

OSU Dairy Judging News

Updates on the Ohio State Dairy Judging Program and Teams

Spring | 2018



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Ohio State Dairy Judging Teams Celebrate Success

As the 2017-2018 judging season comes to a close, we want to celebrate the awards won, relationships developed, and skills built by the members of the Ohio State teams, coaches, and volunteers. In this issue of OSU Dairy Judging News, we'll update you on the past judging season, upcoming dates, and reminders for and recognition of team alumni.

There is also a reminder from Coach Bonnie Ayars to stay connected to the dairy judging program and ways to follow the 2018-2019 teams as they prepare for their own future successes!



BY BONNIE AYARS, OSU JUDGING TEAM COACH

When I reflect on the 2017 Dairy Judging season, I am reminded of a very popular television series titled "This Is Us." It focuses on the trials and tribulations of a family as it spans the generations. Dairy judging teams are very much like families bonded in the pursuit of aligning cow and heifer classes. Some of them come together simply and with total agreement and yet others seem to defy any logic at all. In the end, there is the lofty goal of perfection or some agreement with the coach or official.

The teams of 2017 were backed by year's of experiences with cows on the tanbark, cows at home, and continual "cow talk" about pedigrees! The results speak for themselves but what is undocumented are the countless hours of road trips, the serious and simple discussions on bulls and cows, their futures and the dairy industry, and their undeniable passion for the purebred industry. On occasion, I might have to separate a lively argument on how cows were placed. With these strong personalities, they each had opinions and they were not shy about making a point. This sense of motivation served them well for the sustenance needed on contest day. Basically, "this is us" and the drama lead to a memorable season that Ohio State and Ohio can be proud of.

Our travels took us to Fort Worth, Texas in January. We had hopes of warmer weather and a break from winter. The team of Lexie Nunes, Cole Riddle, Alex Houck (with Ella Jackson along) discovered that Texas can also be chilly! Texas is generally a cultural experience for all.

In May, we flew to Utah in May for the Richmond Black and White Days contest. This included the threesome of Tanner Topp, Lexie Nunes, and Ella Jackson. With farm trips into Idaho, the scenery was outstanding despite the surprise of 6 inches of snow the night before the contest. Although it was frigid during the event, our team was 2nd overall and also in reasons. All three were in top 10 for reasons, and Tanner and Ella finished in top 10 overall.

With the Ohio State Fair and parlor management duties behind us, we began the fall season of judging with our annual "boot camp" training to the Maryland State Fair over the Labor Day week-end. With little time to spare, our next road trip was into New York for farm visits and the Eastern States Contest in Springfield, Massachusetts during the Eastern States Exposition. The team included Tanner, Ella, Lexie, and Alex Houck. Cassie Stechschulte joined us for her first experience and to judge individually. Ella

was second high individual. We were second in reasons, 5th overall, 4th in Holsteins and 2nd in Jerseys. Cassie made her debut as 6th in reasons and Lexie, our California recruit, was 5th.

There was little chance for rest as we traveled south to the Pennsylvania All American Contest in Harrisburg, PA. With an amazing day of placings and good fortune, we were the winners at this major contest. Ella was high individual but the team placed near the top in all of the individual breeds to bring home the final honors.

World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin hosts the national contest. We were 5th overall with less than 5 points separating us from 3rd place. We met some challenges on this judging day, but Lexie earned her best day ever as 7th high individual with Ella and Alex announced in the Top 25 and the All American status.

The season concludes in Louisville, Kentucky at the North American Dairy Show. The team now included Cassie Stechschulte, Levi Plocher, Ella Jackson, and Tanner Topp. We finished with 3rd place reasons and 8th overall. Ella was 4th place individual and high in Holsteins with Tanner high in Guernseys, and Levi taking home the 3rd place ribbon for Holsteins.

Our Ohio State Dairy Judging team is gifted with talented individuals who volunteer and work with the program. It would be an oversight to not recognize them on this page. They include John Ayars who has been along for his expertise and also donates the use of his van to defray expenses. Paul Detwiler traveled with us on two of the trips and shared much of his time and talents to the group. Jill Lokai made the trip to Maryland and is an invaluable resource to the judges with her quiet, yet entertaining demeanor. All three are alum of dairy judging experiences and they have been giving back to this program in numerous ways.

2017 also marked a year in which we tackled a major fund raising campaign that yielded more than \$20,000 donated for the future of the program. This coach counts her blessings for the financial support from the generous individuals and major dairy industries that respect the value of this set of skills. Not only do we make memories, but we also create leaders! Thank you all!

Top: The Ohio State Judging Team including (left to right) Alex Houck, Ella Jackson, Tanner Topp, and Lexie Nunes, along with Coach Bonnie Ayars, prepare to compete at the All-American contest.

Center: Ella Jackson was High Individual at the 2017 All-American Contest in Harrisburg.

Bottom: The Louisville team, represented by Ella Jackson, Tanner Topp, Cassie Stechschulte, and Levi Plocher, with team supporter Paul Detwiler and Coach Bonnie Ayars, ended the 2017 season on a high note.

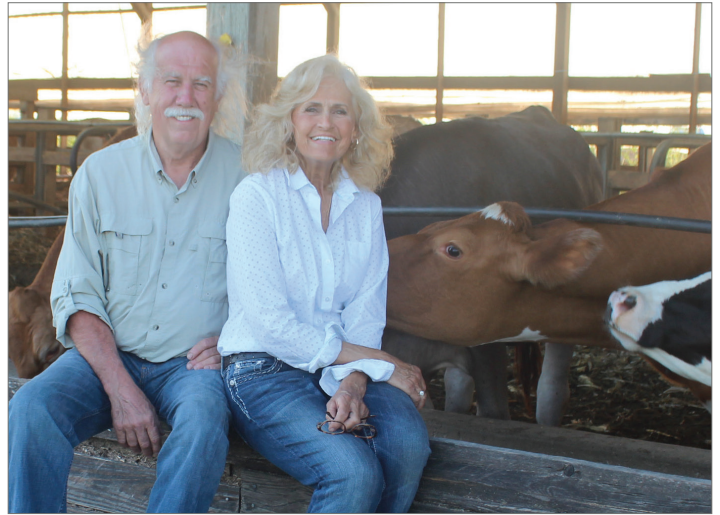


A New Year's Surprise

BY BONNIE AYARS, OSU JUDGING TEAM COACH

Just as the holidays were approaching, I received an email with a very interesting topic. It was from one of Coach Harold Kaeser's granddaughters, Nann Williams. Just by chance, she had come across our dairy judging newsletter online. It seems that her mother, one of Harold's daughters, had just downsized into a smaller residence. In doing so, they located boxes of photos and plaques that are reminiscent of Harold's judging era. After several conversations and shared stories, they would like for these items to be offered in support of our efforts to preserve the history of OSU's dairy judging program. Recently we met over lunch and the collection of photos and some silver platters were gifted back to the program. As we examined the photos, I was able to fill in with some details about people and places and Nann shared her fondest memories of her grandfather and their close relationship.

The coaching era of Harold Kaeser has missing team photos and memories. Those may be in some old



scrapbooks or stored away for posterity, yet we need to discover these historic photos and memories. As I mentioned, it was a 2018 "surprise" and one directly related to this newsletter and the power of connectivity!



Remembering One of Our Own

DR. TYE HENSCHEN

At the end of 2017, there was sadness as it was learned that Dr. Henschen had passed away. His work with embryo transfer and his positive contribution to the progress of all breeds will not soon be forgotten or ignored. Tye was a member of the OSU dairy judging team in 1969 and is pictured to Dr. Kaeser's left in the photo above.

TEAM ANNIVERSARIES

BY BONNIE AYARS,
OSU JUDGING TEAM COACH

Each year I have been making an attempt to re-unite our teams celebrating 10, 25, and 50 years since their experiences on the OSU dairy judging teams. The farther back we go, the fewer details! Yet as they are contacted, the stories continue to spark interest among all.

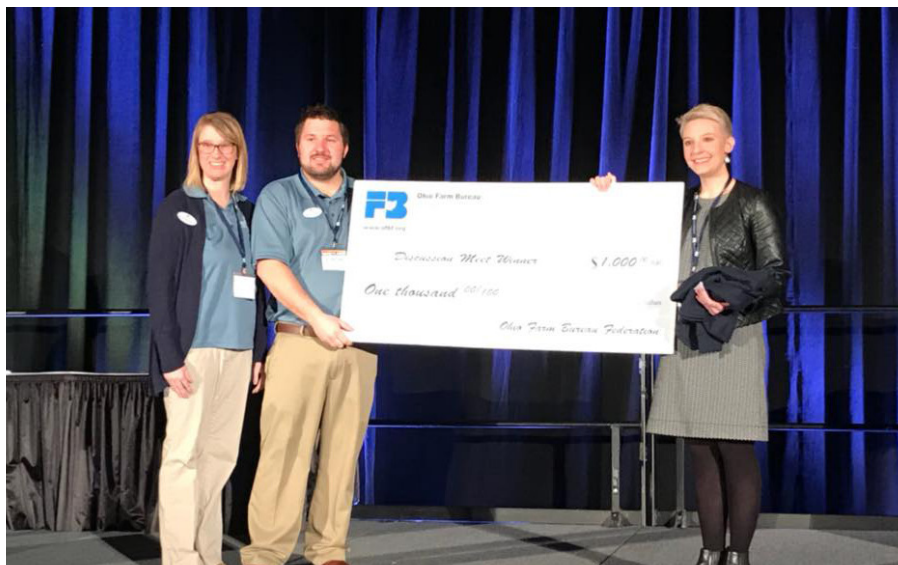
On April 21, these teams will be introduced at the Buckeye Dairy Club Banquet held at the Der Dutchman in Plain City. Invitations will be mailed but here are the team members from those years. If you know these individuals,

congratulate them as many have strong roots in the industry yet today and have continued to script their talent for evaluating cows.

1967: Larry Gortner, Lonnie Meussen and Harry Bouton (deceased), Fred Owens, Darrell Ramsey (Coach Kaeser)

1992: Kurt and Rachel Craemer Topp, Jackie Lemmerman Blackburn, and Kirk Schultz (Coach Spike)

2007: Annie Specht, Sherri Gress, Erin Bardall Weaver, and Matthew Weeman (Coach Ayars)



Annie Specht, a member of the 2007 Ohio State Dairy Judging Team, put her reasons skills to good use in the Ohio Farm Bureau Discussion Meet. Annie will represent Ohio in the national discussion meet competition at the 2019 American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Photo courtesy Ohio Farm Bureau Young Ag Professionals.

The Power of Connection

One of the benefits of modern technology is our ability to stay in touch! The Ohio State Dairy Judging Program is no exception: You can connect with coaches, team members and Ohio State faculty and staff on Facebook, via traditional mail and email and by telephone!

- “Like” the Dairy Judging Program page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OhioStateUniversityDairyJudging/>
- Learn more about the 4-H Dairy Judging Program on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ohio4HDairyProgram/>
- Join Animal Sciences 3307: Dairy Cattle Selection and Evaluation in their experiences: <https://www.facebook.com/Animal-Sciences-3307-Dairy-Cattle-Selection-and-Evaluation-177038935679968/>
- Bookmark the Dairy Judging Team website: <https://ansci.osu.edu/undergraduate/teams/dairy-judging-team>
- Follow the Dairy Judging Team’s progress at Animal Sciences News: <https://ansci.osu.edu/news/dairy-judging-and-club-news>
- Revisit the Dairy Judging Team’s history: <https://ansci.osu.edu/about-us/history/dairy-judging>
- Contact Coach Bonnie Ayars via email at ayars.5@osu.edu or by phone at 614-688-3143.
- Send mail to Bonnie’s office at 222D Animal Science Building, Columbus, OH 43210.

SHARE YOUR STORY!



Have great memories of your time as a member of the OSU Dairy Judging Team or as a student in the Dairy Cattle Evaluation class? Share your stories and photos with Coach Ayars (ayars.5@osu.edu) so they can be published on the Dairy Judging Team Facebook page!

2018 IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Below are dates and locations for activities the Ohio 4-H and OSU Dairy Judging Team traditionally participate in each year. Interested in joining the team or following their progress? Put these dates in your calendar!

2018

March 29-31: Spring Dairy Expo
Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, Ohio

April 12: CFAES Recognition Banquet
Ohio Union, Columbus, Ohio

April 21: Buckeye Dairy Club Banquet
Der Dutchman, Plain City, Ohio

July 27: Ohio State Fair Judging Clinic
Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, Ohio

August 3: Ohio State Fair Judging Clinic
Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, Ohio



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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES