

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 116 Students from 14 Colleges Participate in 12th Annual Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge®

Harrisburg, PA, November 19, 2014 – Delaware Valley College hosted a successful Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge that drew 116 students from 12 northeast colleges and two Canadian universities to Harrisburg, Pa., November 13-15, 2014. This event marked the 12th annual Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge which is an innovative, three-day educational competition designed to prepare students for careers in the dairy industry.

Working in mixed-university teams of five students, contestants assessed all aspects of a working dairy farm, including facilities, nutrition, financials, reproduction, animal health and much more. Students collaborated on a 20-minute team presentation that detailed their observations and suggestions to a panel of judges and participating farm families. Teams were ranked based on how well their evaluations matched the judges' assessment of the dairy operation.

The objective of Dairy Challenge is to create a real-life situation that stresses the importance of teamwork and professionalism. Industry chair Suzanne Demeester of Novus International, Inc. explained, "Not only does the Dairy Challenge teach technical knowledge, it excels in helping students develop people skills."

Farms evaluated at the 2014 competition included Hess Dairy Farm, Inc. in Mt. Joy, Pa.; Brook-Corner Holsteins in Lebanon, Pa.; and Furnace Hill Holsteins also in Lebanon, Pa. All teams also participated in educational workshops at Brubaker Farms in Mt. Joy and attended an industry career fair. Team-building and fun activities were held throughout the weekend to encourage networking among students and dairy industry sponsors.

First place teams, which were named after top sponsors of the Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge, included: Cargill, Inc., Cows Come First and Holtz-Nelson Dairy Consultants, LLC.



*Above: Laura Wilbur (right) of SUNY Cobleskill and teammate Devan Chirgwin (center) of University of New Hampshire take notes on the heifer facilities while evaluating Brook-Corner Holsteins in Lebanon,*

The 2015 Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge will be hosted by Penn State University. For more information about next year's contest, please contact Lisa Holden [lah7@psu.edu](mailto:lah7@psu.edu). To become a sponsor, contact Jan Bitter of Farm Credit East at 800-392-3276 or [jan.bitter@farmcrediteast.com](mailto:jan.bitter@farmcrediteast.com). All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Contributing sponsor listings are available at [www.dairychallenge.org](http://www.dairychallenge.org).

### ***About Dairy Challenge***

NAIDC is an innovative event for students in dairy programs at North American post-secondary institutions. Its mission is to develop tomorrow's dairy leaders and enhance progress of the dairy industry, by providing education, communication and networking among students, producers, and agribusiness and university personnel. Over its 13-year national history, Dairy Challenge has helped prepare more than 4,000 students for careers as farm owners and managers, consultants, researchers, veterinarians or other dairy professionals.

The 2015 national competition and Dairy Challenge Academy will be April 9-11 in Syracuse, NY. Four regional contests are held in late fall and winter; details are at [www.dairychallenge.org](http://www.dairychallenge.org)



*Above: Aayna Perkins (left) of University of New Hampshire and Brittany Mumbulo (right) of Morrisville State College measure stalls during a farm visit at the Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge.*



*Above: Participants, sponsors and planning committee members of the 2014 Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge.*



*Above left: Students on Team 3 - Cargill, Inc. earned first place among teams evaluating Hess Dairy Farm, Inc. of Mount Joy, Pa. Front row (left to right): Samantha Simons, Vermont Technical College; Leah Caverly, University of New Hampshire. Back row (left to right): William Kreutter, Alfred State College; Brandon Grumbine, Penn State University; Tristan Peterson, Morrisville State College.*

*Above center: Students on Team 16 – Cows Come First earned first place among teams evaluating Brook-Corner Holsteins of Lebanon, Pa. Front row (left to right): Emily Fortin, University of Maine; Patricia Lefebvre, McGill University. Back row (left to right): Gearet FitzPatrick, Penn State University; Nicholas Mears, Alfred State College; Justin Hanehan, SUNY Cobleskill.*

*Above right: Students on Team 19 – Holtz-Nelson Dairy Consultants, LLC earned first place among teams evaluating Furnace Hill Holsteins of Lebanon, Pa. Front row (left to right): Veronique Krohn, Morrisville State College; Rayne Paddock, Cornell University. Back row (left to right): Eduardo Carvajal, University of Connecticut; Daniel Laggis, University of New Hampshire; Louisa Barlett, Alfred State College.*

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For high resolution versions of these photos, please visit the Dairy Challenge Media Gallery at [http://www.dairychallenge.org/media\\_gallery.php](http://www.dairychallenge.org/media_gallery.php).