



Save the Date!

2025 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Contest & Academy

Sunday, April 6 – Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville in Gainesville, Florida

Hosted by the Southern Regional Dairy Challenge Planning Committee

www.dairychallenge.org/contests

Plans are well underway for the 2025 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Contest & Academy in Gainesville, Florida. Complete contest information will be sent to coaches and added to the Dairy Challenge website in early January 2025. In the meantime, below are a few details to help you plan for your participation:

- This year's event will run **Sunday** evening through **Tuesday** evening
- Registration invitations will be sent to coaches January 13.
- Coaches' webinar will be January 16 at 4 Eastern 3 PM Central 1 PM Pacific
- Entry fees are \$100 per student (contest & academy)
- Hotel rooms at the Hilton are \$144.00+tax which includes wi-fi and parking
 - Student rooms are paid for by Dairy Challenge (Arriving Sunday, April 6 and departing Tuesday, April 8 or Wednesday, April 9)
 - Coaches' rooms are **not** paid for by Dairy Challenge. To minimize costs, coaches can share a room with another coach. *Organized by individual coaches, not Dairy Challenge staff.*
 - Coaches will use the Dairy Challenge Housing Form to reserve housing for students and themselves. The form will be sent with other contest details after registration closes.
- Dairy Challenge covers meals for coaches and students Sunday evening to Tuesday evening
- Schools are responsible for all expenses incurred during travel to and from the event
- Travel Support: A pool of sponsor funds is used to support travel costs for schools participating in the National Contest. Schools seeking assistance must complete an application and submit it by February 1, 2025. The amount awarded is dependent on the number of approved applications. Typical support ranges from \$400 - \$800 per school. The form will be available on the website.
- Optional pre-contest visits: Farm visits are being arranged for schools who wish to arrive early and walk through a typical Florida dairy prior to the contest. Tour dairies will be in the Branford area of northwest Florida, about 2 hours west of Jacksonville and an hour northwest of Gainesville. Tours will be offered from 1-3 PM. Dinner will be at 5:30, giving students time to check into the hotel and prepare for the evening.
- Suggested lodging for Saturday night for schools planning to arrive early:
 - Schools traveling from the north and west may consider the Holiday Inn Express in Live Oak.
 - Those flying into Gainesville or Jacksonville, or driving down I-75 may consider Lake City options.
 - Schools driving to Florida may wish to look at dairies and hotels along your route.

Important notes:

- Early arriving schools are responsible for all arrangements and expenses including meals and lodging prior to checking into the Hilton Gainesville on Sunday evening, April 6, 2025.
- The hotel block at the Hilton Gainesville begins on Sunday, April 6. Due to very limited availability, early arriving schools should seek accommodations elsewhere prior to Sunday, April 6.
- Be watching Dairy Challenge website and emails for more details regarding the pre-contest tour dairies to

help with your travel planning.

Visit the NAIDC Contest page on our website at <https://www.dairychallenge.org/contests/> for the latest information.

If you have any questions about participating in Dairy Challenge, feel free to contact Molly Kelley at mollyk@dairychallenge.org or Cassi Miller at cmiller@wdexpo.com