



2025 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge & Academy

Sunday, April 6 – Tuesday April 8, 2025 *(note new date pattern!)*

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center in Gainesville, Florida

Hosted by the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge Planning Committee

To Register as a Volunteer: <https://2025DairyChallengeVolunteerRegistration.eventbrite.com>

Register by March 6, 2025

The Board of Directors of the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge invites you to join us for our 23rd Annual Dairy Challenge and the 12th Annual Dairy Challenge Academy. These events will be held in Gainesville, Florida April 6-8, 2025, and hosted by the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge Planning Committee. This year's event will be held Sunday evening – Tuesday evening.

The North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge offers a two-day competition that enables four-person teams to evaluate a well-managed dairy farm business and then recommend management enhancements to a panel of judges comprised of industry and academic professionals. The Academy runs in conjunction with the contest, offering students an intensive program using the educational component of the Dairy Challenge without competition.

We are building our list of volunteers to help with the event on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (we hope this different date pattern works better for our industry supporters). Being involved and working directly with the students gives you a first-hand view of the students in action, plus a large volunteer pool helps the event run smoothly. This is an excellent recruiting opportunity you won't want to miss!

If you have questions about the event, please communicate with volunteer coordinator Stephanie Ward shward@ncsu.edu. Please ensure every individual from your organization that is planning to participate completes registration using this [form](#). **Forms are due Thursday, March 6, 2025.**

For 2025, you'll find many opportunities to work directly with students, including:

- Dairy Challenge Academy: educational program offered to as many as 120 sophomores, juniors, and seniors from 4-year dairy programs, as well as undergraduates from

community colleges and technical schools. We need as many as 30 professionals from varied backgrounds to serve as Academy Advisors by sharing their knowledge of dairying and guiding groups of students through a dairy analysis. For more information about serving as an Academy Advisor, go to https://www.dairychallenge.org/pdfs/2025_National_and_Academy/NAIDC-Academy-Advisor-2025.pdf If you are interested in being an Academy Advisor or would like more information about the role, contact national Academy coordinators [Jeff Elliott or Ted Halbach](#). Please indicate your interest in being an Advisor on the Volunteer registration form.

- Contest volunteers: opportunities include guiding students during their Monday morning farm visit, monitoring Monday afternoon workrooms, moderating manager interviews on Monday afternoon, being a team guide on Tuesday, and a presentation room volunteer on Tuesday. See registration form for complete details and to sign up to volunteer.
- Career and Innovation Fair: Opportunity for our sponsors at the \$5000 or above level to recruit *and* educate from their booths, explore job opportunities, and share latest innovations with students who will either be your future employees or customers. Additional details are below. Reserve your space on the registration form.
- Sponsors at the \$2500 level and above will receive student resumes & student contact information from this event. This is a great tool to have in your recruiting toolbox even if you can't attend the event.
- Monday Night Student/Sponsor Event: Platinum and Gold Sponsors (donations of \$5000 or more) are invited to our Monday night Student/Sponsor event being held offsite at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, home to Florida Gator's football. This will be a fun and interactive evening complete with tailgate themed food, drinks and games that will allow you time to get to know the students as they wind down from a busy day on the host farms and preparing their presentations. See the registration form for complete details and to sign up for this event.
- Tuesday Seminars: Sponsors at the \$15,000 and above have the exclusive opportunity to present a Tuesday Technology Seminar. A very limited number of seminar spaces are available and offered on a first come-first served basis to our top-tier supporters. These 30-minute seminars are intended to provide additional education for students on leading industry topics, and to give your organization additional exposure to future employees and customers. While we ask the presentations not to be commercial in nature, speakers are encouraged to include a few minutes of "who we are" highlighting your company and products/services as part of your presentation. To find out more about this exclusive opportunity and to sign up, please contact coordinator Gail Carpenter ajcarpen@iastate.edu.

Schedule: On our web site you will find a listing of the scheduled events for this year's event. Activities will be held at the University of Florida Conference Center in downtown Gainesville, Florida. Please complete the online [Volunteer Registration Form](#) by March 6 if you are planning to attend and/or send representatives to the event. Please ensure every individual from your organization that is planning to participate completes registration.

Hotel Accommodations: There is a block of rooms available to NAIDC sponsors and volunteers at the contest headquarter hotel:

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville
1714 SW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32607
Phone: (352) 384-3412
Rate: \$144.00+tax includes wi-fi and parking
Arrival: Sunday, April 6, 2025
Departure: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 *or* Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Volunteers* may book using one of these options:

- Use this link: <https://group.hilton.com/g6b9fw>
- Call 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667) requesting the group rate for North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge.

All rooms should be booked by March 6, 2025. After the March 6 cut-off date, reservations will be accepted based on availability and at the hotel's published rate.

The Hilton is attached to the University of Florida Conference Center.

** Hotel rooms for contest judges will be reserved by NAIDC Management at the Hilton*

Registration: Volunteer attendees should submit the [Volunteer Registration Form](#) by March 6; then check in at the Dairy Challenge Central office at the University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville upon your arrival. You will be given your registration packets and name badges.

Meals: Volunteers are encouraged to join the students for meals throughout the event. Meal tickets can be purchased on the registration form. Meals will be offered starting with dinner Sunday evening and through dinner Tuesday evening. We highly encourage our sponsors and volunteers to eat with the students - this allows interaction and improves the overall student/sponsor experience. Gold and Platinum Sponsors (\$5000 and above) are especially encouraged to register for the Monday night student/sponsor event and the Tuesday awards dinner. You can indicate your interest in attending these events on the volunteer registration form.

Career & Innovation Fair: We invite our Platinum and Gold Sponsors (\$5000 and above) to set up a display to not only meet/recruit students, but to also share with our students - your future employees and future customers - information on the latest innovations in your field. This event will be open to the anticipated 250-300 Contest and Academy students from top dairy and animal science programs across the US and Canada. The Career and Innovations Fair is planned for Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Set up will be offered on Monday between 2:00 and 5:00 PM and again on Tuesday morning between 6:30 and 8:30 AM; break-down will be at 5:15 PM Tuesday. You

will be provided with a 6' covered table with access to electrical outlets. However, you will need to provide your own electrical cords. Wireless internet will be available at no cost. To ensure your space, you must reserve your space by March 6 using the online [Volunteer Registration Form](#). *Requests received after March 6 may not be granted if spaces are filled.*

You may ship your booth/materials to the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center. Shipments should arrive no sooner than April 1, and should be addressed as follows:

Hold for <your name, your company>
Exhibitor, North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge
April 6-8, 2025
Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville
1714 SW 34th St.
Gainesville, FL 32607

Dairy Challenge Shirts: Show your support for Dairy Challenge by purchasing a t-shirt. Shirts are \$15. Indicate size on the registration form. Shirts will be distributed from registration in Florida.

Sponsorship: If you'd like more information about NAIDC sponsorship, go to <https://www.dairychallenge.org/sponsors/> or contact Molly Kelley at mollyk@dairychallenge.org

We look forward to meeting you and/or your representatives in Gainesville, Florida April 6-8, 2025. Again, thank you for your kind support for this special event.

For complete contest information including registration link, latest schedule, and travel information, go to <https://www.dairychallenge.org/contests/>

Sincerely,

Stephanie Ward
2025 National Dairy Challenge Volunteer Coordinator
(919) 602-1100
shward@ncsu.edu