



Michigan State University Dairy Cattle Judging Team

2023 Year in Review

The Cows and Castles Tour of 2023

This past summer the Michigan 4-H dairy cattle judging team earned an amazing opportunity to travel abroad and learn about the agriculture and history of Scotland, Ireland, and England. It was a whirlwind two weeks exploring historical sites, beautiful dairies, and centuries old castles. It was an exceptional trip and our outstanding students Brianna Hill, Irie Moussiaux, and Laken DuRussel were all eager to experience everything they could in two short weeks.

Our trip started in Scotland where we spent six days. This included stops in Sterling, Edinburgh, and St. Andrews. Our group was able to visit three dairies with amazing hosts, judge at The Royal Highland Show, and view four grand castles with one castle tour! The group very much enjoyed our time at the Royal Highland Show and seeing all the champions walk in their final parade, experiencing how they approach livestock judging in Scotland.

On the 6th day of our trip, we boarded a ferry to Northern Ireland. After a brief tour of Belfast, we headed to Ireland and spent the next five days there. In Ireland we were hosted by three great dairies, one even prepared fresh hot tea and homemade scones for the entire group!



Kirby Krogstad

From left, Kirby Krogstad, Sydney Krogstad, Brianna Hill, Irie Moussiaux, and Laken DuRussel enjoy scones and tea during visit to the Brochan Cocaman Dairy Farm in Ireland.

Our students were able to see two castles, one being the famous Blarney Castle. On our last day in Ireland our girls were able to compete in the Clonmel Agriculture Show where they placed 2nd overall against our fellow dairy travelers.

Our team decided to extend the trip by two days to stop in London! We had little time and lots of sights to see. We really got our steps in on the last leg of our trip. We toured the whole city in 12 hours and walked 14.4 miles to do it! We started our day at the Tower of London then continued down the River Thames to St. Paul's Cathedral, Shakespeare's Globe Theater, and the London Eye. We

also made sure to take in Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, and Kensington Palace and Gardens. It was a once in a lifetime experience and one we are all so thankful to have shared together.

Over the two weeks our students were recognized by many others for their kindness, maturity, and knowledge of the dairy industry. The Michigan dairy community should be immensely proud of these young women! It truly was a great tour. Thanks to everyone who followed and made our journey possible! It was a trip and experience that none of us will soon forget.

-Sydney and Kirby Krogstad

Collegiate Division



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The MSU Dairy Cattle Judging program was proud to be represented by Rachael Bosse (Dorr), Brianna Hill (Gregory), Drew Neyer (Mt. Pleasant), and Adalee Thelen (St. Johns) The team was coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, Sarah Black, Dr. Kirby Krogstad, and Sarah Michalek.

The teams competed in four national contests: NACTA Dairy Judging Conference in Modesto, Calif; The All-American Dairy Invitational in Harrisburg, Pa.; World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis.; and the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky.



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From left, 2023 collegiate dairy judging team members - Coach Sarah Black, Brianna Hill, Rachael Bosse, Adalee Thelen, Drew Neyer, and Coach Dr. Joe Domecq.

TEAM PLACINGS

Modesto, Calif.

- 1st Overall in Management
- 3rd Overall in Judging

Harrisburg, Pa.

- 1st in Ayrshire
- 1st in Guernsey
- 1st in Holstein
- 2nd Overall
- 3rd in Brown Swiss
- 3rd in Jersey
- 4th in Reasons

Madison, Wis.

- 1st in Guernsey
- 3rd in Reasons
- 3rd in Red & White
- 4th in Jersey
- 6th in Brown Swiss
- 6th Overall
- 9th in Ayrshire
- 10th in Holstein

Louisville, Ky.

- 1st in Jersey
- 3rd in Reasons
- 4th in Ayrshire
- 4th in Guernsey
- 4th Overall
- 8th in Holstein

INDIVIDUAL PLACING

Rachael Bosse

- 1st Guernsey, Madison
- 6th in Holstein, Harrisburg
- 7th Reasons, Madison
- 22nd Overall, All-American, Madison

Brianna Hill

- 2nd in Ayrshire, Harrisburg
- 4th in Guernsey, Harrisburg
- 4th Overall, Harrisburg
- 7th in Ayrshire, Madison
- 7th in Jersey, Harrisburg
- 8th in Reasons, Harrisburg
- 21st Overall, All-American, Madison

Drew Neyer

- 1st in Ayrshire, Harrisburg
- 2nd in Holstein, Harrisburg
- 2nd in Guernsey, Louisville
- 2nd in Jersey, Louisville
- 2nd Overall Management, Modesto
- 2nd Overall, Harrisburg
- 4th in Brown Swiss, Harrisburg
- 5th in Guernsey, Harrisburg
- 7th in Reasons, Harrisburg

- 7th in Reasons, Louisville
- 8th in Brown Swiss, Madison
- 8th Overall, Louisville
- 9th Judging, Modesto

Adalee Thelen

- 1st Overall Management, Modesto
- 3rd in Holstein, Harrisburg
- 4th in Jersey, Louisville
- 5th in Reasons, Louisville
- 5th in Ayrshire, Louisville
- 6th in Jersey, Madison
- 8th in Guernsey, Harrisburg
- 9th in Reasons, Madison
- 25th Overall, All-American, Madison



Four second-year MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT) students, competed in the All-American Dairy Invitational in Harrisburg, Pa.; World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis.; and the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. The team was coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, Sarah Black, Dr. Kirby Krogstad, and Sarah Michalek

The students competing on the team were: Rhianna Bruursema (West Olive), Chloe Endreszl (Commerce Twp), and Abigail Olger (Ovid), and Elijah Swyers (Dansville, NY).



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From left, 2023 IAT dairy judging team members - Coach Sarah Black; Chloe Endreszl, of Commerce Twp, Rhianna Bruursema, of West Olive; Elijah Swyers, Dansville, NY. Not pictured: Abigail Olger, of Ovid. The team was coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, Sarah Black, Dr. Kirby Krogstad and Sarah Michalek.

TEAM PLACINGS

Madison, Wis.

- 4th in Brown Swiss
- 6th in Holstein
- 6th in Reasons
- 8th in Jersey
- 9th in Guernsey
- 9th in Milking Shorthorn
- 9th in Red & White
- 9th Overall

Louisville, Ky.

- 3rd in Holstein
- 4th in Jersey
- 4th Overall
- 5th in Ayrshire
- 5th in Guernsey
- 5th in Reasons
- 6th in Brown Swiss

INDIVIDUAL PLACING

Rhianna Bruursema

- 2nd in Brown Swiss, Harrisburg
- 6th in Jersey, Madison
- 7th in Holstein, Harrisburg
- 7th in Reasons, Madison
- 8th in Brown Swiss, Madison

Abigail Olger

- 1st in Holstein, Harrisburg
- 1st in Holstein, Louisville
- 8th Overall, Harrisburg
- 9th in Jersey, Harrisburg
- 10th in Ayrshire, Harrisburg
- 10th in Reasons, Harrisburg

4-H Division



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From left, team members for the Michigan 4-H team at the All-American Contest in Harrisburg, Pa., Chloe Steiner (Mecosta County), Landon Thelen (Clinton County), Olivia Black (Clinton County), and Lydia Deters (Newaygo County). Coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, Sarah Black, Dr. Kirby Krogstad, and Sarah Michalek.



All-American Dairy Show

From left, Representing Michigan 4-H at World Dairy Expo were Coach Sarah Black, Lydia Deters (Newaygo County), Oliva Black (Clinton County), Chloe Steiner (Mecosta County), Landon Thelen (Clinton County), and Coach Dr. Joe Domecq. Coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, Sarah Black, Dr. Kirby Krogstad, and Sarah Michalek.



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From left, Michigan 4-H members judging at the North American International Livestock Exposition were Cassidy Harris (Clinton County), Willow Evans (Clinton County), and Megan Wilson (Isabella County). Coached by Dr. Joe Domecq, Sarah Black, Dr. Kirby Krogstad, and Sarah Michalek.



Sarah Michalek

All-American Dairy Show. Harrisburg, Pa.

TEAM PLACING

- 1st in Guernsey
- 1st in Holstein
- 1st in Jersey
- 1st Overall
- 1st in Reasons
- 3rd in Ayrshire
- 9th in Brown Swiss

INDIVIDUAL PLACING

Olivia Black

- 1st in Ayrshire
- 1st Overall
- 3rd in Holstein
- 3rd in Reasons
- 7th in Guernsey
- 8th in Jersey
- 10th in Brown Swiss

Chloe Steiner

- 2nd in Ayrshire
- 2nd in Guernsey
- 2nd Overall
- 4th in Reasons
- 10th in Holstein

Landon Thelen

- 3rd in Jersey

National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. Madison, Wis.

TEAM PLACING

- 2nd in Jersey
- 4th in Ayrshire
- 7th in Brown Swiss
- 7th in Reasons
- 8th Overall
- 8th in Placings
- 10th in Holstein

INDIVIDUAL PLACING

Chloe Steiner

- 1st in Ayrshire
- 2nd in Reasons
- 3rd in Jersey
- 8th Overall, All-American

Landon Thelen

- 5th in Jersey
- 10th in Brown Swiss

North American International Livestock Exposition. Louisville, Ky.

TEAM PLACING

- 2nd in Holstein
- 3rd in Jersey
- 3rd Overall
- 4th in Brown Swiss
- 4th in Reasons
- 6th in Guernsey
- 9th in Ayrshire

INDIVIDUAL PLACING

Willow Evans

- 5th in Holstein
- 6th Overall
- 8th in Guernsey
- 9th in Jersey
- 10th in Brown Swiss
- 10th in Reasons

Cassidy Harris

- 2nd in Holstein
- 7th in Jersey
- 7th Overall

Megan Wilson

- 3rd in Brown Swiss
- 9th in Reasons

Thanks for support



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

Assistant Coaches

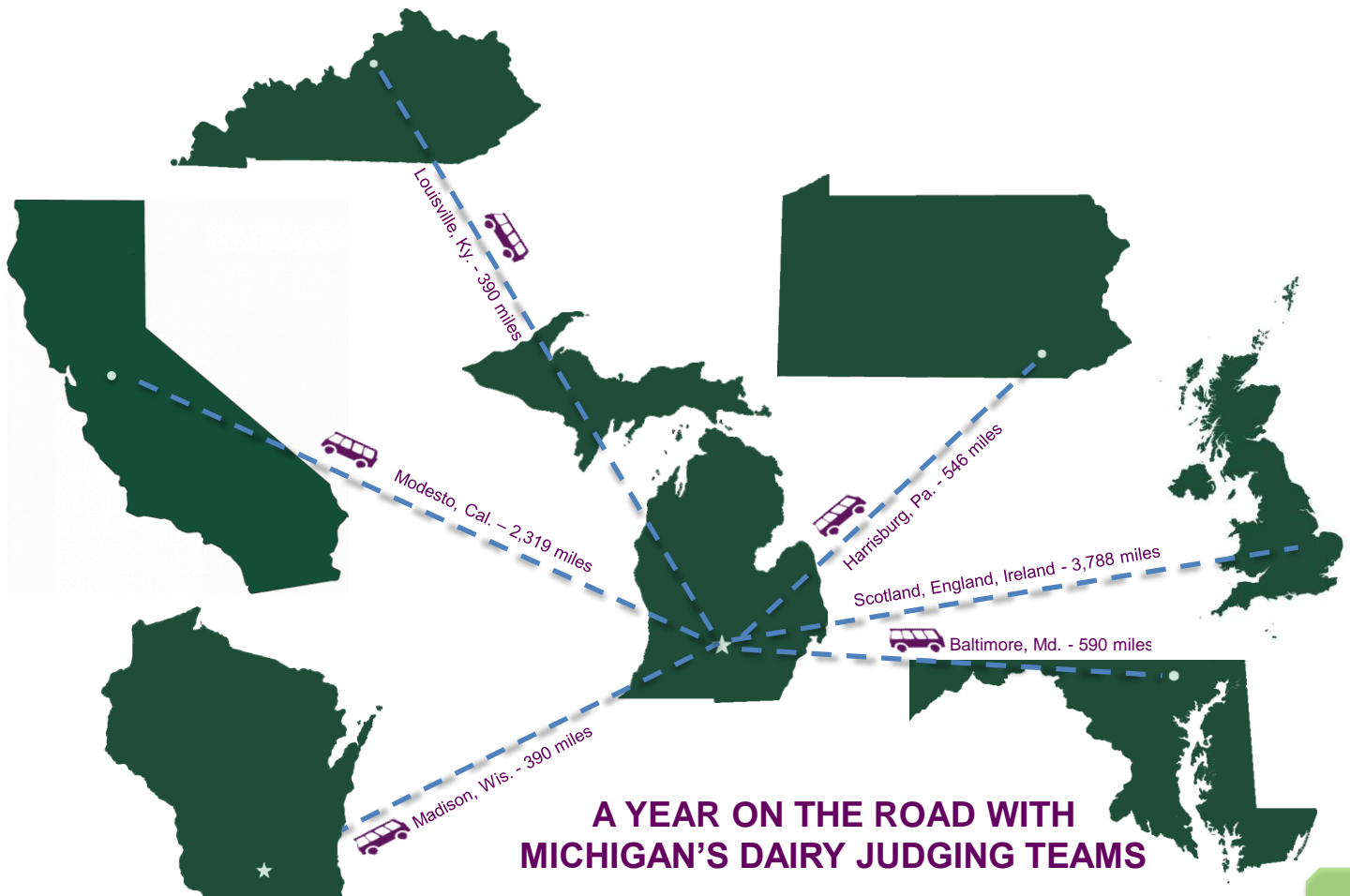
Sarah Black
Kirby Krogstad
Sarah Michalek
Bridget Silvernail

Major Financial Supporters

CentralStar Cooperative
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Host Farms

Brenhaven Holsteins, Caro, Mich.
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MSU Dairy Teaching and Research Center, Lansing, Mich.
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Star Summit Farm, Byron Center, Mich.
Starward Farm, Sebawaing, Mich.
T&H Farm, Fowler, Mich.
Vanderploeg Holsteins, Ithaca, Mich.
Walnutdale Family Farms, Wayland, Mich.
Mooville, Nashville, Mich.



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

Out and about



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