

Juniors Prove Future Is In Good Hands

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Attendees to the 2001 National Junior Holstein Convention witnessed a group whose enthusiasm and accomplishments guarantee a bright future for the U.S. dairy industry. Four hundred junior members gathered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to participate in a variety of activities and to meet other youth from around the country.

Twelve Distinguished Junior Member (DJM) semifinalists participated in the interview portion of the DJM contest and helped in the administration of the week's activities. Their responsibilities throughout the week included helping with the Dairy Bowl, Dairy Jeopardy, and Public Speaking Contests. To be named a National DJM is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Junior member.

This year's six finalists were Matthew Alvernaz, Livingston, Calif.; Brian Call, South Charleston, Ohio; Nathan Dorshorst, Junction City, Wis.; Kara Hale, Cloverdale, Ore.; Kelly Sheehan, Rochester, Minn. and Laurie Winkelman, Watertown, Wis.

Fierce competition permeated the Holstein Foundation's 2001 Dairy Bowl Contest as 16 junior teams and 15 senior teams battled for the national championship. In the junior division it was the hometown team of Laura Leazer, James Bolin, Michael Stewart, and Tim Rauen that took the honors. Coached by Heidi deGier and Marilyn Steffens, the Iowa junior team won in a rematch against the Illinois team of Emily Holmes, Julie Drendel, John Mitchell, and Kyle Koester. Illinois was coached by Glen Meier.

Another rematch marked the final round in the senior division as the Illinois "Dirk's Angels" beat out the Pennsylvania team for the championship. The Illinois team, also coached by Glen Meier, consisted of Andy "Bosley" Lenkaitis, Jackie Florent, Molly Florent, and Lorilee Schultz. The Pennsylvania team was made up of Ben Cloninger, Debbie McAllister, Keri Connelly and Emily Cloninger, and was coached by Robert Cloninger.

The second annual Dairy Jeopardy Contest, sponsored by the Holstein Foundation, drew large crowds as Iowa again proved the hometown advantage pays off. Kurt Wolf of Epworth, Iowa, beat tough competition in the finals to take first-place honors. Second place went to Jason Miley of Ohio and Robby Thommen of California and Michael Krause of Wisconsin tied for third place out of 47 competitors.

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