



Michigan State University Dairy Cattle Judging Team

2024 Year in Review

MSU DAIRY JUDGING KICKS OFF COMPETITION SEASON AT THE MARYLAND STATE FAIR

For the MSU and Michigan 4-H dairy judging teams, a Labor Day weekend trip to the Maryland State Fair is the much-anticipated official kick off to the school year and the dairy judging season. This year, 14 students traveled to Timonium, Maryland to spend time at the fair evaluating dairy cattle during breed shows, sidelined two contests, and watch the Maryland Holstein Futurity.

Additionally, students had ample opportunities to practice oral reasons and connect with fellow judging team members. Over the course of the five-day trip, students judged over 30 classes of Maryland's best cows and heifers and focused on improving their oral reasons skills. MSU Dairy Concentration Junior and Collegiate team member, Clea Moore shared, "The Maryland State Fair was a super fun trip where we were able to sideline the show to practice judging



Michigan 4-H and MSU Dairy Judging teams at the Maryland State Fair. Pictured from left to right: Sarah Michalek, Lynn Olthof, Clea Moore, Elizabeth Hyman, Sadie Brearley, Viktor Robertson-Wicks, Megan Wilson, Austin Preston, Kelsey Gruner, Ross Kelsey, Ava Mitchell, Rhianna Bruursema, Gracie Triick, Lane McDonald, Bette Eggink, Lydia Deters, Sarah Black, and Joe Domecq.

dairy cattle and refine our reason skills. My favorite part of the trip was watching the futurity show."

Outside of judging many cows and watching the shows, the group took some time to sight see and grow deeper as a dairy judging community. This year the teams traveled to Annapolis, Maryland where they visited the WWII memorial, the Maryland State Capital, and the U.S. Naval Academy. Coach Lynn Olthof shared, "The Maryland trip is always a highlight for our program. It's not only an opportunity to see lots of classes in just a couple of days but also a chance for students and coaches to get to know one another at a greater level and

enhance team chemistry. This trips is always a fun way to start and really sets the tone for the rest of the season."

It is an honor and privilege to go on this trip and have these experiences. This year after coming to nearly all of the August dairy judging practices, four Senior 4-H students who are striving to improve their judging skills were invited on this trip along with the Collegiate, Ag-Tech, and Michigan 4-H teams. These students included Kelsey Gruner (Coldwater), Austin Preston (Quincy), Gracie Triick (Coopersville), Viktor Robertson-Wicks (Portage). We are excited to have so many current and future judging team members committed to growing and learning the craft of dairy judging.

Collegiate Division



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The MSU Dairy Cattle Judging program was proud to be represented by Sadie Brearley (Lake Odessa, MI), Rhianna Bruursema (West Olive, MI), Clea Moore (Fowler, MI), and Elizabeth Hyman (Adams, NY) The team was coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, Lynn Olthof, Sarah Black, and Sarah Michalek.

The teams competed in three national contests: The All-American Dairy Invitational in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin; and the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky.

In Spring of 2024, a team that consisted of Brianna Armbruster, Elizabeth Hyman, and Clea Moore also competed at the Richmond Black and White Days in Richmond, Utah where they placed 3rd Overall.



The 2024 collegiate team consisted of (Pictured from left to right): Coach Lynn Olthof, Sadie Brearley, Rhianna Bruursema, Clea Moore, Elizabeth Hyman, Coach Sarah Black; Coach Joe Domecq. Photo Credit: Agri-Graphics.

TEAM PLACINGS

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

- 4th in Oral Reasons
- 6th Holstein
- 8th Overall
- 8th in Jersey
- 8th in Guernsey
- 9th in Brown Swiss

Madison, Wisconsin

- 3rd in Ayrshire
- 5th in Holstein
- 6th in Milking Shorthorn
- 7th in Guernsey
- 7th in Red & White
- 9th Overall

Louisville, Kentucky

- 4th in Ayrshire
- 6th Overall
- 6th in Brown Swiss
- 6th in Jersey
- 7th in Oral Reasons
- 9th in Holstein

INDIVIDUAL PLACING

Sadie Brearley

- 10th in Jersey, Harrisburg

Rhianna Bruursema

- 3rd in Jersey, Louisville
- 3rd in Brown Swiss, Louisville
- 10th Overall, Louisville

Elizabeth Hyman

- 2nd in Ayrshire, Madison
- 2nd in Ayrshire, Louisville
- 6th in Placings, Madison
- 10th Overall All-American, Madison
- 10th in Holstein, Harrisburg

Clea Moore

- 2nd in Jersey, Louisville
- 4th in Holstein, Madison



Three second year MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT) dairy management students, competed in the All-American Dairy Invitational in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin; and the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky. The team was coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, Lynn Olthof, Sarah Black, and Sarah Michalek

The students competing on the team were: Bette Eggink (Deckerville, MI), Lydia Deters (Fremont, MI), and Lane McDonald (Ithaca, MI).



From left, 2024 IAT dairy judging team members - Coach Lynn Olthof, Bette Eggink, Lane McDonald, Lydia Deters, Coach Sarah Black, and Coach Joe Domecq. Photo Credit: Agri-Graphics.

TEAM PLACINGS

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

- 2nd in Jersey
- 3rd in Guernsey
- 4th in Ayrshire
- 4th in Brown Swiss
- 4th in Holstein
- 4th Overall
- 4th in Oral Reasons

Madison, Wisconsin

- 3rd in Oral Reasons
- 3rd in Red & White
- 3rd in Guernsey
- 4th Overall
- 4th in Brown Swiss
- 4th in Holstein
- 4th in Jersey
- 4th in Milking Shorthorns
- 5th in Ayrshire

Louisville, Kentucky

- 2nd in Holstein
- 3rd in Guernsey
- 3rd in Jersey
- 4th Overall
- 4th in Oral Reasons
- 4th in Ayrshire
- 4th in Brown Swiss

INDIVIDUAL PLACINGS

Bette Eggink

- 1st in Ayrshire, Madison
- 1st in Jersey, Harrisburg
- 2nd in Jersey, Madison
- 2nd in Holstein, Madison
- 3rd in Brown Swiss, Louisville
- 4th Overall, Madison
- 5th in Oral Reasons, Madison
- 5th in Milking Shorthorn, Madison
- 5th in Holstein, Louisville
- 6th Overall, Harrisburg
- 7th in Ayrshire, Harrisburg
- 8th in Oral Reasons, Harrisburg
- 8th in Guernsey
- 9th in Placings, Madison
- 10th in Guernsey

Lydia Deters

- 2nd in Guernsey, Madison
- 6th in Jersey, Harrisburg
- 7th in Guernsey, Harrisburg
- 7th in Red & White, Madison
- 7th in Oral Reasons, Louisville
- 8th in Holsteins, Louisville
- 9th in Ayrshire, Louisville
- 9th in Brown Swiss, Louisville

Lane McDonald

- 2nd in Guernsey, Harrisburg
- 4th in Red & White, Madison
- 5th in Guernsey, Madison
- 6th Overall
- 6th in Jersey
- 6th in Placings
- 9th in Oral Reasons
- 9th in Ayrshire
- 9th in Holstein

4-H Division



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From left, team members for the Michigan 4-H team at the All-American Contest in Harrisburg, Pa were Ava Mitchell (Addison) and Ross Kelsey (Blanchard). The team was coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, Lynn Olthof, Sarah Black, and Sarah Michalek.



Photo Credit: Lynn Olthof

All-American Dairy Show Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

INDIVIDUAL PLACING

Ross Kelsey
4th in Holstein
10th in Ayrshire

From left, Representing Michigan 4-H at World Dairy Expo were Coach Lynn Olthof, Megan Wilson (Blanchard), Ross Kelsey (Blanchard), Ava Mitchell (Addison), Coach Sarah Black, and Coach Joe Domecq.



Photo Credit: Agri-Graphics

World Dairy Expo Madison, Wisconsin

TEAM PLACINGS

4th in Brown Swiss

INDIVIDUAL PLACING

Ava Mitchell
4th in Brown Swiss

Ross Kelsey
5th in Placings
16th Overall, All American

Thanks for support



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Thank you to our host farms, sponsors, assistant coaches and major financial supporters!

Assistant Coaches

Lynn Olthof
Sarah Black
Sarah Michalek
Bridget Silvernail
Kristen Chapman

Host Farms

Dream-On Holsteins- Lebanon, Pennsylvania
Embarces Holsteins – Lanark, Illinois
Golden Elm Dairy - Frankenmuth, Michigan
Green Meadow Farms - Elsie, Michigan
Jem-Lot Dairy - Westphalia, Michigan
Jeffrey-Way Holsteins - Belleville, Wisconsin
Mil-R-Mor Dairy - Orangeville, Illinois
Mooville Creamery - Nashville, Michigan
Preston Farms - Quincy, Michigan
Paul and Sherry Meyer - Byron Center, Michigan
Star Summit Farm - Byron Center, Michigan
Tumbleweed Dairy - Lowell, Michigan
Triangle Acres Brown Swiss – Freeport, Illinois
Walnutdale Family Farms - Wayland, Michigan
Windy View Dairy - Coopersville, Michigan

Major Financial Supporters

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MICHIGAN'S DAIRY JUDGING TEAMS

Out and about



Michigan State University

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