



# Michigan State University Dairy Cattle Judging Team

## 2019 Year in Review

### MSU Dairy IAT students learn about international agriculture

In the fall of 2018, the MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT) Dairy Judging Team placed second at World Dairy Expo's dairy judging contest in Madison, Wisconsin. The high placing earned the team an invitation to participate in the 2019 International Dairy Judging Tour in June 2019. Kristen Burkhardt, Lynn Olthoff, Beka McDonald, Miriah Dershem, Gerrit Baker and Elyse Zimmerlee had the opportunity to spend two weeks in Europe visiting Scotland, Ireland and England. This was an exciting opportunity for the team as not only did they have the chance to visit farms and learn about the European agriculture industry, they were also able to tour beautiful areas across the pond.



From left, Beka McDonald, Gerrit Baker, Elyse Zimmerlee, Miriah Dershem, Kristen Burkhardt, and Lynn Olthoff proudly hold the Spartan flag as the sun sets over Stirling Castle in Scotland.

Melissa Elischer

The team started their trip in Scotland, with one of the highlights being judging at the Royal Highland Show. According to the Royal Highland Show website, "The Royal Highland Show is one of Scotland's most iconic events, showcasing the very best of farming food and rural life. A great day out for everyone of all ages, get up close to the country's top-quality livestock, taste exceptional food and drink and experience rural living at its most vibrant." Judging at this contest was different from what they were used to back in the states. Contestants were given five minutes to judge, compared to 15 in most U.S. contests, and placed each of the four classes using A-B-X-Y to identify cattle instead of 1-2-3-4. In Scotland, the team visited Edinburgh, the Culzean Castle, St. Andrews, toured many dairy and beef farms and much more.

The group then traveled to Ireland by ferry and was able to visit much of the country while there. All of the farms toured were grazing dairies, a type of dairying that is not as common in the Midwest. They even visited a water buffalo dairy famous for their mozzarella cheese made on-site. Traveling by coach with a local tour guide, the group visited Dublin, a cattle auction, the Blarney Castle and drove through the Ring of Kerry, exploring the coast of Ireland. The team had the chance to sideline judge at the Charleville Show, placing the top six animals in four of the classes from the show that day.

The last stop was a touring destination in London for two days. The team had a busy 48 hours, packing as many activities as they could into their short time. The team saw London Bridge

and Tower Bridge, the London Tower, Shakespeare's Globe, toured some of the museums, and experienced the London Eye, a large ferris wheel on the Thames River overlooking the city. Throughout their London travels, the team conquered riding the Tube, the underground transportation system.

This was a once in a lifetime trip that the team will never forget. Not only did they learn a lot about the European agriculture industry and culture, but they also saw and experienced some really amazing things. Their hard work and years of practice judging dairy cattle surely paid off! The team would like to thank all the people who supported them throughout the contests and their fundraising efforts, which all helped to make this trip possible.

# Collegiate Division



## Michigan State University Dairy Cattle Judging Team

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The MSU Dairy Cattle Judging program was proud to be represented by two collegiate teams in 2019. Austin Haywood (Hastings) and Leta Larsen (Scottville) competed in Harrisburg, Pa., and Louisville, Ky.; Cameron Cook (Pewamo), Madeline Meyer (Ionia), and Allison Schafer (Westphalia) competed in Viroqua and Madison, Wis.; and Lauren Heberling (Sandusky) competed in Harrisburg, Pa., Madison, Wis., and Louisville, Ky. The teams were coached by Joe Domecq, Ph.D., and Sarah Black.

The teams competed in four national contests: The 51<sup>st</sup> annual All-American Dairy Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest in Harrisburg, Pa.; Accelerated Genetics Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Viroqua, Wis.; the 99<sup>th</sup> annual Cattle Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis.; and the 46<sup>th</sup> annual North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky.



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From left, 2019 collegiate dairy judging team members - Coach Sarah Black, Austin Haywood, Leta Larsen, Allison Schafer, Lauren Heberling, Madeline Meyer, Cameron Cook, Coach Sarah Michalek, Coach Joe Domecq.

### TEAM PLACINGS

#### Harrisburg, Pa. (18 teams - Haywood, Heberling, Larsen)

- 4<sup>th</sup> in Brown Swiss
- 5<sup>th</sup> in reasons
- 5<sup>th</sup> in Jersey
- 9<sup>th</sup> overall

#### Viroqua, Wis. (14 teams - Cook, Meyer, Schafer)

- 1<sup>st</sup> overall
- 1<sup>st</sup> in reasons
- 1<sup>st</sup> in Guernsey
- 1<sup>st</sup> in Milking Short Horns
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Holstein
- 4<sup>th</sup> in Jersey

#### Madison, Wis. (17 Teams – Cook, Heberling, Meyer, Schafer)

- 1<sup>st</sup> in reasons (tie)
- 1<sup>st</sup> in Brown Swiss
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Guernsey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Milking Shorthorn
- 4<sup>th</sup> in Holstein
- 5<sup>th</sup> overall

#### Louisville, Ky. (16 Teams – Haywood, Heberling, Larsen)

- 1<sup>st</sup> in Brown Swiss
- 8<sup>th</sup> in reasons
- 10<sup>th</sup> overall

### INDIVIDUAL PLACING

#### Cameron Cook

- 1<sup>st</sup> in Guernsey, Viroqua
- 1<sup>st</sup> in Jersey, Viroqua
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in reasons, Viroqua
- 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, Viroqua
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Holstein, Madison
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in reasons, Madison
- 7<sup>th</sup> in Brown Swiss, Madison
- 12<sup>th</sup> overall, Madison

#### Lauren Heberling

- 6<sup>th</sup> in Guernsey, Madison
- 7<sup>th</sup> in Holstein, Madison
- 8<sup>th</sup> in Milking Shorthorn, Madison
- 10<sup>th</sup> reasons, Louisville
- 20<sup>th</sup> overall, Madison

#### Leta Larsen

- 1<sup>st</sup> in Brown Swiss, Louisville

#### Madeline Meyer

- 1<sup>st</sup> in reasons, Viroqua
- 6<sup>th</sup> in Holstein, Viroqua
- 8<sup>th</sup> in Brown Swiss, Madison

#### Allison Schafer

- 1<sup>st</sup> overall, Viroqua
- 1<sup>st</sup> in Milking Shorthorn
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Holstein, Viroqua
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in reasons, Viroqua
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Milking Shorthorns, Madison
- 4<sup>th</sup> in Red and White, Madison
- 5<sup>th</sup> in Guernsey, Viroqua
- 9<sup>th</sup> in Jersey, Madison
- 10<sup>th</sup> in Jersey, Viroqua
- 19<sup>th</sup> overall, Madison





Three second year MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT) students, two in the Dairy Management program and one in the Agricultural Industry program competed in the 51<sup>st</sup> annual All-American Dairy Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest in Harrisburg, Pa.; the 99<sup>th</sup> annual Cattle Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis.; and the 46<sup>th</sup> annual North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. The team was coached by Joe Domecq, Ph.D., and Sarah Black.

The three sophomores competing on the team were: Jessica Nash (Elise), Grace Platte (Portland), and Caitie Theisen (Mt. Pleasant). All students are 4-H alumni.



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From left, 2019 IAT dairy judging team members - Coach Sarah Black, Caitie Theisen, Grace Platte, Jessica Nash, Coach Sarah Michalek, Coach Joe Domecq.

### TEAM PLACINGS

#### Harrisburg, Pa. (6 teams)

- 4<sup>th</sup> in reasons
- 4<sup>th</sup> in Guernsey
- 4<sup>th</sup> in Jersey
- 5<sup>th</sup> overall
- 5<sup>th</sup> in Brown Swiss
- 5<sup>th</sup> in Holstein

#### Madison, Wis. (15 Teams)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Holstein
- 5<sup>th</sup> in Red and White
- 7<sup>th</sup> in reasons
- 9<sup>th</sup> overall

#### Louisville, Ky. (6 Teams)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Jersey
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Ayrshire
- 4<sup>th</sup> in reasons
- 4<sup>th</sup> overall
- 5<sup>th</sup> in Guernsey
- 5<sup>th</sup> in Holstein

### INDIVIDUAL PLACING

#### Jessica Nash

- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Jersey, Louisville
- 4<sup>th</sup> in Guernsey, Louisville
- 5<sup>th</sup> in Guernsey, Madison

- 7<sup>th</sup> in reason, Louisville
- 7<sup>th</sup> overall, Louisville

#### Grace Platte

- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Holstein, Madison

#### Caitie Theisen

- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Brown Swiss, Harrisburg
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Holstein, Louisville
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Jersey, Louisville
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Jersey, Harrisburg
- 4<sup>th</sup> reasons, Louisville
- 5<sup>th</sup> overall, Harrisburg
- 9<sup>th</sup> overall, Louisville

# 4-H Division



## Michigan State University Dairy Cattle Judging Team

### 2019 Year in Review

From left, team members for the Michigan 4-H team at the All-American Contest in Harrisburg, Pa., were Coach Joe Domecq, Caleb Whittemore, Katie Wilson, Drew Neyer, and Cristin Theisen.



All-American Dairy Show

**All-American Invitational Youth Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. Harrisburg, Pa. (13 teams)**

#### TEAM PLACING

3<sup>rd</sup> in reasons  
4<sup>th</sup> overall  
4<sup>th</sup> in Ayrshire  
4<sup>th</sup> in Jersey  
5<sup>th</sup> Guernsey  
5<sup>th</sup> Holstein

#### INDIVIDUAL PLACING

**Drew Neyer** - 3<sup>rd</sup> in Jersey  
**Cristin Theisen** - 3<sup>rd</sup> in Holstein  
**Katie Wilson** - 9<sup>th</sup> overall

From left, representing Michigan 4-H at World Dairy Expo were Coach Sarah Black, Caleb Whittmore, Kaylee Kriser, Kassidy Thelen, Mikayla Bowen, and coach Joe Domecq.



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**National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. Madison, Wis. (21 teams)**

#### TEAM PLACING

7<sup>th</sup> in Ayrshire  
10<sup>th</sup> in Holstein  
11<sup>th</sup> overall  
12<sup>th</sup> in reasons  
13<sup>th</sup> in Brown Swiss

#### INDIVIDUAL PLACING

**Kaylee Kriser** - 3<sup>rd</sup> in Ayrshire  
**Mikayla Bowen** - 8<sup>th</sup> overall

**North American International Livestock Exposition. Louisville, Ky. (22 teams)**

From left, Michigan 4-H members judging at the North American International Livestock Exposition were Jason Kushmaul, Jack Baker, Jacob VanderMolen, and Abby VanDyk.



Melissa Elischer

#### TEAM PLACING

7<sup>th</sup> in Holstein  
10<sup>th</sup> in Brown Swiss  
10<sup>th</sup> in reasons  
11<sup>th</sup> overall  
12<sup>th</sup> in Guernsey

#### INDIVIDUAL PLACING

**Jack Baker**  
8<sup>th</sup> in Ayrshire  
11<sup>th</sup> in Holstein  
13<sup>th</sup> overall  
**Jacob VanderMolen**  
5<sup>th</sup> in Holstein  
6<sup>th</sup> in Brown Swiss  
7<sup>th</sup> in Guernsey  
8<sup>th</sup> in reasons  
10<sup>th</sup> overall

Thanks for support



# Michigan State University Dairy Cattle Judging Team

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

### Assistant Coaches

Bryce Frahm  
Sarah Michalek  
Bridget Moore  
Malissa Reed  
Kara Smith  
Britney Zondlak  
Carmen Zwemmer

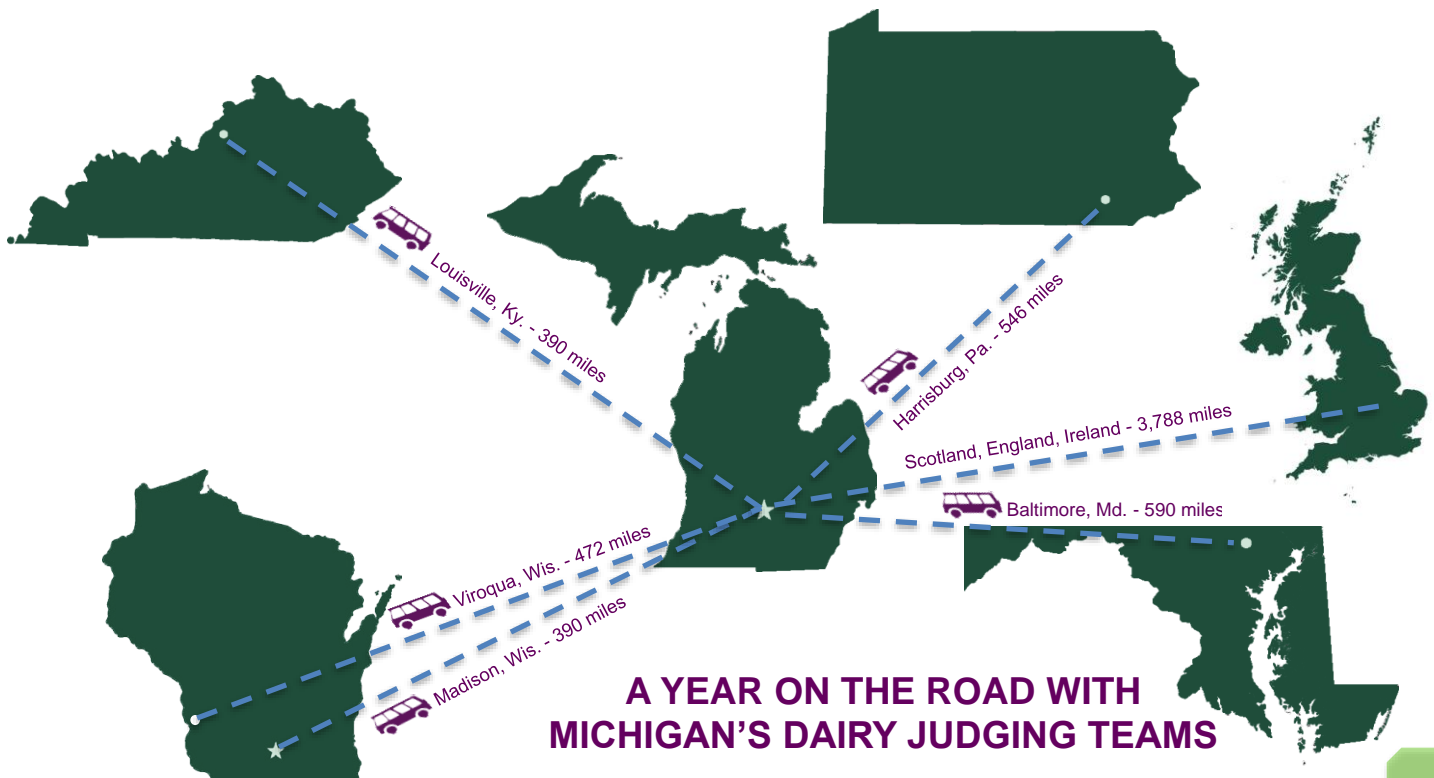
### Major Financial Supporters

CentralStar Cooperative  
Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan Holstein  
Michigan Jersey

### Host Farms

Blessing Farm, Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Brenhaven Holsteins, Caro, Mich.  
Cozy Nook Farm, Waukesha, Wis.

Eric Frahm, Frankenmuth, Mich.  
Green Meadow Farms, Elise, Mich.  
Hoard's Dairyman Farm, Fort Atkinson, Wis.  
Lawson Bennet and family, Mayville, Mich.  
Lettinga Jersey Farm, Caledonia, Mich.  
Mapleton Valley Farm, Oconomowoc, Wis.  
MSU Dairy Teaching and Research Center, Lansing, Mich.  
Nugent and McCauley families, Lowell, Mich.  
Ocean-View Farm, Deerfield, Wis.  
Paul and Sherry Meyer, Byron Center, Mich.  
Paul Farms, Goshen, Ind.  
Reed Dairy Farm, Owosso, Mich.  
Richard and Sheldon Thomas, Middlebury, Ind.  
Ritter Dairy Farm, Byron, Mich.  
Rupprecht Family, Vassar, Mich.  
Star Summit Farm, Byron Center, Mich.  
Starward Farm, Sebawaing, Mich.  
T&H Farm, Fowler, Mich.  
Vanderploeg Holsteins, Ithaca, Mich.  
Mooville, Nashville, Mich.  
Winterfield Holsteins, Wheeler, Mich.



**A YEAR ON THE ROAD WITH  
MICHIGAN'S DAIRY JUDGING TEAMS**



Out and about



# Michigan State University Dairy Cattle Judging Team

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## Spartan Production Sale and Dairy Educational Forum

MSU Pavilion  
April 16, 2020  
10 a.m.

The Spartan Production Sale helps fund the MSU Dairy Club and the MSU Dairy Judging Team. Money raised supports student participation in industry events and trips, such as World Dairy Expo and judging contests. The sale includes high production cows that come from high quality herds in their first and second lactations and springers. We would love to see you on April 16. Thank you in advance for your support!

**Sale Contacts:**

Cameron Cook – 989-640-2082 – cookcame@msu.edu  
Austin Haywood – 269-804-5398 – haywoo27@msu.edu  
Peter Vanderhoff – 517-462-8203 – vande826@msu.edu  
Kristen Burkhardt – 517-375-3613 - burkha88@msu.edu  
Lynn Olthof – 616-502-9682 – olthofly@msu.edu



Seeking consignments!!