

Dairy & Livestock

Richland, Jefferson counties win state 4-H dairy quiz bowl

RICHLAND County's senior and junior dairy bowl teams topped the state 4-H dairy quiz bowl contest Jan. 26 at Portage High School. Their senior division team will represent Wisconsin this November at the national contest in Louisville, Ky. Jefferson County's team earned top honors in the mixed division.

The competition tested the quick wit and extensive knowledge of 4-H members who participate in the dairy project. Contestants answered questions about dairy cattle genetics, health, nutrition, showing and other topics. Four-person teams traveled from all corners of the state to represent their counties in the three divisions.

"I really appreciate all the time and effort that the county coaches put in to dairy quiz bowl," says Ted Halbach, University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension dairy youth specialist. "Dairy bowl has become one of my favorite events because of how educational it

is. It's also exciting to see the contest continue to grow with more youth participants each year."

Teams from 15 counties vied for first place in the junior division, where teams are comprised of members under 14 years of age. The Richland County team went undefeated and topped Manitowoc County in the final round. Richland County team members are Devin Kepler, Cody Jump, Heidi Solchenberger and Sierra Lurvey. The team is coached by Dana Kepler.

Thirteen counties competed in the mixed division where teams are a combination of juniors and seniors. Undefeated Jefferson County beat out runner-up Rusk County on the last question in the final round to take home top honors. Coached by Katie DeBruin, the Jefferson County team is Kelly Lee, Lauren Holterman, Cassy Krull and Nicole Wright.

Senior teams are made up of youths between ages 14 and 19. The Richland



TOP SENIORS: The winning senior team, from Richland County, is: (from left) Tyler Moore, Krysty Kepler, Josh Joseph, Brad Solchenberger and Scott Eberle.

County team came through the consolation bracket to win the senior championship. With 14 teams contending, Richland County edged out undefeated Dane County twice in the finals to take first place. In the second and final championship match between the teams, the score remained deadlocked at the end of the bowl, so an additional five toss-up questions determined the winner.

The Richland County team members, coached by Dana Kepler, are Brad Solchenberger, Josh Joseph, Krysty Kepler, Scott Eberle and Tyler Moore.

"The senior team lost their third-round match, so what made it really exciting was that they had to come through the consolation bracket," says Dana Kepler. "They ended up playing

nine rounds. This is the first time our senior team has won while I've been working with them, so the national contest in Louisville is a new experience that we're all really excited about!"

Representing Wisconsin at the World Dairy Expo 4-H Dairy Bowl Invitational will be the second-place team from Dane County and third-place Barron County.

UW-Madison Department of Dairy Science faculty, Badger Dairy Club members and UW dairy science alumni helped with moderating, judging and operating the contest.

The Wisconsin 4-H Dairy Endowment Fund, the UW-Madison Department of Dairy Science, Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese and the Badger Dairy Club co-sponsored the event.



TOP JUNIORS: The winning junior team, from Richland County, is: (from left) coach Dana Kepler, Devin Kepler, Heidi Solchenberger, Cody Jump and Sierra Lurvey. Ted Halbach is the UW-Madison Extension dairy youth specialist.



TOP MIXED: Winning in the mixed division was the team from Jefferson County: (from left) coach Katie DeBruin, Lauren Holterman, Kelly Lee, Nicole Wright, Cassy Krull and Ted Halbach, UW-Madison Extension dairy youth specialist.

UW-Madison dairy judging team takes top honors

THE University of Wisconsin-Madison judging team finished first overall and first in oral reasons at the Southwestern Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held at the 2008 Fort Worth Stock Show Jan. 13 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Linda Behling of Fox Lake, Chrissy Wendorf of Viroqua and Kelsi Hendrickson of Belleville placed first, second and third, respectively, in the high overall individual rankings. Shannon Dwyer of West Bend rounds out the team.

The Badgers were: first high team overall with 1,946 points (52 points ahead of second place Michigan State University); first in oral reasons, Guernseys, Holsteins and Jerseys; and second in Brown Swiss.

Individual placings

Individual awards were:

Linda Behling, a senior in dairy science, was high individual overall with 653 points, first in Brown Swiss, first in Holsteins and third in oral reasons.

Chrissy Wendorf, a senior in dairy sci-

ence and ag journalism, earned second place high individual overall with 651 points, second in oral reasons, second in Holsteins and third in Guernseys.

Kelsi Hendrickson, a senior in dairy science and ag journalism, was third high individual overall with 642 points, first in oral reasons, second in Guernseys, fourth in Holsteins and fourth in Jerseys.

Shannon Dwyer, a senior in dairy science, placed fifth in Guernseys.

"The actual competition continues to improve with more teams competing in the contest each year," says coach Ted Halbach, UW-Madison dairy cattle evaluation instructor.

"Beyond the competition, it's also a great opportunity for our students to go to Texas, learn a little about how diverse our country is, and to see firsthand what drives the agricultural and general economy of the area. This all enhances the whole experience for our senior team members," he adds.

The UW-Madison team's travel was sponsored by Lallemand Animal Nutrition, Alta Genetics Inc., Badger



DAIRY JUDGES: The UW-Madison dairy judging team members are: (from left) coach Ted Halbach, Linda Behling, Chrissy Wendorf, Kelsi Hendrickson and Shannon Dwyer.

Dairy Club, the David Dickson Dairy Cattle Judging Team Fund, Steven Fronk and the Associated Students of Madison.

"The trip was educational and enjoyable for our whole judging team. It was

a great opportunity for us, and we really appreciate the support we received from all of our sponsors," remarks Behling.

Halbach and Dave Dickson, emeritus professor of dairy science at the UW-Madison, coach the team.