

## Congratulations to our Dairy Challenge team for their Second Place Recognition at this year's National Contest in Tifton, GA

*UW-Madison is committed to its students receiving a "Dairy Challenge" experience. In fact, within the curriculum we have the Nutrition Experience, Dairy Challenge Preparation and Dairy Herd Practicum courses where students are mentored on how to analyze a commercial farm and present their observations and management recommendations, honing skills that translate directly to this competition and their future careers. Our students participate competitively at the Midwest and National Dairy Challenge contests. We even hold our own on-campus version, the Badger Dairy Challenge during the fall semester. We feel the ability of our students to excel in this competitive format speaks to the quality of their education. UW Dairy Science majors graduate with a sophisticated knowledge of the science of dairying, and they learn to communicate their expertise. Read on to learn more about our students and their Badger dairy experience...*

### Why did you decide to attend UW-Madison?

#### Riley Miller, Orfordville, WI

High School: Evansville High School

Class Size: 150 students

Farm: Hobby-Hill Holsteins

Major: Dairy Science with certificates in Ag Business and Global Health

I chose to attend UW-Madison because of the wide range of opportunities they offer their students through various classes, research, student organizations. It was the "World Class University" almost in my backyard.

#### Rachel Gerbitz, Milton, WI

High School: Immanuel Lutheran High School

Class Size: 32

Major: Dairy Science/Life Sciences Communication

My sister started at UW when I was in middle school, and it had been a dream of mine ever since.

#### Zach Lensmire, Cleveland, WI

High School: Kiel High School

Class Size: about 120

Farm: Lensmire Family Farm

Major: Dairy Science

I decided to attend UW-Madison because of their outstanding dairy program and the opportunity to be involved on a Big-Ten campus. I've had so many opportunities here that I might not have experienced anywhere else.

#### Danielle Warmka, Fox Lake, WI

High School: Waupun High School

Class Size: 145

Farm: Warmka Holsteins

Major: Dairy Science

I decided to attend UW-Madison because it is one of the top dairy research institutions in the world. I knew I would have the opportunity to learn from instructors who are developing the most recent advancements in the dairy industry.

### What has been your most memorable college experience?

**Miller:** Participating in the National Dairy Challenge has been the most memorable college experience for me because I was able to apply everything I've learned in the classroom to a real life scenario while working with my fellow classmates!

**Gerbitz:** My classmates became my best friends while working behind the scenes at World Dairy Expo. Aside from the friendships, Expo developed my work ethic and so many dairy industry connections.

**Lensmire:** My most memorable college experience was being a part of the Dairy Challenge team. It allowed me to put to use the knowledge that I've gained through my education in a practical, applied experience. I also appreciated the opportunity the competition gave me to see and learn about dairy systems in other parts of the country.



Left to right: Ted Halbach, Co-coach, Danielle Warmka, Rachel Gerbitz, Riley Miller, Zach Lensmire and Dave Combs, Co-coach

**Warmka:** There are too many to count! One thing I enjoy about all of them though, are the wonderful people along the way that I have been able to share my love and passion for dairy with.

### What has been your favorite course?

**Miller:** Dairy Herd Management 233 and 234 have been two of my favorite courses because of their practicality and relevance to overall farming operations. This is a two-course sequence in dairy management that I took as a sophomore which brought in industry experts, both on and off campus ones, to teach the subjects.

**Gerbitz:** Dairy Herd Management 233 and 234 that covers topics such as dairy reproduction, nutrition, milk quality, raising dairy replacements, facilities, dairy records and business management. I was able to build a base skill-set in dairy management in the course that has been applicable to internships and my participation in Dairy Challenge.

**Lensmire:** Dairy Science 233/234, Dairy Herd Management. I enjoyed the hands-on practical learning experiences the course provided. This course gave me tools to succeed and further stimulated my interest in dairy management.

**Warmka:** My favorite course has been a combination of Dairy Challenge and Dairy Herd Management. Dairy Herd Management allowed me to learn about the various aspects that account for a successfully managed dairy farm. Dairy Challenge let me take this knowledge and apply it in a real-life setting. These courses also helped guide me to find my specific interest within the dairy industry, which is dairy nutrition.

### What are your future career goals?

**Miller:** To pursue a career in agriculture that allows me to help farmers and producers achieve their goals!

**Gerbitz:** I plan to pursue a career in dairy sales and consulting in NE Wisconsin.

**Lensmire:** My goal is to become an agricultural educator, teaching future students about the many broad aspects of agriculture.

**Warmka:** My future career goal is to be a reliable and resourceful consultant for dairy producers that will help them achieve their farm goals.

