

VOL. 1 | FALL 2019

SPARTAN JUDGING REVIEW

Updates on the Michigan State University Livestock, Dairy, and Horse Judging Teams



Welcome

Welcome to the all-new Spartan Judging Review, a newsletter that will highlight the successes of the Michigan State University collegiate judging teams. We're excited for this new opportunity to reach out to alumni, stakeholders, and supporters of these great teams and we hope you'll enjoy learning more about our judging activities.



OVERVIEW:

- Dairy team's trip to Europe
- Funding successes
- Meet the teams
- Upcoming team competitions



DAIRY JUDGING EUROPE TRIP RECAP

In the fall of 2018, the MSU Ag Tech Dairy Judging Team placed second at the World Dairy Expo's dairy judging contest in Madison, Wisconsin, earning an invitation to participate in the 2019 International Dairy Judging Tour. This past June, Kristen Burkhardt, Lynn Olthof, Beka McDonald, Miriah Dershem, Gerrit Baker, and Elyse Zimmerlee had the opportunity to spend two weeks in Europe visiting Scotland, Ireland, and London. This was an exciting opportunity for the team as not only did they get the chance to tour beautiful site seeing areas but also visit farms and learn about the European agriculture industry.



The team started their trip in Scotland where one of the highlights was judging at the Royal Highland Show. Judging at this contest was slightly different from what they were used to back in the states. Contestants were only given five minutes to judge and place each of the four classes using a-b-x-y to identify cattle instead of 1-2-3-4. While in Scotland, the team visited Edinburgh, the Culzean Castle, St. Andrews, toured many dairy and beef farms, and much more.

The group then traveled to Ireland by ferry and by the end of the week, the team got to see most of the country. All of the farms they toured were grazing dairies, they even visited a water buffalo dairy which was famous for their mozzarella cheese that is made on-site. They traveled on a charter bus throughout the country and visited Dublin, a cattle auction, the Blarney Castle and drove through the Ring of Kerry, exploring the coast of Ireland. The team had the chance to sideline judge at the Charleville Show, placing the top six animals in four of the classes from the show that day.

The last stop was a touring destination in London for two days. The team had a busy 48 hours, packing as many activities as they could into their short time. The team saw the London Bridge, the London Tower, Shakespeare's Globe, toured some of the museums, and experienced the London Eye, a large ferris wheel that overlooks the city. Throughout their travels around the city, the team conquered riding the tube which is the underground transportation system. This was a once in a lifetime trip that the team will never forget. Not only did they learn a lot about the European agriculture industry and culture, but they also saw and experienced some really amazing things. Their hard work surely paid off! The team would like to thank all the people who supported the team throughout the contests last fall and their fundraising efforts, which all helped to make this trip possible.

FUNDING SUCCESS

In the fall of 2018, MSU judging team coaches submitted a grant proposal to the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture, in the area of workforce development to help offset team costs. The proposal was successfully funded in the amount of \$30,000 for the funding period of February 2019-February 2020. Find the proposal summary below.

Students who participate on competitive judging teams are provided with a multitude of applied learning experiences that prepare them to be productive members of the agricultural workforce. These skills include, but are not limited to, oral and written communication, networking and personal interaction with industry leaders, education and outreach into communities, as well as opportunities to create and foster problem solving and critical thinking within collaborative and individual environments. While these experiential learning opportunities are considered vital to student & program success, the costs associated with preparation, travel and competition are substantial. The requested funds would supplement previously-established industry investment, departmental support, and team fundraising events. Increased funding would increase program sustainability, remove barriers for participation, support the involvement of more students, and therefore expand the reach of competitive judging opportunities.

Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture

2018 Legislative Summary



Developing research, outreach and educational programs.

Ensuring and improving food safety.

Protecting the environment.

Improving workforce development.

MEET THE 2019-2020 TEAMS



 Michigan State University - Livestock Judging Team

LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Coached by Tawnie Dejong

Brady Littlefield - Senior, Animal Science
Brad Chapman - Senior, Mechanical Engineering
Katie Romzek - Senior, Agribusiness Mgmt
Rebecca Herzog - Junior, Animal Industries
Kelsie Letts - Junior, Animal Science
Tommy Littlefield - Senior, Business
Ty Cool - Senior, Animal Science
Zac Hultink - Junior, Animal Science
Kollin Johnson - Junior, Animal Science & Business

DAIRY JUDGING

Coached by Dr. Joe Domecq & Sarah Black

Austin Haywood - Senior, Animal Science
Leta Larsen - Senior, AgriBusiness Mgmt
Lauren Heberling - Senior, AgriBusiness Mgmt
Madeline Meyer - Senior Animal Science
Allison Schafer - Senior, AgriBusiness Mgmt
Cameron Cook - Senior, AgriBusiness Mgmt



Ag Tech Team

Caitie Theisen - 2 yr Dairy Management
Grace Platte - 2 yr Dairy Management
Jessie Nash - 2 yr Dairy Management



HORSE JUDGING

Coached by Taylor Fabus

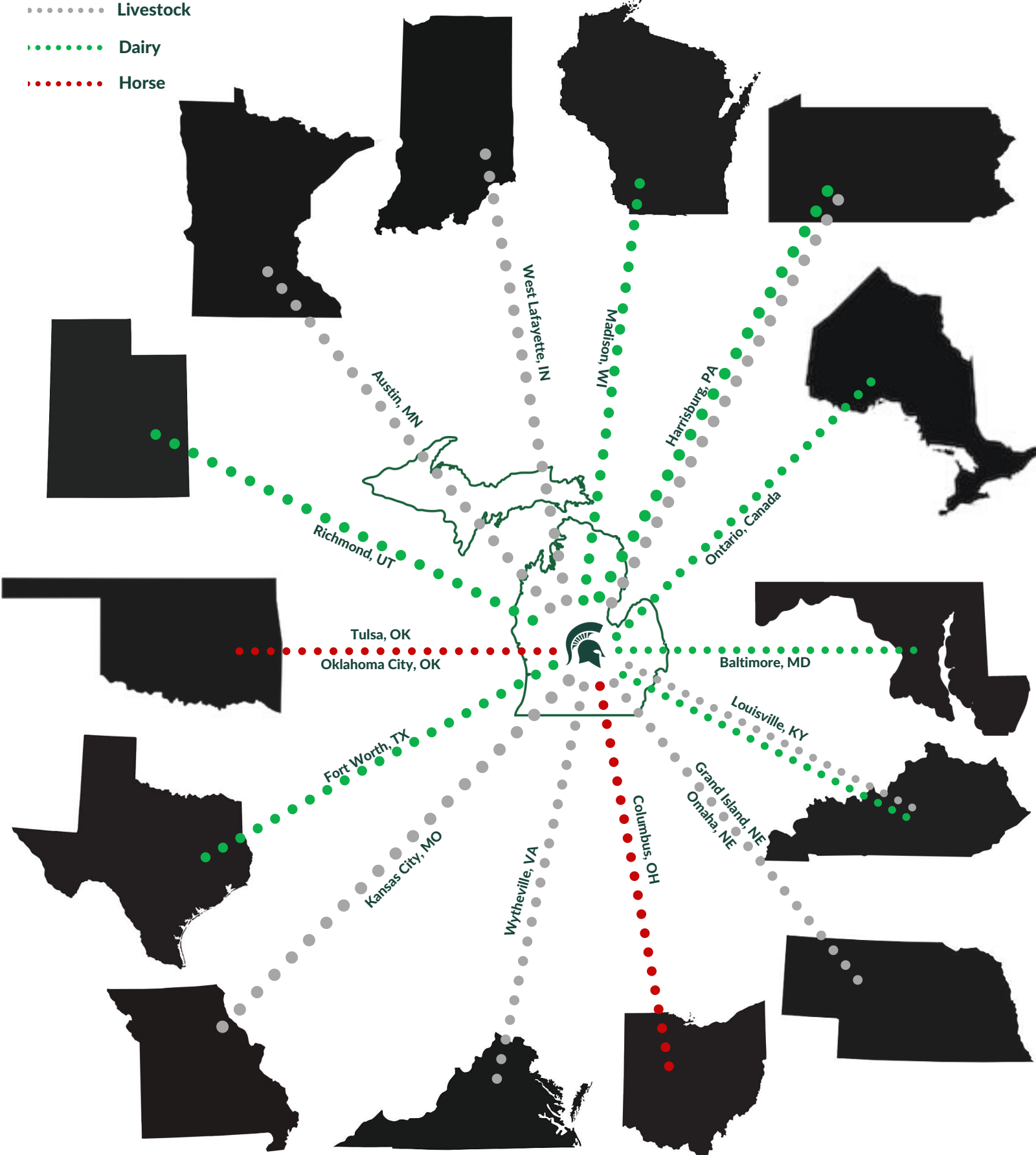
McKenna Bowen - Junior, Animal Science & Lyman Briggs
Alyssa Hawkins - Senior, Animal Science
Ashley Phillips - Senior, Animal Science
Amber Roberson - Senior, Animal Science
Lindsay Smith - Senior, Animal Science

 MSU Horse Judging

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

See where the teams will be traveling during the 2019-2020 competitive season

- Livestock
- Dairy
- Horse



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS & INDUSTRY SUPPORT

One of the greatest strengths of the judging programs at MSU is, and has always been, investment from industry. The following industry partners have continually invested in our judging programs as a statement of support. These funds, in addition to endowments established through the MSU Animal Science Department provide opportunities for students to travel the nation, evaluating some of the highest-quality stock our country has to offer. These travels across our state and country allow for invaluable networking and career exploration experiences, all of which would not be possible without industry support.

- MI Horse Council
- MI Quarter Horse Assn
- West MI Arabian Horse Assn
- MI Milk Producers Assn
- MI Sheep Breeders Assn
- MI Pork Producers
- MI Farm Bureau



- MI Cattleman's Assn
- MI Livestock Exposition
- MI Youth Scholarship Fund
- CANR Alumni Assn
- CentralStar Cooperative
- ABS Global
- MI Holstein Assn
- MI Jersey Cattle Club
- MI Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation

The high-quality experiences of preparing, traveling, and participating on a judging team come at a substantial cost. However, even with the best industry support there continues to be a shortfall and as a result each team has unique and entrepreneurial methods to raise funds to offset costs. These fundraising efforts include the following events & activities. In addition to the following, each team also plays an active role in many local events and shows, in exchange for sponsorships.

- Hoofin' it for Horses 5K
- Annual Mum flower sale
- Spartan Open Livestock Golf Outing
- Prime Rib Sales
- Spartan Dairy Calf Sale
- Commercial Dairy Cow Sale
- Wreath & Pointsettia Sale



CONTACT OUR COACHES

Looking to learn more about our programs? Want to learn how you can support judging teams in the Department of Animal Science at MSU? Don't hesitate to reach out to our head coaches directly.



Dr. Joe Domecq, Dairy: domecqjo@msu.edu



Tawnie Dejong, Livestock: dejongta@msu.edu



Taylor Fabus, Horse: tenlenta@msu.edu