“Pete in our Pockets”

BY BONNIE AYARS, OSU JUDGING TEAM COACH

With the recent loss of Dr. Peter Spike, many generous folks (from all kinds of relationships with Pete) have shared contributions to his namesake, the Spike Dairy Judging Endowment.

In my tenure here at Ohio State, we polished off the final stages of this project and I have been honored with the task of sustaining it. As with all named ventures, many who receive the benefit of these funds are unaware of the “real” person behind the name.

At our farm, John and I were a real part of Pete’s 30 years of service as he provided advice on buildings and dairy management as well as bringing each and every one of his teams to the farm for classes. Included on those teams were our boys who were not only coached, but educated by his mentoring. As many of you are reading this, you too have some special connections and experiences about his legacy!

Pete was a master at wearing more hats than anyone dare attempt, and this included his years of dedication to the Ohio State Fair. He directed the dairy division at the Ohio State Fair and his students ran the parlor. His hair may have turned gray, but I am surprised that his multiple hats did not cause him to go bald!

It is no secret that I admire and respect history. Dr. Spike graciously shared his judging scrapbook a few years ago and by some turn of fate, we have all of his notes and photos preserved for posterity on Animal Sciences web page and in my files. Rest assured that his professional profile is secure but I am asking myself how we can use this teachable moment with our upcoming teams?

It will take some time and ingenuity, but it will be my duty to share and teach about this special man, the educator, the coach and the musician, and family man. As a beginning thought, every judge who represents Ohio State on the tanbark will be given ten shiny pennies and a Buckeye for inspiration and good fortune. With “Pete in our Pockets,” we will honor his Holstein prefix of Ten-Penny and the fact that his donations are there to sustain this dairy judging program. The addition of the Buckeye is fairly simple but some of his judges mentioned that Pete would give them out for good luck at contest days!

As I have often said that “a story told is a life lived,” and I would like for everyone to know that we are going to continue to live his legacy through the lessons judging can teach and the people who bring it to life!

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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!
FROM THE COACH

2018 Judging Season Results

BY BONNIE AYARS,
OSU JUDGING TEAM COACH

For those individuals who make a commitment to the OSU dairy judging program, it is much more comparable to an investment rather than a deposit. Beyond the hours of practice and preparation time plus traveling, there is the ultimate test at the contests themselves. As much as this coach attempts to teach the exact art form, it definitely becomes more of an enigma when the four animals per class parade the ring! It is both objective and subjective and THEN a battle of the instincts before the final placing.

Although there are numerous times and places that we have our mental work-outs on farms and at shows, we annually participate in 5 to 7 contests across the country. Our journeys have already taken us to Fort Worth, Texas for the dairy judging contest held each January during the legendary Stock Show. The results were quite favorable for our team of Billy Smith, Sarah Lehner and Skylar Buell. With 17 teams present, we were second overall and third in reasons. Breed placings included third in Jerseys and fifth in Brown Swiss. Sarah had a near miss win by only one point and she finished second place with Billy in eighth. Sarah was also the high individual in reasons. This trip immerses us in the Texas culture as we tour the AT&T Stadium, dairy farms, old Fort Worth, and the rodeo and show itself.

Back now to 2018 and those results. If you follow our Facebook page, our judging hopefuls work during the summer and also students manage the milking parlor at the Ohio State Fair. However, the most important homework takes place at our Maryland “Boot Camp.” Over Labor Day weekend at the Maryland State Fair, we judge over 22 classes in 48 hours followed by intensive work with reasons. From this we plan for the upcoming contests. 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 that exposition. The team included Billy Smith, Hannah Dye, Kate Sherman, and Skylar Buell. We were second in reasons and fifth overall. Hannah earned third place and was high individual in Reasons. The team excelled in Ayrshires, second in Jerseys, third in Swiss. With little time to spare and a quick trip to Arethusa, we checked into Harrisburg, PA for the All American contest. This team included Skylar, Hannah, and Kate with Billy judging ringside. Hannah had another impressive finish as she worked up to second place nearly missing the highest honors by one point. The team was second in Swiss and sixth overall.

The most impressive contest with the National title takes place at World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI. Many thanks to Paul Detwiler for starting the travels in the first day of work outs as I was involved with the Luke Bryan concert at our farm. Team members included Kate Sherman, Hannah Dye, and Katia Hardman in her contest debut. Two were designated All Americans with Hannah in 17th place and Kate finished with her best ever performance in fifth place overall and ninth in reasons.

The season concludes in Louisville, Kentucky at the North American Dairy Show. This team included some new faces with Ian Lokai and Kris Ackley. Kate Sherman and Billy Smith were the seasoned judges. The contest brought us third place honors overall and third with our reasons. The team finished in the top five of four breeds. Ian earned third high individual overall and Billy was seventh.

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. John Ayars has been along for his expertise and donates the use of his van to defray expenses. Paul Detwiler traveled with us on the WDE 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 with monetary donations AND the gift of their time.

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!
OSU’s 2018 Eastern States team was made up by Skylar Buell, Hannah Dye, Billy Smith and Kate Sherman.

Hannah Dye started off the season on a high note by winning second high individual overall at the All-American contest in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Katia Hardman, Hannah Dye and Kate Sherman were the team members on OSU’s World Dairy Expo team.

Kate Sherman and Hannah Dye both took home All American honors following the National Dairy Judging Contest hosted at World Dairy Expo.

Kate Sherman, Ian Lokai, Kris Ackley and Billy Smith made up the Ohio State team at the North American International Livestock Exposition dairy judging contest.

Starting the 2019 dairy judging season off with a bang, the team of Billy Smith, Sarah Lehner and Skylar Buell took home numerous high honors.
A LOOK AT THE PAST
OSU Judging Teams: Then and Now

In an effort to re-unite alumni from past OSU Dairy Judging Teams, we are now recognizing the 10, 25 and 50 year teams at our annual Buckeye Dairy Club Banquet. If you qualify, notices are sent out early in January as we begin to make plans to bring these special teams together for some camaraderie and to ignite memories attached to this experience. This past year, we recognized the teams from 2008, 1993 and 1968.

1968

The 1968 team, coached by Harold Kaeser, was composed of Thomas Flemming, Neal Wiseley, Al Squires and Barry Workman (deceased). They placed second to Purdue at the North American Dairy Show and were the high team in reasons.

At the banquet, I presented Tom with the second place plaque that had been stored away for all these years. If you are a resident of Ohio, you realize that Tom has given freely of his time to the dairy occupation and also Ohio Dairyman’s Association. Dr. Wiseley now resides in Wisconsin and is still quite active with ST Genetics and embryo transfer work. Dr. Squires lives in New Mexico and is a part of Southwind Dairy. Each of these team members have had and continue to have stellar careers within the dairy industry.

1993

The 25 year team was made up of John Lemmermen, Paul Haskins, Shayne Sanders and Eric Schultz with Michael Hurst assisting Coach Spike. At Harrisburg, the team placed second overall and Shayne was second high individual. The team was high in Jerseys, largely due to Paul and John taking home first and second place honors, respectfully. Eric placed third in Holsteins. The Madison contest posed a new set of standards and there was a controversial Holstein class. The team finished in the top third, was high in Ayrshires and fifth in reasons. John finished fourteenth overall.

2008

The ten year team, coached by Ayars, was composed of Paige Gott, Lindsey Miller French, Jordan Beck and Tim Lamb. Jordan had a good day in Madison with a fourth place finish in Ayrshires and a fourth for Red and White Holsteins. The team finished in the middle of the contest.

Now Dr. Gott, Paige was recently featured in a Hoard’s Dairyman article and works with Biomin on Mycotoxin risk management. Lindsey married and finished her Master’s, then became a nurse, and now resides in Missouri and is a new mother. Jordan works as a nutritional consultant and resides in Pettisville with his wife and two sons. Tim works with USI insurance services, resides in West Liberty, and he and his wife have a son and a daughter.

Memories of this team include Bernie Heisner assisting on trips and the fact that Tim was the only one who had any dairy judging experience. Jordan had general livestock experiences and averaged 45 points on his reasons and Lindsey earned All American status at World Dairy Expo.
Dairy Judging NOW has Their Special Area!

After 13 years and hours of searching, researching, and organization, dairy judging can now boast of their very own bulletin board in the Animal Sciences Building (1st floor) here on campus. As you can see, it is a work in progress, but by the beginning of the new school year, we can proudly walk by this testimonial to dairy judging. Yet to be added are some of our results of 2018, the coaches photos, and older Lantern articles. Each year we will focus on presenting anniversary team photos. If you have any old judging photos, please be sure to share them with us. All memories and YOUR stories have VALUE!

Many thanks to Amber Robinson (Animal Sciences Communications and Academic Program Manager) for bringing this to life and being patient with my persistence.

CHECK IT OUT!

Have you ever been caught in a moment where you felt the need to defend your dairy judging experiences? Have you ever been at a loss for the best response that was worth the 50 point score on your set of reasons? Following are two links that should provide you with some excellent responses to the curious and/or non-believers! The one from the Bullvine is more of a generalized response for judging but the one from the Ohio Jersey News (Susan Mykrantz) comes from the “heart.”

“Final Thoughts, Words of Wisdom” by Susan Mykrantz: “Almost everything I need to know in life, I learned on a judging team.” You can find this thought-provoking article in the summer 2019 issue of the Ohio Jersey News.

“School Excuse Letter” by Kelly Thomas, Weaver Leather Blog: “Stock show kids are some of the most intelligent, hardest working kids around. This comes through in everything they do: in the show ring, sports, in the classroom. Sometimes, though, they need to miss school to go to the show. If you’ve ever struggled with explaining to teachers or principals the importance of showing livestock, if you couldn’t find the words to tell them how much the stock show kid learns from their livestock projects, here is the answer: The Stock Show Kid School Excuse Letter.” To continue reading, go to this link: http://blog.thewinnersbrand.com/school-excuse-letter/

MOFF HONORED

The newest inductee into the OSU Dairy Science Hall of Service is Mr. Steve Moff. Steve was a member of the dairy judging team in 1978. The presentation was made during an Animal Sciences Recognition Reception back in April. For more information on Steve’s dedication and service, use the following link: https://ansci.osu.edu/about-us/history/dairy-sci-hall-service/2019

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/
• Bookmark the Dairy Judging Team website: https://ansci.osu.edu/undergraduate/teams/dairy-judging-team
• 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.
2019-2020 OHIO STATE COLLEGIATE DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING EVENTS

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

2019
July 26: Ohio State Fair Dairy Judging Clinic, Week 1
Columbus, Ohio

August 2: Ohio State Fair Dairy Judging Clinic, Week 2
Columbus, Ohio

August 30 - September 2: Dairy Judging Boot Camp, Maryland State Fairgrounds
Timonium, Maryland

September 14: Big E Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest
Springfield, Massachusetts

September 16: All-American Dairy Judging Contest
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

September 30: National Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest
Madison, Wisconsin

November 10: NAILE Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest
Louisville, KY

2020
January 18: Southwest Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, Fort Worth Stock Show
Fort Worth, Texas

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