

2014 4-H Dairy Team Excels in Oral Reasons

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By: Larissa Tucker and George Heersche, Jr.

The 2014 Kentucky 4-H Dairy Judging Team members were comprised of Jacob Barnett, Daniel Cooper, Tyler Nichols and Rachel Sibert. All the team members were from Spencer County.

The team participated in the Pennsylvania All-American Contest on September 15, 2014. They placed second overall in the contest. The highlight of the contest was winning the first place team in oral reasons award and being presented the Harry F. Roth Rotating Trophy. As a team they averaged over 44 points out of 50 on the four sets of reasons each individual had to present. Oral reasons are the part of the contest in which the youth must orally defend their placing to the official judge. All four team members placed in the top twenty individually for oral reasons.

In the breed team awards, they were first in Brown Swiss, second in Ayrshires and third in Jersey. Individually, Daniel Cooper received fifth high individual overall, high individual in Jersey and second place in Ayrshire. Tyler Nichols was second high individual in Brown Swiss, and fifth place in Oral Reasons. Rachel Sibert placed fourth in Brown Swiss and fifth in Ayrshires. All four team members placed in the top fourteen overall individually.

The National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest was held September 29th, in Madison, Wisconsin at the World Dairy Expo. The team faced some tough competition and received eighth place team in oral reasons and fifth place team in Guernsey. Jacob Barnett had an outstanding day and finished 21st in the contest allowing him to join the All-American Dairy Judging Club.

We thank the following people for their continued support of the 4-H Dairy Judging program. First we thank the University of Kentucky Coldstream Dairy crew and herdsman Joey Clark for hosting the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest each year. The following breeders served as hosts for the workouts: Alpine Hill Swiss and Western Kentucky University. We also thank the following sponsors for all their help and financial support: Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, Oliver & Virginia Payne 4-H Dairy Endowment, Dairy Farmers of America, Kentucky Jersey Cattle Club, Elanco, Kentucky Dairy Development Council, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Louisville Parish Jersey Cattle Club, Select Sires of MidAmerica, Church and Dwight, Venture Grant by the Kentucky 4-H Foundation, and the Kentucky State Fair.



First Place Team in Oral Reasons (left to right): Larissa Tucker, coach; Tyler Nichols, Rachel Sibert, Daniel Cooper and Jacob Barnett

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