

National Dairy Challenge Contest & Academy

April 6-8, 2025

Hilton University of Florida
Conference Center
Gainesville
1714 SW 34th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607
PH: (352) 371-3600

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All events are at the Hilton Conference Center unless otherwise noted

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Contest Schedule

Sunday, April 6

9:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Dairy Challenge Central office	Boardroom MT
9:00 AM - 10:00 PM	IT office	
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM	NAIDC Board of Directors breakfast & meeting	Private Dining Room
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Optional Pre-Contest Dairy Tours	
4:45 PM - 5:15 PM	Registration (Contest Coaches, Judges, Sponsors/Volunteers)	
5:00 PM	Social Media Corps meeting	
5:30 PM	Dinner	Century Ballroom ABC
	Welcome 5:30 PM Dinner 6:15 PM Dairy Challenge Welcome – Alex White, Chair, NAIDC Board 6:20 PM Western Regional Welcome – Jeff Elliott and Melanie Herman, Host Co-Chairs	
TBA	Group Photo	
6:15 PM	Academy Advisor orientation	Hawthorne
	IT computer set up	
7:00 - 9:30 PM	Contest software followed by distribution of contest materials. <i>All teams (contest students) should be present.</i>	
7:00 PM	Snacks available	
7:30 PM	Judges' orientation	Live Oak
7:30 PM	Gathering for new coaches	TBA
7:15 - 9:45 PM	Academy Session 1: Software overview followed by distribution of Academy materials.	Century Ballroom BC

Monday, April 7

6:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast buffet	Century Ballroom ABC
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Sponsor and media check-in at Dairy Challenge Central	
7:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Dairy Challenge Central office	Boardroom
7:30 AM	Volunteer meeting (instructions for farm visits)	Hawthorne
7:45 AM – 8:00 AM	Farm visit overview and instructions for students and judges	Century Ballroom ABC
7:45 AM - 8:00 AM	Judges meeting	Live Oak
8:00 AM - 9:00 PM	IT office	Boardroom
8:10 AM - 11:30 AM	Contest Farm Visit	
8:20 AM - 12:00 PM	Academy Session 2: Farm Visit	
11:15 AM - 1:15 PM	Lunch buffet	Century Ballroom A
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM	Judges have lunch with dairy managers	Live Oak
12:45 PM	Teams pick up work room assignments	Century Ballroom A
12:45 PM – 5:45 PM	Teams plan and develop presentations in assigned work rooms	Assigned workrooms
1:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Judges meeting, instructions for the afternoon	Live Oak
1:15 PM - 6:00 PM	Judges plan and develop presentations in assigned work room	Live Oak
1:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Volunteer meeting, instructions for interviews	Hawthorne
1:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Academy Session 3: Analyzing a Dairy (BREAKOUTS IN 2 SEPARATE ROOMS)	Century Ballroom B and C
1:45 PM – 4:00 PM	Individual team interviews with dairy managers with judges observing (17 minutes/team, scheduled at 20-min intervals)	Dairy A: Hawthorne Dairy B: Hawthorne Dairy C: Hickory Dairy D: Hickory
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Coaches Meeting	Azalea

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Coaches Meeting and Reception	tba
5:45 PM - 6:15 PM	Teams turn in final presentations. <i>Each team should send only 2 representatives for turn in</i>	Board Room
6:00 PM	Judges turn in their assessment and contest data	Board Room
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Friday Night Student Sponsor Dinner	TBA
Tuesday, April 8		
6:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Dairy Challenge Central office	Board Room
6:00 AM - 10:00 PM	IT office	Board Room
5:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast buffet	Century A
6:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Sponsor set-up for Career & Innovation Fair	Prefunction
6:30 AM - 7:00 AM	Judges meeting	Azalea
6:30 AM	Volunteer meeting	Hawthorne
7:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Teams to report to holding room 15 minutes prior to scheduled presentation time.	Cedar
7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Coffee Break available	
7:15 AM - 11:15 AM	Morning team presentations (60-minute intervals)* <i>*once teams have presented, they should meet with sponsors in the Career & Innovation Fair</i>	Dairy A: Hawthorne Dairy B: Azalea Dairy C: Hickory Dairy D Birch
7:15 AM - 11:15 AM	Morning team presentations (60-minute intervals)	
8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Academy Session 4: Farm Analysis Presentations	Century Ballrooms B and C
	Academy E:	Century Ballroom B
	Academy F:	Century Ballroom C
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	AM Corporate Technology Presentations and Career & Innovation Fair for afternoon presenting Contest Teams	
8:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Morning team debriefing	
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Contest Team photos - Assemble at the Executive Lobby staircase	Prefunction
11:00 AM-1:30 PM	Lunch buffet	Century Ballroom A
11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Judge Lunch	Century Ballroom A
11:30 AM	Volunteer meeting	Hawthorne
11:45 AM - 3:45 PM	Teams to report to holding room 15 minutes prior to scheduled presentation time.	Cedar
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Afternoon team presentations (60-minute intervals)* <i>*once teams have presented, they should meet with sponsors in the Career & Innovation Fair</i>	
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Afternoon team presentations (60-minute intervals)	Dairy A: Hawthorne Dairy B: Azalea Dairy C: Hickory Dairy D Birch
1:45 PM - 5:00 PM	Academy Session 5: Corporate Technology Presentations and Career & Innovation Fair	
1:00 PM - 5:15 PM	PM Corporate Technology Presentations and Career & Innovation Fair for morning presenting teams and Academy students	
3:45 PM - 5:00 PM	Career & Innovation Fair - Academy	
1:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Afternoon teams debriefing	
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Judges complete and turn in assessments and rankings, finalize presentation	Boardroom
5:45 PM - 6:15 PM	Judges meet with host farms	
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Collection of surveys from coaches, sponsors and judges	
5:15 PM - 6:00 PM	Dismantle sponsor booths	
6:15 PM – 6:45 PM	Judges present their findings to participants	Dairy A: Hawthorne Dairy B: Azalea Dairy C: Hickory Dairy D Birch
7:15 PM	Presentation equipment returned to IT	Boardroom
7:30 PM	NAIDC Awards Banquet	Century Ballroom ABC