Michigan ranks No. 1 in the country after winning high team award overall and in oral reasons at National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo

*Michigan Dairy Youth Program earns sixth invitation to Europe in nine years*

Michigan is home to the No. 1 youth dairy judging team in the country. The Michigan youth delegation earned enough points to oust out teams representing 31 other states in this year's National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest held Oct. 1 at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. The team was the highest ranking team both overall — beating out second place Minnesota by 44 points — and in oral reasons. The double-win is a first for the Michigan Dairy Youth Program, which is led by Dr. Joe Domecq, Michigan State University (MSU) animal science specialist and coordinator of the Michigan dairy judging program.

By winning first place overall, the team earns an invitation to travel to Europe for a two-week International Livestock Judging Tour, an honor awarded to the three top-ranking teams at the national contest. This year marks the sixth time in nine years that the youth team from Michigan has earned this honor — it placed second or third five times in the last eight years — but 2012 marks the first time it has finished alone in the top spot.

Competing on the Michigan youth team were MSU students Megan Bush, Swartz Creek; Hayleigh Geurink, Allendale; and Savannah Katulski, Goodrich; and Alma College student Megan Filhart, Rosebush. The team was coached by Domecq and Sarah Black, volunteer assistant coach from Eagle.

As a team, Michigan placed first in the Ayrshire breed, first in the Guernsey breed, second in the Holstein breed and fifth in the Jersey breed.

Individually, each team member placed among the top 10 in one or more breeds.

Bush finished second place overall, fourth place in placing points only and fifth place in oral reasons. She was high individual in the Guernsey breed, third high individual in the Ayrshire breed and sixth place in Jerseys.

Filhart was third high individual overall, second in both the Ayrshire and Holstein breeds, fifth place in placing points only and seventh place in oral reasons.

Geurink placed eighth place in oral reasons, ninth overall and was the second high individual in the Guernsey breed. Katulski placed seventh in the Brown Swiss and Guernsey breeds and was 20th high individual overall.

Team members will travel to Europe in June 2013. While in Europe, the delegation will visit England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In addition to seeing the sites, they will visit the Royal Highland Show and compete in a judging contest in Scotland and be assigned to live with a different host farm family for three days during their stay in Ireland.
The 2012 Michigan State University (MSU) collegiate team members were: agribusiness junior Jon Woodrow (J.W.) Hart, North Adams; animal science junior Katelyn Horning, Manchester; agribusiness management junior Sarah Michalek, Deckerville; and animal science senior Cassie Parks, Clinton.

The team competed in three competitions: the 44th annual All-American Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest, Harrisburg, Pa.; the 92nd annual World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, Madison, Wis.; and the 39th annual North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE), Louisville, Ky.

TEAM PLACINGS

**HARRISBURG** (18 teams competed)
- 6th high team, Holstein breed
- 6th high team, Jersey breed
- 8th high team, Ayrshire breed
- 8th high team, oral reasons
- 11th high team, overall

**MADISON** (19 teams competed)
- 4th high team, Brown Swiss breed
- 8th high team, Guernsey breed
- 8th high team, oral reasons
- 11th high team, Holstein breed
- 13th high team, overall

**LOUISVILLE** (20 teams competed)
- 2nd high team, Guernsey breed
- 5th high team, oral reasons
- 7th high team, overall
- 8th high team, oral reasons

**CASSIE PARKS**
- 11th high individual, Brown Swiss breed; Chicago
- 18th high individual, Brown Swiss breed; Madison

**SARAH MICHALEK**
- 7th high individual, Brown Swiss breed; Madison
- 9th high individual, Guernsey breed; Louisville
- 11th high individual, Guernsey breed; Madison
- 11th high individual, Jersey breed; Madison
- 12th high individual, Brown Swiss breed; Harrisburg
- 12th high individual, oral reasons, Madison
- 14th high individual, Ayrshire breed; Madison
- 16th high individual, overall; Louisville
- 16th high individual, Holstein breed; Harrisburg

**KATELYN HORNING**
- High individual, Ayrshire breed; Harrisburg
- 5th high individual, oral reasons; Louisville
- 6th high individual, Ayrshire breed; Madison
- 6th high individual, Jersey breed; Madison
- 10th high individual, Jersey breed; Madison
- 11th high individual, Brown Swiss breed; Madison
- 19th high individual, Holstein breed; Madison
- 20th high individual, overall; Louisville

**J.W. HART**
- 6th high individual, Guernsey breed; Louisville
- 18th high individual, Brown Swiss breed; Madison

**HAYLEIGH GEURINK**
- 7th high individual, Guernsey breed; Madison
- 9th high individual, overall
- 8th high individual, oral reasons
- 2nd high individual, Ayrshire breed

**MEGAN FILHART**
- 2nd high individual, Holstein breed
- 2nd high individual, Holstein breed
- 3rd high individual, Holstein breed
- 7th high individual, oral reasons

**MEGAN BUSH**
- High individual, Guernsey breed
- 2nd high individual, overall
- 3rd high individual, Guernsey breed
- 4th high individual, placing points
- 5th high individual, oral reasons
- 6th high individual, Jersey breed

**HAYLIE GEURINK**
- 2nd high individual, Guernsey breed
- 8th high individual, oral reasons
- 9th high individual, overall

**SAVANNAH KATULSKI**
- 7th high individual, Brown Swiss breed
- 7th high individual, Guernsey breed
- 20th high individual, overall

**JAY LUOMA**
- 3rd high individual, Brown Swiss breed
- 12th high individual, overall
- 13th high individual, Holstein breed
- 13th high individual, oral reasons

Thank you for your support.

The Michigan dairy judging program appreciates the support of its sponsors:

- ABS Global, Inc.: NorthStar Cooperative; the Michigan Holstein Association; the Michigan District 1 and District 6 Holstein Associations; the Michigan Jersey Cattle Club; the United Dairy Industry of Michigan; the Michigan Milk Producers Association and the Michigan Dairy Memorial Foundation.

Thank you for your support.
Michigan dairy youth organize fundraisers to earn $20,000 to travel to Europe for International Livestock Judging Tour

Earning national championship honors at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest last October at World Dairy Expo was just the beginning of the life-changing experience for members of the Michigan youth dairy judging team. They are embarking on a new mission: raising money to travel to Europe this summer for the International Livestock Judging Tour.

Winning the contest earned the Michigan team — Megan Bush, Swartz Creek; Megan Elhart, Roseville; Hoyleh Gerunik, Allendale; Savannah Katsalos, Goodrich, and team coach Dr. Joe Domecq — an invitation to travel to Europe for two weeks in June 2013. While in Europe, the delegation will visit England, Ireland, Netherlands, Scotland and Wales. In addition to seeing the sites, they will visit the Royal Highland Show and compete in a judging contest in Scotland and be assigned to live with a different host farm family for three days during their stay in Ireland.

Participating in the International Livestock Judging Tour to Europe will cost the team $20,000. The amount covers airfare and from Europe, transportation throughout Europe, lodging, entry to various events and activities, and some meals.

In addition to ongoing support provided by program donors and other money-raising projects such as the MSU Spartan Spectacular Sale held each spring, the team members traveling to Europe will be conducting several fundraising activities this winter and spring to earn money for the trip. Most recently, Bush and Gerunik headed the crew of 15 Michigan State University (MSU) students who helped feed, do related farm chores, milk, and milk house watch over the animals at night during the “Holiday Harvest Sale” held in East Lansing in December. Each student volunteered time ranging from two to 20 hours over the four-day period; together, Bush and Gerunik donated more than 50 hours of time. In return for working, the team received the profits from selling the milk produced by the sale animals.

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Team members will also be conducting a statewide fundraising project every Tuesday throughout the state seeking donated bull calves and heifer calves. The donated animals will be sold through the Royal Highland Show and at regularly scheduled Tuesday sale, and all proceeds will be earmarked to go to the team’s fundraising project. Producers can also donate the proceeds from the sale of a calf or another dairy animal marketed through the Rosebush Sale Barn.

Team members will help dairy producers arrange transportation of their donated animals to the sale barn, or producers can deliver their own. Rosebush Sale Barn also has collection points in West Branch and Shipshewana, Ind. Those who are donating animals only need to advise upon drop-off of the animal at the sale barn that it is to be designated to the Michigan youth dairy judging team.

For more information about the fundraising projects designed to raise money for the trip or to donate an animal, contact Bush at bush@msu.edu or 810-597-9001; Elhart at elhart@msu.edu or 989-330-9128; Gerunik at gerunik@msu.edu or 816-280-1777; Katsalos at katsalo@msu.edu or 517-347-2622; or Domecq at domecqjo@msu.edu or 517-353-7855.

In addition to donating the Michigan team, the teams who finished in second and third place overall at the national contest also reserved an invitation to take part in the International Livestock Judging Tour. It was the sixth time in nine years that the Michigan dairy judging team earned an invitation to travel to Europe — it placed second or third five times in the national contest over the last eight years — but 2012 marked the first time it finished No. 1.

Michigan dairy youth judging team members will be holding two fundraising projects this winter. • Say cheese! — purchase one of 10 packages of MSU cheese curds at the GLRDC on Feb. 7. • Donate a bull calf, heifer calf or cow — every Tuesday now through April at the Rosebush Sale Barn, Inc., near Rosebud.

Students will have an opportunity to participate in a dairy judging contest at the Royal Highland Show in Scotland. Pictured here during the International Livestock Judging Tour in 2011 are left to right: J.W. Hart, Lion Ebony Tech Division; Erika Smidt, Mathew Mann, Sarah Mooney, Kate Arnold, Emily Butcher, Sarah Michalek, Lauren Bush and Dr. Joe Domecq. (Photo provided courtesy of Dr. Joe Domecq)

Left: Traveling with the dairy judging team provides students with opportunities to visit major dairy industry sites, such as the Hoard’s Dairy Farm in Fort Atkinson, Wis. Right: Hours and hours of preparation are put to the test: Ag Tech team members compete on the colored shavings at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis.

Michigan Dairy Youth Judging 

Get involved and help raise money for the trip by donating an animal to the sale farm. Contact the team coach Dr. Joe Domecq — an invitation to travel to Europe for two weeks in June 2013. While in Europe, the delegation will visit England, Ireland, Netherlands, Scotland and Wales.

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Get social with the Michigan Dairy Youth Program!

Stay abreast of the latest Michigan Dairy Youth Program news and happenings by visiting the Michigan Dairy Youth Program Facebook page.

Join the conversation on Twitter by following @MIDairyYouth.

MICHIGAN 4-H DAIRY YOUTH
2013 Calendar of Events

Feb. 7-9 11th annual Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference, Frankenmuth

March 22 Spartan Spectacular Calf Sale, East Lansing

June 19-21 4-H Exploration Days, Michigan State University, East Lansing

July 15-19 Michigan Youth Dairy Days and Michigan Dairy Expo, East Lansing

Don’t miss an issue of the Michigan Dairy Youth Program e-newsletter!

You will no longer be receiving a hard copy of the quarterly Michigan Dairy Youth Program newsletter in your mailbox. This issue is the second all-digital version of the newsletter.

If you don’t want to miss future issues, sign up now to receive the next issue at: www.midairy.youth.ans.msu.edu/newsletters

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