The Junior Dairy Edition

The 2001 National Dairy Conference

Pictured Above: Top Row (left to right) Joan Pettig, Emily Pettig, Nori Long, Christy Huisjen, Melissa Smith. Second Row (left to right) Jon Holdwick, Nathan Cort, Daylynn Rodgers, Carolyn Smith, Miranda Smith, Ralph Long. Bottom Row (left to right) Tom Spinak, Ben Taylor, Hope Reisler, Grant Blood, Kate Mills, Alicia Stout.

2002 Calendar of Events

February 16  Communication Skills Day  MSU, Anthony Hall
April 5-6  4-H Dairy Conference  Kellogg Biological Station, Hickory Corners
June 19-21  4-H Exploration Days  MSU
June 25-26  MMPA Dairy Tour  Nevi, Michigan
July 15-19  Michigan Dairy Expo & 4-H Dairy Days  MSU, Pavilion
Sept. 29-Oct. 3  National Dairy Conference  Madison, WI
Michigan Dairy 4-H Judging Program Shines in National Competitions

If you will recall from The Michigan 4-H Dairy Day judging contest results in the August issue, the top 25 seniors were eligible to try out for 3 national judging contests. Those 25 Michigan 4-H members spent many summer and fall weekends visiting farms and judging cows in preparation for the fall judging season. The teams visited dairy farms in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada. Practices were held at the Genesee and Shiawassee County Fairs and the community fair in Hudsonville, MI. A final summer workout was held at the Michigan State Fair. All of the practice and preparation paid off as the state of Michigan was successfully represented in three national contests.

The first contest of the fall was at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, PA. The Michigan 4-H team was represented by Brandon Delong (Fremont), Jason Herbert (Fowlerville), Brock Palen (St. Johns), and Matt Sneller (Sebewaing). This team placed 8th overall. Allen was 6th overall.

A 4-H team traveled to Madison, WI, for the national contest at World Dairy Expo. The team was represented by Kristin Kramer (Harbor Beach), Fred Ludwig (Fostoria), Beth Munsell (Fowlerville), and Emily Sneller (Sebewaing). The Michigan team placed 10th out of 32 teams. The 4-H team was 3rd in Brown Swiss, 9th in Jerseys, and 10th in reasons. Fred Ludwig was 1st in Brown Swiss and 19th overall.

The final contest of the year was held at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. The Michigan 4-H team had an outstanding day, winning the high team award and had the high individual in the 4-H contest. The Michigan 4-H team members for this contest were Diana Feenstra (Jenison), Jessica Geurink (Allendale), Bobbi Meyer (Bryon Center), and Mary Tenbrink (Coopersville). This team placed 1st overall and was 2nd in both Ayrshires and Jerseys, 3rd in Guernseys, 5th in Brown Swiss, 6th in Brown Swiss and Holsteins, and 3rd in reasons. Individually, Jessica was the high individual overall, and placed 1st in Ayrshires and 1st in Jerseys. Diana was 3rd in reasons. Bobbi was 3rd in Ayrshires and 6th in Brown Swiss. Mary was 3rd in Ayrshires.

Congratulations to all 4-Hers for their hard work and dedication. And a special thanks to Coach Joe Domecq and Assistant coach Laurie Davis for all their time spent with the 4-H teams. We would also like to thank the Judging program sponsors ABS Global, Michigan United Dairy Industry Association, Michigan Holstein Association and NorthStar Cooperative Inc.

All 4-H youth are invited and encouraged to participate in the 2002 contest at Michigan 4-H Dairy Days and try-out for one of the state teams. You could be on the next National Champion 4-H Team!
The Ottawa County 4-H Dairy Team consisting of team members: Emily Barnes, Randy Berens, Jessica Geurink and Mary TenBrink coached by Ira Krupp, placed 4th at the National Junior Dairy Management Contest. This trip was sponsored by Genex. The contest was held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This is a major educational event of the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, for 4-H and FFA youth from several states. This contest provides an excellent opportunity to evaluate top quality animals, receive experience in evaluation and decision-making, and demonstrate knowledge and skills in dairy management. This well-rounded approach will be most beneficial to our youth, the dairy producers of the future. Pictured on right, Jessica Geurink of Allendale, placed 5th at the regional Junior Dairy Management Contest. Cash prizes are awarded to the top ten individuals and the top ten 4-H and FFA teams. The scholarship and prizes are provided by: Pennsylvania Dairyman’s Asso., Church & Dwight Co., Milk Specialties Co., Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Prince Agri Products, Inc., Chr Hansen Bio Systems, Pharmacia Animal Health, and Land O’ Lakes Milk Coop.

The Junior Dairy Management Contest consists of the following activities: Animal Health, Dairy Product Identification & Quality, Dairy Cattle Selection, Linear Trait Analysis, Meats Identification and Quality Assurance, Grain/Forage Identification and Nutrition, and Farm Business Management. This contest is open to all FFA and 4-H members and sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission, and the Pennsylvania Dairy Industry.

We encourage you to compete in the State Management Contest at the Michigan 4-H Dairy Days in July, if you win you could be on the next team to go to the National Management Contest.

State Quiz Bowl Team Winner
North American International Livestock Expo

The Ottawa County 4-H Dairy Team consisting of team members: Honor Howe, Julie Fraaza, Emily Barnes and Randy Berens also coached by Ira Krupp recently competed at The National Dairy Quiz Bowl contest at the North American International Livestock Expo in Louisville KY. The team placed in the top 10 at the contest. This is a major educational event at the North American for 4-H youth that came from 21 states. This contest provides an excellent opportunity for 4-H members to demonstrate their knowledge of the U.S. Dairy Industry.

Dairy Farmers of America was the major sponsor of the contest and prizes provided. The Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest consists of one double elimination contest in which teams of four 4-H members answer questions about the dairy industry. The topics covered include Animal Health, Dairy Product ID, Dairy Cattle Selection, Grain/Forage, Nutrition, Breeding & Selection and Milking & Mastitis. This contest is open to 4-H teams who have competed and won their State Dairy Bowl Contest.

Again, to participate in the National Quiz Bowl Competition you must first compete and win at the State Competition at the Michigan 4-H Dairy Days in July.
Happy Holidays

For More Information On Events or Dates
Please Contact:
Melissa Macfarlane
Phone: 517-355-8319
Fax: 517-355-1699
Email: wolfmel3@msu.edu

4-H Dairy Youth Programs

State 4-H Award Program

Each year an outstanding dairy 4-H member is awarded the prestigious State Dairy Award. By simply completing the application, you could have the opportunity to become the next State Award Winner for Dairy 4-H. Please contact your county for further information on deadlines and applications.

The State Award Application process has two phases. All participants must complete the first phase:
1. State Award Application
2. Individual Photo
3. Cover Letter
4. Resume
5. Story

Upon being selected the second phase begins:
1. Final Draft with all revisions and enhancements of the above.
2. An Interview at Exploration Days

Kate Mills won the 2001 State 4-H Award. She is 15 years old from Imlay City, where she lives on a small family farm. She has a Brown Swiss herd and in 1999 she exhibited the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Brown Swiss at The Michigan State Fair. Three of her cows were nominated "All American", one of which she bred and raised herself.

Kate's love of animals and her dedication to her 4-H projects have lead Kate to win the State Award. Congratulations Kate, best of luck in your future endeavors.

If you would like to submit an article for subsequent issues about your county or an outstanding member, please send a copy to wolfmel3@msu.edu