my family.

**How did you get involved in dairy cattle showing?** My parents actually met here at World Dairy Expo, and my dad was the representative for Ayrshire Canada. My mom grew up on a grade dairy farm and started showing registered Holsteins. I guess it just was instilled in me to show dairy. I have been doing it literally since I could hold a calf.

**Who has been a mentor for your showing career? What has been the best advice they have given you?** I think there are two or three people that really stick out, as many people have been a huge part of my journey. First is Mandi Bue. She always tells me: whatever happens, just smile, knowing, walking away, that you put the work in and you did your best. Another one would be Joel Kietzman. He has been someone I have looked up to my entire life. I know him as Uncle Joe. He just always gives me advice about strong holding. Asalia is really quite aggressive, so he taught me how to keep her under control. And then, Tracy Brandel, she really is like a second mom to me. She always tells me to keep my head up and keep going. I am really grateful for all of them.

**What is your favorite memory of showing dairy cattle?** In 2021, we bred the Junior Champion of the International Holstein Show, Ms Rebas Raven Beauty-ET. That was a huge, huge step in our genetics. We were really glad. That was just super cool for us, a super emotional day. And that is probably the thing I think about most when I think about showing memories.

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# ALONG THE Road TO Madison




## North Carolina



**Kelly Barbee**  
SHOW: INTERNATIONAL JERSEY  
Concord, North Carolina  
CLASS: WDE  
ISS: 09/29/2025  
EXP: 09/30/2025

*The Road to Madison*  
**WDE 2025**



*Kelly Barbee*

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long does the trip take? It is roughly 1,000 miles for me to get to Expo and takes about 16 hours to get there.

How many years have you been coming to Expo? The first time I came to Expo was 1998.

**How many times have you had the pleasure of judging at Expo?** This will be the second time I have been the official judge for the International Jersey show; I also judged it in 2010. I was also Michael Heath’s associate for the 2009 International Jersey show.

**Who is your all-time favorite cow?** There is one Holstein cow I have always just loved —Thrulane James Rose. My all-time favorite Jersey is Huronia Connectn Crystalyn; she was so far ahead of her time, she could show and win today.

**What is your favorite Expo memory?** Probably being on the halter of (Rivendale VIP) Eloise when she was Grand Champion of the Jersey show in 2022 would be my favorite memory.

**What was the first show you judged?** The first show I ever judged was in 2001 at a district show in southwestern Ohio. I had never wanted to judge, but Michael sort of pushed me into it. The people running the show had called Michael, but he was not able to do it. He suggested me and told them I would do it. I was mad at him, but he said that was the only way I would get out there and start judging. I was so nervous going into it, but I found I actually enjoyed it.

**Who has been a mentor in your judging career?** Michael pushed me to judge; he told me I needed judge, that I could pick the good ones. I liked going and finding and picking cattle, but I did not want to judge. I had not been on a collegiate judging team. He told me I sat and talked cows with him all the time, that it was not about giving fancy reasons — it was about giving accurate reasons about why you are placing one over another. After that first show in Ohio, I started doing more small shows around home and then some state fairs and things like that. I kind of stepped out of the business for awhile to stay close to home and watch my kids grow up. Then they called me out of the blue to judge the Holstein show at the Maryland State Fair in 2021 and I ended up judging the Jersey show there that year, too. I always knew Michael would give me an honest assessment, and after the show he asked me if I was ready to start judging some more shows. He told me I had not missed a beat. When he passed away in 2023, I decided that I wanted to get back into the business full time.



## Wisconsin



**Michael Maier**  
SHOW: INTERNATIONAL MILKING SHORTHORN  
Stitzer, Wisconsin  
CLASS: WDE  
ISS: 10/01/2025  
EXP: 10/02/2025

*The Road to Madison*  
**WDE 2025**



*Michael Maier*

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long does the trip take? It is 64 miles to World Dairy Expo from our farm, so a little over an hour of travel time.

How many years have you been coming to Expo? I have been coming to Expo for 25 years.

**How many times have you had the pleasure of judging at Expo?** This will be my first year as the official judge. In 2024, I was the associate judge for the International Milking Shorthorn Show.

**Who is your all-time favorite cow?** Innisfail-WO Mega Ladyluck-ET.

**What is your favorite Expo memory?** Winning Junior Champion in 2014 with Lazy M Pirelli Got It.

**What was the first show you judged?** The first show I judged was as the associate judge at World Dairy Expo for the International Milking Shorthorn Show in 2024.

**Who has been a mentor in your judging career?** Andy Buttles and the late Joan Mueller.



## New York



**Aaron Eaton**  
SHOW: INTERNATIONAL HOLSTEIN  
Marietta, New York  
CLASS: WDE  
ISS: 10/02/2025  
EXP: 10/03/2025

*The Road to Madison*  
**WDE 2025**



*Aaron Eaton*

How many miles do you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long does the trip take? I travel about 900 miles, and it typically takes us 17-18 hours with cattle.

How many years have you been coming to Expo? 23 years.

**How many times have you had the pleasure of judging at Expo?** Twice, once as an associate and once as the lead judge.

**Who is your all-time favorite cow?** Thrulane James Rose. I feel like she really set the bar for the kind of mammary systems and dairy strength that we need to be competitive in the showing.

**What is your favorite Expo memory?** There are definitely too many to narrow it down to just one. We have had some very successful years as exhibitors and a lot of fun with family and friends over the years.

**What was the first show you judged?** A district show in Pennsylvania 16 years ago, where I purchased the Grand Champion Jersey cow, who went on to be Grand Champion at WDE the next year.

**Who has been a mentor in your judging career?** I feel like a few names come to mind for me, for all the same reasons: Michael Heath, Adam Liddle, Jamie Black and Pat Conroy. They are all guys who have a great deal of integrity and humility, and are great cowmen who work hands-on with cattle every day. They all stand for doing what they believe to be right and do not allow any outside influences to affect their own decisions.



## Quebec



**Pierre Boulet**  
SHOW: INTERNATIONAL JR. HOLSTEIN  
Montmagny, Quebec  
CLASS: WDE  
ISS: 09/28/2025  
EXP: 09/28/2025

*The Road to Madison*  
**WDE 2025**



*Pierre Boulet*

How many miles do you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long does the trip take? I travel 1,200 miles, and the trip takes 19 hours.

How many years have you been coming to Expo? The first time I came to Expo was in 1993 with Howes BC Sassy. I have been every year since then. The only years I didn’t have cattle there were the years that the border was closed because of mad cow disease.

**How many times have you had the pleasure of judging at Expo?** This year will be my third time judging. I have had the honor of judging the Holstein and the Red & White shows in the past.

**Who is your all-time favorite cow?** It is really difficult to pick just one. My top two are probably Thrulane James Rose and Loyalyn Goldwyn June.

**What is your favorite Expo memory?** By far my favorite Expo memory was the whole 2008 show. It was the first year we were able to bring cows from Canada after mad cow disease. We left that year with three first-place ribbons (first-place Four-Year-Old, first Aged Cow and first-place 125,000-Pound Cow), the Premier Exhibitor banner and the Supreme Champion with Thrulane James Rose.

**What was the first show you judged?** The very first show I judged was a local show in Charlevoix, Québec, in 2005.

**Who has been a mentor in your judging career?** I do not know that I have ever had a mentor per say, but I have definitely had judges who I admired and respected a lot and watched closely to learn from what they were doing. This includes the likes of John Beerwort, Lowell Lindsay, Mike Deaver and Bob Morrell, who have a consistent pattern. Their decisions are easy to follow all day and they are not influenced by anything outside of the ring. Their loyalty is to placing them right, not on the name of the cows or the leadsmen on the halters.





# Illinois



**Allyn "Spud" Paulson**  
SHOW: INTERNATIONAL BROWN SWISS  
Rockford, Illinois  
CLASS: WDE  
ISS: 09/30/2025  
EXP: 10/01/2025  
*The Road to Madison*  
**WDE 2025**



*Spud Paulson*

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long does the trip take? The trip is 65 miles, so about one hour.

How many years have you been coming to Expo? I've been to Expo every year since 1995.

**How many times have you had the pleasure of judging at Expo?** This year is my third time. I also judged the International Milking Shorthorn Show in 2015 and International Ayrshire Show in 2017.

**Who is your all-time favorite cow?** Rainy Ridge Tony Beauty.

**What is your favorite Expo memory?** Naming (Cates Ruben) Tulsa Time Grand Champion, with my good friend Mike Halpin.

**What was the first show you judged?** The first show I judged was the Marshall County Fair in Britton, South Dakota, when I was 18, with about 10 head.

**Who has been a mentor in your judging career?** I have had many. Marty Sippel was a mentor when I started clipping. He taught me a lot about seeing good cows and about Brown Swiss. I learned a lot from my ag teacher, Tom Remmele. I was able to judge in the FFA contest at Expo after winning our state contest in 1995 and I also qualified to judge at Expo on our state 4-H team. I have learned a lot about judging shows by watching and listening to successful judges, like Curtis Day, Mark Rueth, Callum McKinven and so many others.



# Ontario



**Adam Hodgins**  
SHOW: INTERNATIONAL RED & WHITE  
Kincardine, Ontario  
CLASS: WDE  
ISS: 10/01/2025  
EXP: 10/02/2025  
*The Road to Madison*  
**WDE 2025**



*Adam Hodgins*

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long does the trip take? It is just under 1,000 kilometers, or about 600 miles, to World Dairy Expo, and it is about a 10-hour drive to get there.

**How many years have you been coming to Expo?** I have been coming to Expo, on and off, for about 20 years.

**How many times have you had the pleasure of judging at Expo?** This is my first time serving as an official judge. I have been the associate of the International Red & White Show twice: once in 2011 alongside Adam Liddle and then again last year alongside Kevin Doeberienner.

**Who is your all-time favorite cow?** Thrulane James Rose was a pretty hard cow to take your eyes off of. She was so far ahead of her time, I think she would still be extremely competitive today.

**What is your favorite Expo memory?** It would be hard to narrow it down to one favorite; there have been many memorable times over the years. I thoroughly enjoyed both times I was the associate judge of the Red & White Show. That has been a highlight.

**What was the first show you judged?** The first show I judged as the lead judge was the Vancouver Island Holstein Club Show earlier this summer.

**Who has been a mentor in your judging career?** There are so many people that I have respected as mentors, it would be hard to name them all. There are many people that I have worked for and worked with who have taught me a lot of different things throughout my career.



# Wisconsin



**Mark Rueth**  
SHOW: INTERNATIONAL GUERNSEY  
Oxford, Wisconsin  
CLASS: WDE  
ISS: 09/28/2025  
EXP: 09/29/2025  
*The Road to Madison*  
**WDE 2025**



*Mark Rueth*

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long does the trip take? I grew up on a grade dairy farm in Jefferson, Wisconsin, about 30 minutes from Expo. In 2004, we purchased a farm in Oxford, about 70 miles from Expo. It takes a bit over an hour to get there.

**How many years have you been coming to Expo?** I first came to Expo in 1982 with our FFA class, so probably over 40 years. I can remember the food stand with clear plastic sides, serving pancakes. It was very cold back then.

**How many times have you had the pleasure of judging at Expo?** This will be my third time judging. I also judged the International Holstein Show in 2009 and the International Jersey Show in 2012.

**Who is your all-time favorite cow?** For what (Stookey Elm Park) Blackrose did for our farm and for the industry, it would be hard not to say she is my favorite. Over 20 years of breeding from her produced cows like Redrose, Lucky Rose, Catch A Glimpse, Lexington, Caught A Vibe and Caught Your Eye; and bulls like Bullseye and Eye Candy.

**What is your favorite Expo memory?** I have been very lucky to have exhibited nine Expo Grand Champions, so I have a lot of great memories. The fifth Champion — when Paradise won the first time, was my first Holstein and the first Wisconsin winner in like 20 years — is a special one. There was a big celebration that night.

**What was the first show you judged?** The first show I judged was in 1988 in Washington: the Lynden Fair Junior Holstein Show.

**Who has been a mentor in your judging career?** Being one of the older judges, I grew up in a different time than some. Show strings were run by some icons like Greg Wilcom, David Brown, Ken Empey and John Buckley. Popular judges were Lowell Lindsey, Loren Elsass and Fred Foreman. They were well-dressed, professional judges who had loads of knowledge and respect. One I have a great deal of respect for is Bob Fitzsimmons. Bob has great respect from the industry because he has managed some great show farms to high success, including Lylehaven and Carrousel. His judging speaks for itself — Bob gives great, clear reasons and never showboats. He likes a very balanced animal. I was lucky to work with Bob on the Holstein USA judging school for a couple of years. It was great fun watching him work, with the passion he has for high-type cattle.



# New York



**Greg Evans**  
SHOW: INTERNATIONAL AYRSHIRE  
Georgetown, New York  
CLASS: WDE  
ISS: 09/29/2025  
EXP: 09/30/2025  
*The Road to Madison*  
**WDE 2025**



*Greg Evans*

How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long does the trip take? It is 890 miles from Georgetown, New York, to Expo.

**How many years have you been coming to Expo?** I've personally exhibited at Expo 12 times, with the farm exhibiting a few times before that.

**How many times have you had the pleasure of judging at Expo?** This will be my first time judging at Expo.

**Who is your all-time favorite cow?** My favorite cow that I have owned personally was Sunny-Acres Harmony's Kennedy EX-94, a seven-time All-American nominee in milking form. Other favorites include Fruendly Acres Linjet Murphy, Lovhill Goldwyn Katrysha, Marilie Gentleman Karmina and Valevue BBK Minerva.

**What is your favorite Expo memory?** My favorite Expo memory is winning Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor of the International Ayrshire Show in 2023.

**What was the first show you judged?** I have been judging since I was 19 years old; my first show was the Finger Lakes Guernsey Show.

**Who has been a mentor in your judging career?** I have had many mentors over the years, notably Carrie Edsall, who was my 4-H leader and is now the decorated dairy judging coach at the State University of New York Cobleskill. Also in this group is Dr. Douglas Waterman, who was my state 4-H judging coach, and of course, my father, Dr. Douglas Evans, whom I grew up watching judge all over the countryside and then had the pleasure of watching take his turn judging Ayrshires on the colored shavings in 2006.

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# Crossing the Continental Divide for the colored shavings

## Damrow helps youth gain Expo experiences

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN  
Staff Writer

**MADISON, Wis.** — For some youth, competing at World Dairy Expo® is just a hop, skip and a jump from home. For others, it is not nearly so easy, requiring them to travel hundreds of miles, traversing mountains, and crossing time zones.

Though Zach Damrow grew up in Juneau, less than an hour from Expo's famed colored shavings, his career led him west nearly 1,500 miles. Since 2014, he has worked as the calf program and genetics manager at Seagull Bay Dairy in American Falls, Idaho, while developing his own herd under the Blackstone Genetics banner.

"Growing up in Wisconsin, we had so many opportunities for everything in the dairy industry," Damrow said. "Out here, the opportunities are limited."

Damrow said youth in the Magic Valley have a handful of county fairs that will see as many as 80 heifers each year, as well as a dairy replacement heifer program that runs the course of two years, with 80 participants.

"There are these different programs for the kids to participate in, which is cool," Damrow said. "They have requirements to complete for each program, but they're all mostly local. They don't get outside their area very much."

While he believes those local opportunities are great, Damrow hopes to give those youth a chance to venture away from home.

"There is a national Holstein show in Utah every May, but not all these kids have Holsteins, so I have helped them participate there," Damrow said. "We have also taken kids to California for the Western Dairy Classic in Tulare. The quality there is awesome and the competition extremely tough. It's good for them to get to other areas and compete against different kids. They learn a lot more."

The efforts to encourage local youth to look outside their geographical boundaries have been effective. Damrow said Idaho sent their first team in many years to compete in Expo's National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest in 2024.

Looking to continue to build on those out-of-state experiences, Damrow, an

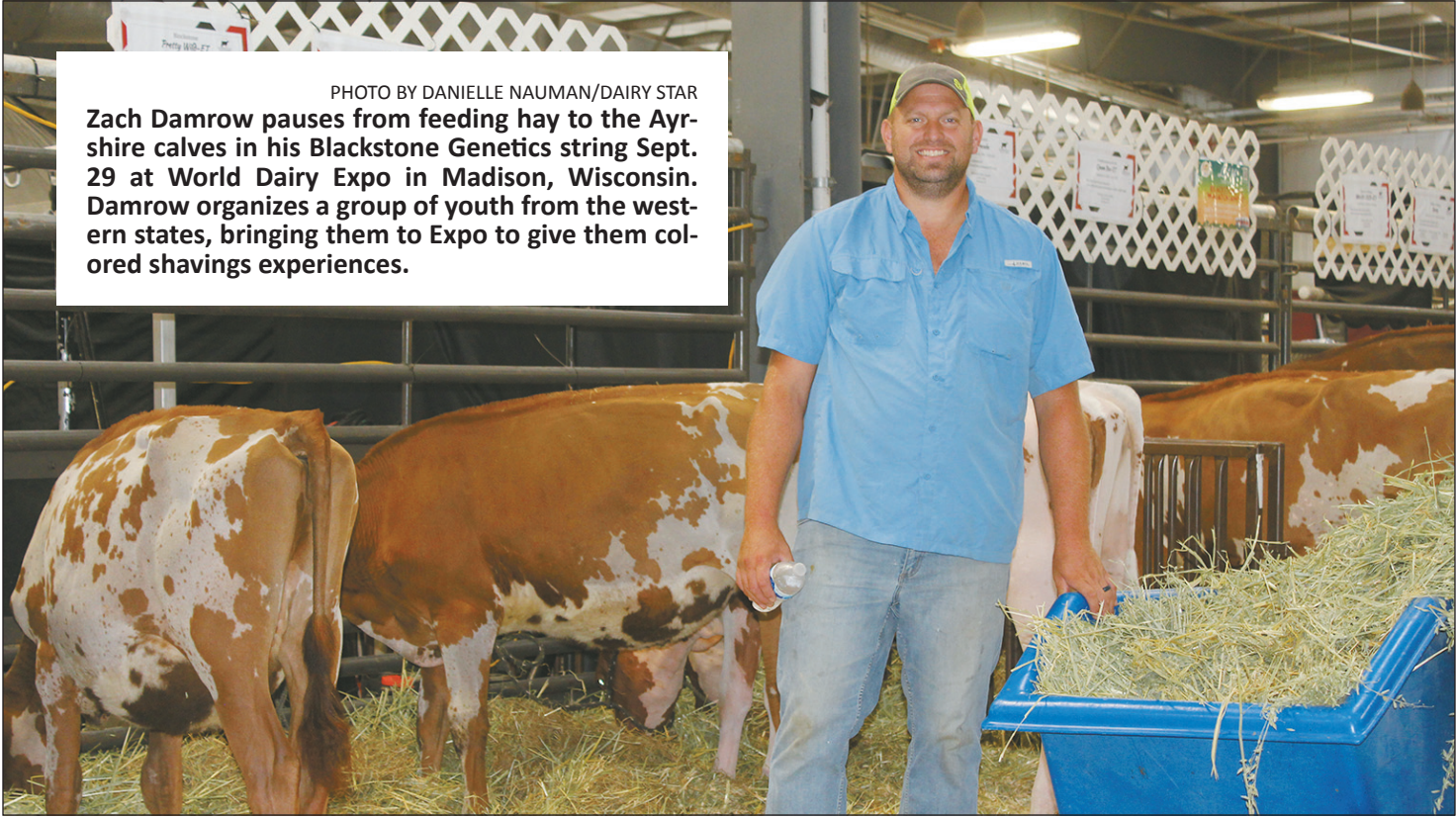


PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR  
Zach Damrow pauses from feeding hay to the Ayrshire calves in his Blackstone Genetics string Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Damrow organizes a group of youth from the western states, bringing them to Expo to give them colored shavings experiences.

Ayrshire enthusiast at heart, decided to help provide opportunities for interested youth to experience everything World Dairy Expo.

"2021 was the first time I had something I felt was good enough to go back to Expo," Damrow said. "We took three heifers, all in the same class — I showed one, my sister showed one and one of our 4-H kids showed one. It was her first time participating at Expo. Another kid came with us and wanted to try showmanship. He helped us all week and borrowed a calf from Mike Berry for showmanship."

In 2022, Damrow sat the year out, not having an animal he deemed worth the trip, but 2023 brought him back to Expo, with three youth along for the ride. The following year, that number doubled. 2025 will mark Damrow's third consecutive year bringing kids and heifers out to the big dance.

"It's been cool helping these kids have the experience of showing at Expo, that I probably took for granted as a kid," Damrow said.

The project has blossomed beyond providing his own animals for the youth to exhibit, Damrow said, adding that he has assisted youth with purchasing animals of their own — sometimes in partnership with him — that they can turn into projects to develop beyond the showing.

"Some of the kids wanted to be able to not only compete, but also be able to market from their projects," Damrow

said. "I'm more familiar with Ayrshires. Now I have most of these kids out here hooked on Ayrshires. Some of them have bought heifers this past year that they have gotten bred for this next year; some have been doing some embryo work to get the next generation of calves on the ground. I'm trying to help them buy heifers and pick out bulls, so they aren't just buying a show heifer they'll be done with in two years."

This year, the group from the mountain states of Idaho and Utah headed east with 21 head. Four of the eight youth Damrow brought to Expo have previous colored shavings experience, two of them are exhibiting for their first time. A couple more are attending to participate in the showmanship contest.

Besides the excitement of crossing the colored shavings on the halter of their animals, Damrow is happy to be helping the youth network, making connections outside their own states.

Damrow's group travels in goose-necks, with the milk cows on one trailer and heifers and tack split up among the others. When heading east they usually try to arrange a stop at North Platte, Nebraska, to milk, chore and get some sleep. On the return trip, they attempt to make their way to Cheyenne, Wyoming, before stopping to chore.

This year's travels did not go as planned, Damrow shared. Twine blew off bales loaded on one truck, became entangled with the drive shaft and tore sensors off the exhaust system, launching the truck into limp mode. Left with no choice but to travel for nearly six hours at reduced speed, Damrow began using connections to solve his issue.

A fellow Ayrshire breeder connected him with a retired dairy farmer who was able to house the milk cows while the vehicle was fixed, allowing the tack trailers to continue on the road to Madison.

"We were able to find a dealership in Grand Island, Nebraska, that was owned by the same person who owns the dealership the truck was purchased at in Idaho," Damrow said. "They stripped an exhaust system off a new truck and put it on ours. Once we got back on the road, we drove through the night to get here and finally arrived around 8 a.m., Thursday morning, instead of the early arrival we had applied for."

With tribulations like those, Damrow said every year is a learning experience and he gains new ideas that make traveling that distance with cows and kids a little easier. In total the trip takes around 30-33 hours, including chore stops and spending the night where they unload.

"We start talking about what we all might have to go and start making plans in the spring and early summer," Damrow said. "We bring as much as we can, and then get what we need there. We do some hay trading with other exhibitors to get some variety. We do as much pre-cooking of food to feed our crew as possible."

Keeping costs as low as they can helps keep the dream of exhibiting at Expo alive for the youth Damrow wants to share the experience with.

"Growing up I don't think my family necessarily had money to be going to Expo, but my dad made sure all of us kids were there for the week," Damrow said. "Even in an industry that gives kids so many great opportunities, showing at Expo is one that just can't be duplicated."



PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR  
Alex Schroeder feeds hay to two cows Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Schroeder, a native of Courtland, Minnesota, is tying in with Damrow for the second year.

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# SUNY Cobleskill Tops Post-Secondary Judging Contest

Expo win makes three victories in a row

BY MICHELE ACKERMAN  
Staff Writer

**MADISON, Wis. —** For the fifth time in the past 10 years, the team from the State University of New York Cobleskill has topped the Post-Secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held at World Dairy Expo® in Madison. With three of the top five individuals overall, their cumulative 2,257 points bettered the 2,156 points earned by second-place Modesto Junior College at the competition Sept. 28.

In all, the five teams placed 11 classes of Ayrshires, Brown Swiss, Guernseys, Holsteins, Jerseys, Milking Shorthorns and Red & Whites.

"While winning it all is great, we are probably most proud of being high team for reasons," said SUNY Cobleskill coach Carrie Edsall.

Reasons is a very individual thing, requiring dedication, practice and commitment, and this whole team was great at taking critique and working on details, she said.

The reasons win for the SUNY Cobleskill team — Mason Ziemba of Durhamville, New York, Connor MacNeil of Hoosick Falls, New York, and Elsie Donlick of Cortland, New York — was an easy one as they ranked first, second and fourth in the category, respectively. Combined with their placing scores, MacNeil was High Overall Individual while Ziemba was third



Carrie Edsall (from left), and the team from the State University of New York Cobleskill, Mason Ziemba, Rachel Hatch, Elsie Donlick and Connor MacNeil, bask in the limelight Sept. 28 as winners of the International Post-Secondary Dairy Judging Contest in Madison, Wisconsin.

and Donlick was fifth. The team's fourth member was Rachel Hatch of Centerville, New York, who placed eighth.

The journey for the team began with the dairy judging course at SUNY Cobleskill in the spring. The team was pulled together by the early fall and in their first three contests, they were three for three, topping the post-secondary contest held at the Big E in Springfield, Massachusetts, the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Expo.

"At the Big E, Mason was first, Rachel was second and Connor was third," Edsall said. "It was neat for them to start off so well with that contest. And then moving on to Harrisburg, Connor took first place there."

Here at World Dairy Expo, Mason won oral reasons and Connor grabbed Individual Overall honors. To watch them all do well and spread that wealth, especially with the reasons, was very exciting, Edsall said.

"What's really neat with this team though, is I have two with experience who did extremely well at the 4-H level and two newcomers to judging," Edsall said. "How they worked really hard to get this far is pretty amazing."

Among those with 4-H experience was the high Overall Individual, MacNeil, who grew up on a 50-cow dairy where they milk mostly Holsteins and Brown Swiss along with a few Jerseys owned by a friend. His knowledge was cultivated by his mother and sister, who competed in dairy judging.

"It was not uncommon, while in the barn doing chores, for us to sit there and break down or evaluate cows, just for fun," MacNeil said.

The fourth-generation dairy breeder began judging officially at age 8 or 9 in 4-H at the county fair and took his skills to the next level in college.

"While I grew up on a farm and have seen cows, learning how to talk them

through the reasons was probably the most challenging thing for me," MacNeil said. "Before last spring, I had never given a set of reasons before."

Enroute to winning the contest at Expo with 753 points, he won the Guernsey, Milking Shorthorn and Red & White breeds, and was second overall in placings and reasons.

His teammate, Donlick, worked her way up in the rankings thanks to the strength of her reasons. She ranked seventh overall in placings and fourth in reasons to capture her overall ranking of fifth at 735 points.

"I feel like a lot of the placings on the cow classes were really tricky," Donlick said. "They were tough classes, and then that, of course, made giving reasons on them even trickier. It took some sorting to try to figure out how to place some of those cow classes."

For Coach Edsall, judging is a family affair of sorts.

"It's neat if you think about it with these three (MacNeil, Donlick and Hatch) standing here," she said. "I've worked with all of their siblings in prior years. Rachel's sisters were on the Cobleskill team in '21, Connor's sister was on the team in '23 and Elsie's sister was on the '23 team that competed in Louisville."

For Hatch, it was her sister that gave her the push.

"Though I grew up on a dairy farm and know cows, I always thought that I didn't know how to

judge dairy," Hatch said. "My sister really pushed me to get into judging. So I feel like she would be proud of me for being here on the team."

The remaining member of the SUNY Cobleskill team, Ziemba, won the Brown Swiss breed as an individual. As a team, SUNY Cobleskill won Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn and Red & White.

SUNY Morrisville won Ayrshires and Modesto Junior College won Holsteins. Reese DeVito of SUNY Morrisville was the high individual for Ayrshires, Mykel Mull of Modesto won Holsteins and Matthew Pacheco of Modesto Junior College won the Jerseys.

- Individual Post-Secondary Overall Individuals:**
1. Connor MacNeil, SUNY Cobleskill
  2. Megan Klossner, SUNY Morrisville
  3. Mason Ziemba, SUNY Cobleskill
  4. Wyatt Schlauch, The Ohio State University Technical Institute
  5. Elsie Donlick, SUNY Cobleskill



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# Minnesota 4-H team brings home top judging honors

## Wisconsin's Campbell Booth is High Overall Individual

BY SHERRY NEWELL  
Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — A 13-point advantage in placings put the Minnesota 4-H dairy judging team into an overall win at the 2025 National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest Sept. 28 at World Dairy Expo®. The four youth from Wabasha County — Blake Siewert, Nolan Kruger and sisters Emily and Ashley Mellgren — tallied 2,058 total points in the contest to best the Wisconsin team with 2,053.

It was Wisconsin's team, from Sheboygan County, that edged out all competitors in reasons, with Campbell Booth leading their charge by winning both reasons and overall individual honors. Her teammates, Alison Gartman, Natalie Mauk and Austin Kreisa, helped Wisconsin earn second place in team competition, ahead of New York, Florida and Pennsylvania in third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

As the results were announced at the banquet honoring intercollegiate, post-secondary and 4-H teams, Emily Mellgren said her Minnesota team was uncertain of the outcome. They had won Holsteins and Jerseys and placed well through much of the contest's individual parts.

"We were really thinking that we were going to get second and then we were all pretty shocked when we got



PHOTO BY LAURA SELJAN/DAIRY STAR

Kayla Sexton (from left), coach, and the team from Minnesota — Nolan Kruger, Emily Mellgren, Ashley Mellgren and Blake Siewert — celebrate their win Sept. 28 at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest in Madison, Wisconsin. They are all from the same Minnesota county, Wabasha.

first," she said.

Mellgren was fourth individual overall, followed by fellow team member Siewert in fifth.

Mellgren's sister, Ashley, enjoyed the day even before their success was evident.

"Well, at first, I was a little bit nervous," she said. "But as the day got going, I felt pretty confident. I just kept rolling with it, and it was very fun."

The Minnesota coach, Kayla Sex-

ton, credited her team's win with consistency.

"They always place things very similarly, and they do well on reasons," she said. "They just see cows really well. It's been fun watching them kind of grow up and bond together and really work as a team. And that showed today ... so I'm very proud of them."

Wisconsin 4-H member Booth, whose individual performance put her four points above Hayden Ayers of New York in second overall and 10 points higher than Zach Johnson of Vermont in third overall, said she found her success "just amazing."

"And I'm so proud of my teammates, and I'm so proud of the team effort we put into each practice to get to this point," Booth said. "We did a lot of practicing in the weekends leading up to the contest with lots of class practices and lots of reasons practicing. And we had three great coaches that, as always, were always encouraging us and helping us along the way, and pushing us to be our best, which led us to this great success today."

The coaches for the Wisconsin team were Sara Feldmann, Kelly Jens and Booth's father, Chris. Chris Booth said the team was focused.

"Just seeing their growth in the last three months has been tremendous, and to come out with the reasons title and second overall is just so rewarding," he said. "Seeing them succeed proves hard work pays off."

Both Minnesota and Wisconsin's teams, along with third-place team New York, earn the right to judge internationally in Scotland next year.

The judging contest attracted 23 4-H teams, the most since 2018. Minnesota's previous wins

were in 2023 and 2016, while Wisconsin has won five out of the last 10 years. New York took home the win in 2024, while Pennsylvania won in 2022.

### Top 25 4-H Dairy Overall Individuals:

1. Campbell Booth, Wisconsin
2. Hayden Ayers, New York
3. Zach Johnson, Vermont
4. Emily Mellgren, Minnesota
5. Blake Siewert, Minnesota
6. Lilly Larson, Florida
7. Alison Gartman, Wisconsin
8. Kelsie Britton, Ohio
9. Cate Neuman, Indiana
10. Tatum Lancaster, Oregon
11. Ayla Janney, Virginia
12. Jesslyn Risser, Pennsylvania
13. Kiara Konyn, California
14. Haylee Tucker, Kentucky
15. Olivia Shawley, New York
16. Molly Diehl, Pennsylvania
17. Bridget Allen, Oregon
18. Kathryn Montes De Oca, Florida
19. Faith Ford, Ohio
20. Norah Bechtel, Pennsylvania
21. Nolan Kruger, Minnesota
22. James Grisafi, Pennsylvania
23. Joshua Larson, Florida
24. Ashlynn Schultz, Illinois
25. Aden Kruse, Iowa



PHOTO BY LAURA SELJAN/DAIRY STAR

Campbell Booth of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, enjoys a variety of awards Sept. 28 for winning Overall High Individual at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest in Madison, Wisconsin. Booth was a member of the Wisconsin team that placed second in the contest at World Dairy Expo.



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# Leading the committee

Coburn selected to spearhead commercial exhibitors

BY SARAH YOUNG  
Staff Writer

**WHITEWATER, Wis.** — After the passing of Doug Williams, former chair of the World Dairy Expo® Commercial Exhibitor Committee, in 2025, Joe Coburn, co-owner of The Coburn Company Inc., was elected to assume the position. Coburn has been a part of the Commercial Exhibitor Committee since 2010.

Coburn and his committee focus on the commercial exhibition and how to maintain and enhance the show.

“We are the advocates for the commercial exhibitors at the show,” Coburn said.

As chair of the Commercial Exhibitors Committee, Coburn is automatically a member of the WDE Executive Committee. Eight other members serve with Coburn on the committee. Coburn said since he is a chairperson, he also sits on the WDE Board of Directors.

As Coburn takes on his new position, he has set goals for himself and his committee.

“Number one would be to increase attendance,” Coburn said. “That’s really what I hear from my fellow exhibitors. What they want is more foot traffic at the show, so that’s the ultimate goal, to get more people here.”

To make that goal reality, Coburn said, the committee has focused on continuing to demonstrate the value in attending WDE. They also want to attract new exhibitors with new technology and new products, Coburn said.

“We want it to be fresh, so when that attendee is coming to the show, they don’t see the same thing every year,” Coburn said. “We want them to see something new.”

Coburn also has additional responsibilities, such as presenting sponsors with a sponsorship acknowledgment, handing out booth awards and working closely with staff.

Every year during World Dairy Expo, members of the Commercial Exhibitor Committee take time to introduce themselves to exhibitors during the show, Coburn said.

“I’ve always really enjoyed that; welcome them to our show, learn about their business, but then also ask them how we’re doing,” Coburn said. “I check in the first evening of the show, and then I circle back at the end of the show to see how we did and how they did.”

Working with his committee to make improvements, like booth awards, which were renamed in memory of Doug Williams, is another task Coburn works toward. He also works on streamlining the ticket process for attendees. The committee has also



PHOTO BY SHERRY NEWELL/DAIRY STAR

**Joe Coburn prepares his company’s booth Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Coburn is the chairperson of the World Dairy Expo Commercial Exhibitors Committee and co-owner of The Coburn Company.**

worked to connect with larger herds in a more targeted and directed manner.

“We want to improve attendance, but we also want to improve the attendee experience,” Coburn said. “I really think new technology, new exhibitors and new products give them (visitors) a good reason to go.”

Coburn said he has been attending the show since he was a kid and has been working the show professionally for over 20 years.

“I know many of the other exhibitors, so I take what they say, that feedback, and then bring it up with the group,” Coburn said. “If there are action things that we think are deliverables, if we agree that it’s something we should do, we come up to the group, and then oftentimes we have discussions about it. We might then form a subcommittee to research it a little bit further.”

The Commercial Exhibitors Committee also holds two meetings as well as various check-ins throughout the year.

Coburn and his committee are tasked with upholding and advancing the show experience.

“We want to make the best show for the attendees — the visitors, the producers and the farmers coming to the show — but we also want to make the best for our fellow exhibitors,” Coburn said.

The Commercial Exhibitor Committee has also added a new area to the exhibition — Dairy Showcase Village. This area will have various chalets manned by cheese companies. Each company will present its own cheeses.

“Having been affiliated with World Dairy Expo for a long time, I truly do believe that it’s the best show for producers to visit,” Coburn said. “Madison is a very welcoming town, and there’s so much to experience at the show, whether you’re a cattle person or a commercial person.”



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# Easy peasy, lemon Stevie



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Donnybrook Ammo Stevie, the winning Senior Three-Year-Old, is named the Intermediate and Grand Champion of the International Junior Guernsey Show Sept. 29 in Madison, Wisconsin. Stevie is owned by Brittany Taylor and Laylaa Schuler. RHG Breezy Venus-ET is named the Reserve Intermediate and Reserve Grand Champion. Venus was the winning Senior Two-Year-Old. Honorable Mention was the winning Five-Year-Old, Maplehurst Drone Nugget, exhibited by Alaina, Amery and Aidan Dinderman.

## Wisconsin young cows top International Junior Guernsey Show

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN  
AND SHERRY NEWELL  
Staff Writers

MADISON, Wis. — “I wish I could back my truck up to that trailer and take these two young cows home,” said Mark Rueth, judge of the International Junior Guernsey Show, as he named the winning Senior Three-Year-Old, Donnybrook Ammo Stevie, his Intermediate and Grand Champion and the winning Senior Two-Year-Old, RHG Breezy Venus-ET, his Reserve Intermediate and Reserve Grand Champion.

Stevie owned by Brittany Taylor and Laylaa Schuler of New Glarus, while Venus is owned by Alison Gartman of Sheboygan. Following the young cows as the Honorable

Mention Grand Champion was the Senior Champion, Maplehurst Drone Nugget, exhibited by Alaina, Amery and Aidan Dinderman of Orangeville, Illinois. Nugget was the winning Five-Year-Old. The nod for Reserve Senior Champion went to Hi Guern View Drone America, the top junior-owned Four-Year-Old, also exhibited by Alaina Dinderman. The second-place junior-owned Five-Year-Old, Hollow View Tank Tillie, was selected by the judges for Honorable Mention Senior Champion recognition.

The winning Junior Three-Year-Old, Hi Guern View Drone Antigua, was the judges’ selection for Honorable Mention Intermediate Champion. Antigua is owned by Alaina Dinderman.

In the heifer show, Junior Champion honors went to the winning Spring Yearling, Adams Creek Boston-ETV, exhibited by Kayleigh, Kelsey and Karlee Haag and Josie Varney of Dane. Knapps Missile Teal-ETV, the second-place junior-owned Winter Yearling took home Reserve Junior Champion honors for Landree and Dakota Fraley of Muncy, Pennsylvania. Following as the Honorable Mention Junior Champion was the winning Winter Calf, Gold N Pines Butter Me Up-ETV, leased by Dylan and Cameron Ryan and owned by Bruce, Val, Ashley and Shanon Vande Zande of Fond du Lac.

Official judge Mark Rueth of Oxford and his associate Tina Vilter McDonald of Signal Mountain, Tennessee were charged with placing 102 head of junior-owned Guernseys in the International Junior Guernsey

Show. Complete show results are available online at [www.worlddairyexpo.com](http://www.worlddairyexpo.com).

**Donnybrook Ammo Stevie**  
**Brittany Taylor and Laylaa Schuler**  
**New Glarus, Wisconsin**

**Tell us about yourself.** (Laylaa) I am from Platteville; Wisconsin and I am 17. Our farm is out in New Glarus. I have been around cattle since I could walk.

**Tell us about your animal.** Stevie has done really good all year. She was Grand at the Midwest Spring Show in Madison, then she was Reserve Intermediate at our state show in the open and junior show. She did well last year, too. My aunt and uncle, Kami and Jesse Dorn, have had her since she was a calf.

**What was your reaction when your cow was named**

**Grand Champion of the Junior Show?** I was very happy. It’s the best award I have ever gotten.

**How did you get involved in dairy cattle showing?** My aunt always showed dairy and my grandma and grandpa used to milk. I would spend every weekend and every moment I had available at their farm with the cattle.

**Who has been a mentor for your showing career? What has been the best advice they have given you?** My aunt and uncle have always been my mentors and have helped us get to where we are today. And their best advice is probably always just to have fun.

**What has been your favorite memory showing dairy cattle?** Most definitely winning Grand (of the Junior Show) at Expo.

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# Three-peat for the University of Minnesota

## Gophers claim all top spots in National Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest

BY SHERRY NEWELL  
Staff Writer

MADISON, Wis. — For the first time, one college has claimed the National Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest title three years in a row. The University of Minnesota's team of Keenan Thygesen, Alexis Hoefs and Brady Gille collected 2,505 points across 12 classes and six sets of reasons Sept. 28, topping 16 teams by what may be a record-setting margin of 85 points.

Minnesota's Keenan Thygesen, from Tunbridge, Vermont, took home High Overall Individual honors. He won both the reasons and placings category to tally an 80-point margin over his nearest competitor, second-place Overall Individual Payton Van Schyndle of Cuba City, Wisconsin. Van Schyndle judged for the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

"It's unreal," Thygesen said of his victory. "It's like time just stops and you don't really think about anything else in the world, other than all the work and dedication ... all the blood, sweat and tears that we put into reasons, practice and going from farm to farm."

According to Dr. Les Hansen, who coaches the Minnesota team along with Dr. Isaac Haagen and Eric and Gabriella Houdek, the team judged at 32 farms in preparation for the competition.

Hansen credited those farms, contest staff and officials, and his fellow coaches with making it all possible.

"And of course the students are terrific to work with," he said. "They are so outstanding because of the families. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

Unlike many teams, the University of Minnesota had only three members as they had in 2024, meaning there was no fourth score to drop for the final standings. Hoefs was also the team's only native Minnesotan. Gille, who was fourth high individual, calls Pulaski home.

Hoefs said the win, and her individual placing of sixth overall, was a surprise.

"If you asked me at 4 p.m. or told me at 4 p.m. that we were going to win the contest, and I was going to even be



PHOTO BY LAURA SELJAN/DAIRY STAR

The University of Minnesota dairy judging team won the National Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest Sept. 28 in Madison, Wisconsin. Pictured are coaches Dr. Les Hansen (from left) and Dr. Isaac Haagen, team members Keenan Thygesen, Alexis Hoefs and Brady Gille, and coaches Gabriella and Eric Houdek. The team won placings, reasons and three breed divisions in the contest.

in the top 10, I would have told you (that) you were crazy," Hoefs said. "I was not feeling it, but as we kept hearing the places ... it all worked out."

Speechless was how Gille described his reaction to the team's success, citing the hard work he and his teammates had done.

"The toughest part of the day today was probably preparation for reasons, just making sure that they (were) as crisp and as precise as possible," he said.

For the two teams that followed Minnesota in the contest's final rankings, a tie at 2,420 points, resulting in Virginia Polytechnic State University's team of Ali Landry, Mary Beth Collette, Sarah Diehl and Reese Brock placing second in the Overall Team placings. Virginia Tech was second in reasons, with Landry placing fifth as an individual. Their coach is Katherine Knowlton.

Coming in third in the contest was Purdue University's team coached by Brian Engleking. The team members were Rachel Craun, Alaina Weather,

Emma Townsend and Sydney Haag.

Sara Kronberg of the University of Wisconsin-Madison was the contest's second place winner in reasons and third place Overall Individual. Just one point separated her overall score from Van Schyndle's second-place ranking and that of Landry, in third.



- All-American Collegiate Judges**
1. Keenan Thygesen, University of Minnesota
  2. Payton Van Schyndle, University of Wisconsin-Platteville
  3. Ali Landry, Virginia Tech
  4. Sara Kronberg, University of Wisconsin-Madison
  5. Alexis Hoefs, University of Minnesota
  6. Brady Gille, University of Minnesota
  7. Emma Townsend, Purdue University
  8. Natalie Yoder, Pennsylvania State University
  9. Hannah King, Pennsylvania State University
  10. Madelynn Hoffman, Cornell University
  11. Sarah Diehl, Virginia Tech
  12. Olivia Black, Michigan State University
  13. Rachel Craun, Purdue University
  14. Alaina Weaver, Purdue University
  15. Jenna Gries, University of Wisconsin-Madison



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# Today at World Dairy Expo



PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR  
**Wayne Stiles (left) and Dusty Schirm watch the International Jersey Show in the barns on ExpoTV Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. ExpoTV gives exhibitors the opportunity to watch the shows while caring for and preparing their own animals.**



PHOTO BY SHERRY NEWELL/DAIRY STAR  
**Larry Schultz adds price stickers to items in his booth in the Exhibition Hall Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. His booth, Larry Schultz Artist, has been at WDE for roughly 30 years.**



PHOTO BY SHERRY NEWELL/DAIRY STAR  
**Giada Ribeiro of Enfield, Connecticut, basks in the sun Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Ribeiro was at Expo as part of the Connecticut 4-H dairy judging team, which competed on Sunday and placed 12th overall.**



PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR  
**Judge Mark Rueth (left) and his associate Tina McDonald evaluate the Four-Year-Old cow class during the International Guernsey Show Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. This is Rueth's third time judging at World Dairy Expo.**

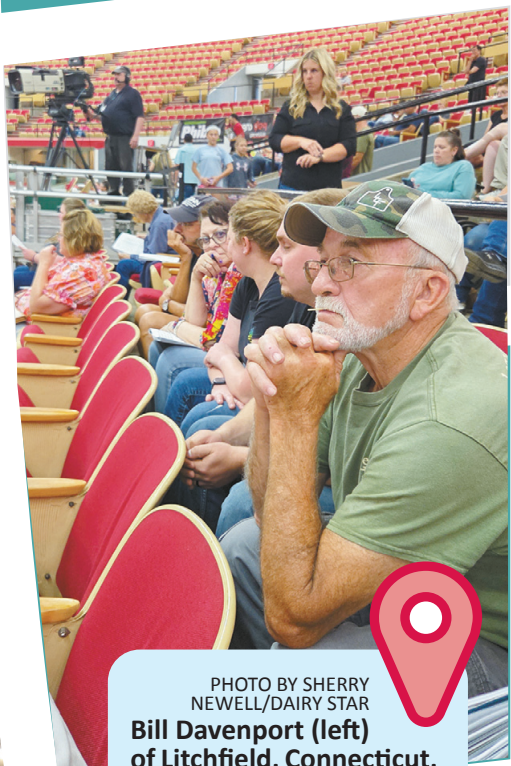


PHOTO BY SHERRY NEWELL/DAIRY STAR  
**Bill Davenport (left) of Litchfield, Connecticut, Mary Woodis of Spencer, Massachusetts, Madison and Brandon Nickerson of Sherman New York, and Steve Woodis of Spencer, Massachusetts watch the International Ayrshire Show Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo. The group was intently viewing the Winter Calf and Fall Calf classes.**



PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR  
**Eric Bogardus dials in the topline on an Ayrshire calf Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Bogardus is from Sloansville, New York.**



PHOTO BY SHERRY NEWELL/DAIRY STAR  
**Rose Smith (left) joins Holly Mahan of Lafarge, Wisconsin, to decorate the Organic Valley booth in the Exhibition Hall Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Smith grew the flowers at her home in Bellefontaine, Ohio.**



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**Betsy Bullard**  
**Brigeen Farms**  
**Turner, Maine**  
**Pavilion 1, aisle 3N**

**How many miles did you travel to World Dairy Expo® and how long did the trip take?** It is 1,200 miles from our farm to Expo. It took us about 22 hours to get here. We traveled by truck and gooseneck. We left our farm in Maine, drove 12 hours to meet up with our friends, Brandon and Madison Nickerson, and their son, Braxton, in western New York. Then with two trailers, we traveled the rest of the way together.

**How many head did you bring and care for while traveling to Expo?** We have four of our own and a fifth

one that belongs to the Nickersons.

**How do you care for the animals while traveling?** We stopped to milk and feed. With just one cow, it is easy enough to just chore at a rest stop. We have a generator in the back of the truck to run the pump. The cow had free choice water the whole trip and we fed hay every time we stopped.

**How did you prepare for the trip, and when did you start making those preparations?** Every year I book hotel rooms early, never knowing if we will make the trip or not. Throughout the year we are always watching the animals develop, thinking if we have anything to bring out. Preparations to

**BRIGEEEN FARMS**

The crew from Brigeen Farms — Steve Briggs (front, from left), Sydney Bullard, Betsy Bullard; (back) Brandon, Madison and Braxton Nickerson — takes a break from showing Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The group traveled 1,200 miles to come exhibit their animals.

come usually begin in earnest around the time entries are due. Then it is a matter of figuring out how many you are bringing, who all is coming and what supplies you need to bring.

**How many times have you made the trip, bringing animals to Expo?** Our little group has made the trip three

or five times, with cattle, in recent years. I have come out many times throughout my life, and my dad has been coming since the beginning.

**Tell us about a memorable experience (good or bad) you've had traveling to Expo, with cattle?** One year one of the trucks in our little caravan had a mini-

van pull out and hit them in the trailer. Fortunately damage was minimal and everyone — two and four-legged — was fine. You always hold your breath when you are traveling that kind of distance, especially with trailers full of animals. There is a lot that can happen, but most of it is out of your control.

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# Good for a few more Supremes

## Boots lay witness to iconic Expo moments

BY DANIELLE NAUMAN  
Staff Writer

**MADISON, Wis.** — They have walked miles around the Coliseum floor, through a rainbow of colored shavings and they have strolled under the spotlights. For nearly 25 years, David Dyment's boots have had a front-row seat to some of the most iconic World Dairy Expo® moments.

"They've got a lot of miles on them," Dyment said. "Those boots have been around a long, long time. They're not shiny or new, but they're perfectly good to do the job. And I am a bit superstitious that way."

Dyment has no idea how many animals he has led across the colored shavings, but there are several that stand out among the many memories. He has escorted bovine beauties in five of the breeds shown at Expo — Holsteins, Red & Whites, Jerseys, Ayrshires and Brown Swiss.

On six occasions, he has taken five individuals for a walk under the spotlight at week's end. Five times, the cow he was leading has been in the center of the final spotlight drop: Tri-Day Ashlyn in 2001; Hillcroft Leader Melanie in 2004; Harvue Roy Frosty in 2009 and 2010; and her granddaughter, Oakfield Solom Footloose, in 2022. In 2013, Dyment led Page-Crest Excitation Karlie, the Grand Champion Jersey cow in the Supreme Champion ceremony.

Although he considers himself a Holstein breeder by nature, Dyment's all-time favorite dance partner was a Jersey cow named MB Lucky Lady Feliz Navidad.

"She had such ring presence, you didn't have to show the cow; she showed herself," Dyment said. "She just loved it; she was so graceful. She really needed no one on the halter."

The cow he escorted to Expo's top honors twice also has a place in his heart, Dyment said.

"Roy Frosty, she exemplified my kind of cow — massive, powerful, balanced," Dyment said. "She'd probably be my favorite Holstein that I led. She loved being out there."

Just over a decade later, Dyment would escort Frosty's granddaughter, Footloose, across center stage. Footloose did not inherit her grandmother's love of the Showring, he said.

"Footloose is highly intelligent and you just have to respect her intelligence," Dyment said. "At Expo, when you get pulled into the first line, you're facing the door, and let me tell you, she wanted out that door. She knows where the barn

is. When she decides she needs to show you who's the boss, you just have to hold on. You certainly aren't going to overpower her or break her will — that's a battle you just won't win. It is going to have to be her idea."

For some cows, the length of time they spend at Madison affects their attitudes, which Dyment believes is the case for his most recent Supreme partner.

"It's a long week for those cows," Dyment said. "A cow like Footloose has life pretty good at home. There's no better farm on the map than Duckett's. Then she comes to the show — she doesn't get to go to her pasture every night, she's not in her big box stall, she's tied in the row. For a cow like her, that's a hard adjustment. I do think the older she gets, the more comfortable, the more accepting she gets of life at a show."

Dyment came to lead his first Supreme because of a long-time friendship with Ernie Kueffner, who asked him to lead Tri-Day Ashlyn as a four-year-old.

"Ernie's a good chess player," Dyment said. "He told me he had a cow he wanted one person to lead for the year because he felt she had the ability to be Grand Champion at Expo. He said, 'I need you to do it, but you're going to have to come to the Maryland State Fair and to Harrisburg. If you can commit to that, I'd like to hire you.'"

Dyment accepted the assignment and led the cow at all three shows, where she surpassed Kueffner's goal of simply being named Grand Champion of the International Holstein Show, but claimed the Supreme Champion banner.

"She was a great big cow, I loved showing her," Dyment said. "She was surprising, for a cow with the strength and power she had, she walked like a princess. I talk about this often — the great cows are really light-footed; it's like they have power steering when you're on the halter. She was definitely that way, just a beautiful cow; she floated and loved it."

Each of the cows Dyment has led to greatness displayed their own quirks and personalities, Dyment said.

"Melanie didn't like to move fast, and there was no point in trying to rush her," Dyment said. "The year she won, she had been milking at least a year, I think. She was better stale. She worked too hard when she was fresh; she needed time to build herself back up."

What made Melanie's win most memorable for Dyment was the story that accompanied it.

"Melanie was Supreme and Veronica was Reserve; it was the first year Arethusa exhibited," Dy-



PHOTO COURTESY OF COWSMOPOLITAN  
**David Dyment escorts Oakfield Solom Footloose-ET under the spotlight during the Parade of Champions Oct. 7, 2022, at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Footloose, a cow that Dyment described as having great intelligence and will, went on to capture the Supreme Champion title.**

ment said. "Ernie bought Melanie and Veronica nearly the same day, and the two cows came from just around the corner. Melanie was at Ebyholme and Veronica at Bridon. I was pushing Ernie to buy Melanie and I think Norman (Nabholz) was pushing him to buy Veronica. Eventually they became Arethusa's seed-stock."

One of the most iconic moments at Expo — the 2013 International Red & White Show, with judge Michael Heath's naming of the grand champions, 'Bing, Bang, Boom!' — found Dyment on the halter of KHW Regiment Apple-Red. Apple was named the Reserve Grand Champion, while her clone took the Grand Champion honors and her daughter was named Honorable Mention.

"What a potent, historic moment, one I can't fathom will be repeated, Dyment said. "To be out

there, thinking how lucky can you be? You're leading the Reserve Grand Cow, and it's where she needed to be, but you're just so thrilled about it, to be standing out there with Apple herself. And the way Michael did it — it was classic Michael."

Enthusiasm and excitement are a vital part of the Expo experience in the show ring, Dyment said, and while the stakes run high, he believes respect for the cows is paramount.

"As leadspeople and judges, we have to be 100% aware that in our industry, every move is under the microscope," Dyment said. "I wasn't a fan of the slap, but I love the high-five — bring the enthusiasm, just do it respectfully. When I'm on the halter, the cow could be tearing me apart, but I will never, ever correct her."

A memorable championship

moment in Dyment's memory, one he was not on the halter for, was in 1999, when judge Lowell Lindsey selected Rainyridge Tony Beauty, at the age of 14, as his Grand Champion.

"Not everyone could pull it off, but Lowell was talking about the cows he had pulled out," Dyment said. "He got to Tony Beauty, and I forget exactly what he said about her, but he said, 'This cow is going to be your Grand Champion cow,' and instead of slapping her, he went out and gave her a scratch on the head. What a great way to respect and recognize that cow."

No matter how the win comes, Dyment said, each time is as thrilling as if it were the first.

"I don't care if you're 16 or 60, the last time is still as exciting as the first," Dyment said. "I get shivers up and down my spine. There is so much adrenaline, waiting, hoping for the judge to come your way."

While he loves the thrill of presenting animals on the colored shavings, Dyment calls himself a breeder at heart. That passion is the basis of AG3, the stud he operates, marketing semen from cows he believes can be impactful in the breed.

"One of my proudest moments at Expo was last year, winning the Junior Best 3 Females in the Holstein show, with my partners of the Yellowstone group," Dyment said. "Three full sisters that placed second, fourth and seventh in the Fall Calf Class, with three of my bulls close up in their pedigree."

The heifers were sired by D2 Summerfest Caught Up, a bull Dyment is marketing through AG3 Sires. Caught Up is sired by Avant-Garde-I KD Summerfest, a bull he bred in partnership with Heath. The dam of the three heifers is sired by Mr Blondin Warrior, a son of another bull Dyment bred, Dymenthalm Mr Apples Avalanche.

With all the historic moments he has had a front-row seat for on the colored shavings, Dyment said it is important not to lose sight of what being a part of the Expo magic really means.

"It's a world-class event," he said. "Everything they do adds to that magic — the beauty of the show ring, the atmosphere that surrounds the entire week, and the weeks leading up to Expo. The focus is on winning, but there is so much more to the experience. A friend once pointed out that the majority of animals that come to the colored shavings leave without a ribbon. That's a reminder that it's really more about the dream, and the possibilities that exist."



PHOTO COURTESY OF COWSMOPOLITAN  
**The boots David Dyment has worn for nearly 25 years escorting cows across the colored shavings wait to travel to the next show Oct. 7, 2022, at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Dyment has led five Expo Supreme Champions wearing these boots. He is still wearing these boots.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF COWSMOPOLITAN  
**Judge Pierre Boulet (left) congratulates David Dyment as he names Oakfield Solom Footloose-ET the Grand Champion of the International Holstein Show Oct. 7, 2022, at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Dyment said he appreciates the transition from exuberant rump slaps to high fives, out of respect for the cows.**



# You have arrived at your destination



City lights shine under a sunset Sept. 13, 2024 in Madison, Wisconsin. The city is only one of two in the U.S. that sits on an isthmus.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DESTINATION MADISON

## Madison does not disappoint

BY DESTINATION MADISON

**MADISON, Wis.** — Welcome to Madison — a city where rich dairy-land heritage meets groundbreaking agricultural innovation. As the birthplace of the round silo, the pioneering Babcock butterfat test and home to America's first dairy school, Madison has long been at the forefront of shaping the industry.

### Madison fun facts

- Nestled between lakes Mendota and Monona, Madison is one of only two major U.S. cities built on an isthmus. (The other is Seattle, Washington.)
- Thousands of Native American effigy mounds — the largest concentration in the U.S. — were built along the shores of Madison's lakes.
- Madison was incorporated as a city in 1856 and is named after James Madison, the fourth U.S. president.
- The gilded statue on top of the capitol is called "Wisconsin." (The "Forward" statue is at the top of State Street on capitol grounds.)
- The state capitol building, completed in 1917, was built with 43 types of stone from six countries and eight states.

While you are here for World Dairy Expo®, the Destination Madison team has curated a list of must-see attractions and itinerary ideas to help you make the most of your visit.

### Cultural attractions

**Dane County Farmers' Market**  
Capitol Square, 2 E. Main St.  
The Dane County Farmers' Market is the largest producer-only farmers' market in the country, offering the season's best bounty of local produce, meats, cheeses and specialty prod-

ucts from approximately 260 vendors. All items for sale are grown, raised and produced right here in America's Dairyland by the person behind the stand. See what makes this a beloved Madison tradition — stop by the original market on the Capitol Square on Saturday from 6:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. or catch the smaller Wednesday market from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on the 200 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

### Wisconsin State Capitol Building

2 East Main St.  
The most iconic silhouette in our city's skyline, the Wisconsin State Capitol is the tallest building in Madison — and the dome is one of the largest in the world. The building is open to the public seven days a week and guided tours are free. For tour hours and information, call 608-266-0382. Pro tip: Make your way up to the observation deck for incredible 360-degree views of the city.

### Babcock Hall Dairy Plant and Store

1605 Linden Dr.  
Built in 1951, the plant is the oldest university dairy building in the U.S. and continues to educate food industry students. The dairy shop is run by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Agriculture Department and offers its signature award-winning ice cream, plus cheese and café eats. Pro tip: Try the orange custard chocolate chip ice cream — a Destination Madison staff favorite.

### Upcoming event highlights

**Temporary D-Day Exhibit at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum**  
Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Free admission  
This powerful exhibit features

artwork by Keith Rocco and artifacts from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, telling the stories of Wisconsin service members who took part in the D-Day invasion.

### Oktoberfest at The Edgewater

Friday, October 3, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Enjoy live music from The Rhythm Boy during an evening of celebration with German-style food and beverages.

View our full events calendar at [visitmadison.com/events](https://visitmadison.com/events).

### Free Experience passes

Interested in a self-guided tour? Sign up for these virtual trails to try some of the best experiences Madison has to offer, available instantly on your phone.

**Madison Like a Local** is a digital travel itinerary designed to help you find restaurants, shops and attractions within walking distance of downtown hotels and the state capitol building.

**Madison's Iconic Eats** is a self-guided food tour where you'll find the most iconic food in the capital city.

**Madison by Bike** is a partnership with Madison BCycle (our local bike share program) that features four trails to try, each with its own vibe. A bike

rental station is available across the street from the Alliant Energy Center.

**Madison on Tap** offers deals and discounts at local breweries, cideries and distilleries.

**Wright in Madison** is a self-guided journey that takes you through the places where famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright lived, learned and found his inspiration, revealing Madison's crucial influence on his legacy.

Get started by visiting [visitmadison.com/things-to-do/madison-experience-passes](https://visitmadison.com/things-to-do/madison-experience-passes) or by scanning the QR code.



Want more ideas for things to do while you're in Madison?  
**GO TO VISITMADISON.COM**



PHOTO COURTESY OF DESTINATION MADISON

The state capitol watches over State Street on a fall day Sept. 26, 2023 in Madison, Wisconsin. The capitol was completed in 1917 and is built with 43 types of stone from six countries and eight states.



PHOTO BY DANIELLE NAUMAN/DAIRY STAR

The crew representing Ryan, Harbaugh, Danhof and Friends — Fenja Boekhoff (kneeling, from left), Campbell Booth, Ainsley Loehr, Griffin Grinstead, Adella Loehr, Sara Feldmann; (seated) Joe Casper; (middle) Jr Boyke, Chad Ryan, Logan Harbaugh, Lynn Harbaugh, Cameron Ryan, Anja Frittsch, Sherry Siemers-Peterson; (back) Jacob Harbaugh, Jason Danhof, Jonas Melbaum, Kurt Loehr and Cory Mortenson — celebrate their selection as the Herdsmanship Winner Sept. 29 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Their exhibit is located in Pavilion 1, aisle 2N.





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