

# University of Tennessee Claims Team Win at Collegiate Dairy Contest

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**(Madison – April 12, 2017)** The University of Tennessee took the All Products honors at the **95th Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest** (CDPEC) held April 12th in conjunction with the Wisconsin Cheese Industry Conference hosted by the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association. University of Tennessee student Michael Luethke was the All Products winner while Katie Magee (University of Tennessee) claimed the Graduate Student All Products category.

Fourteen colleges and universities from the United States and France participated in this year's contest. In addition to the University of Tennessee, schools competing at the contest: Clemson University, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Missouri, the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin, California Polytechnic State University, South Dakota State University, Washington State University/University of Idaho, Cornell University, and Aims Community College in Colorado. France was represented by the Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais.

Clemson University placed second in the All Products category, while South Dakota State took third. The University of Tennessee team, pictured below, is coached by Dr. Charles White. Also, pictured far right, is All Products Judge and CDPEC Board of Director Chairperson Kevin R. O'Rell.



## Sensory Quality of Retail Dairy Products

Established in 1916 by several universities, the Collegiate Dairy Product Evaluation Contest initially was designed to identify quality defects in dairy products throughout the country so defects could be corrected. It expanded over the years to recognize those students and dairy product judging teams that had mastered the ability to identify high-quality dairy products. The contest gives students the opportunity to showcase their evaluation skills and prepare for careers in the dairy industry.

Students test their sensory abilities against professional judges in six different dairy products: fluid milk, butter, yogurt, cheddar cheese, ice cream and cottage cheese. Dairy industry judges from around the U.S. review

eight representative samples of the six different dairy product categories and score each sample based on sensory attributes and the severity of their departure from the ideal. The students are challenged to present scorecards with answers that come as close as possible to the judgments of the experts.

## All Products Winners

In the All Products individual undergraduate category, Michael Luethke of the University of Tennessee won first place, Shanna Pearce of Clemson University earned the second place award, and Krista Johnson of South Dakota State University won third place.

In the All Products individual graduate student category, Katie Magee of the University of Tennessee won first place and Kelsey Choquette of Iowa State University earned the second place award.

## Product Category Winners

First-, second- and third-place winners (and Team Category winner) were named in each of the six product categories. The undergraduate winners are:

### Milk

- First place: Shanna Pearce, Clemson University
- Second place: Michael Luethke, University of Tennessee
- Third place: Thomas Reis, Cornell University
- Team Winner: Clemson University

### Butter

- First place: Rachel Miller, University of Missouri
- Second place: Ashley Burgess, Clemson University
- Third place: Xiaoqing Tan, Pennsylvania State University
- Team Winner: University of Missouri

### Yogurt

- First place: Krista Johnson, South Dakota State University
- Second place: Yue Huang, Pennsylvania State University
- Third place: Xiaoqing Tan, Pennsylvania State University
- Team Winner: Pennsylvania State University

### Cheddar Cheese

- First place: Katelyn Johnson, South Dakota State University
- Second place: Billy Kalil, University of Minnesota
- Third place: Randall Clap, University of Tennessee

- Team Winner: South Dakota State

### Ice Cream

- First place: Shanna Pearce, Clemson University
- Second place: Zenia Adiwijaya, Iowa State University
- Third place: Chris Eckerman, University of Wisconsin
- Team Winner: University of Tennessee

### Cottage Cheese

- First place: Michael Luethke, University of Tennessee
- Second place: Xiaoqing Tan, Pennsylvania State University
- Third place: Shanna Pearce, Clemson University
- Team Winner: University of Tennessee

### **The graduate student winners are:**

#### Milk

- First place: Kelsey Choquette, Iowa State University

#### Butter

- First place: Akash Mazumder, University of Missouri

#### Yogurt

- First place: Kelsey Choquette, Iowa State University

#### Cheddar Cheese

- First place: Alexandra Kuechel, University of Minnesota

#### Ice Cream

- First place: Katie Magee, University of Tennessee

#### Cottage Cheese

- First place: Steve Beckman, South Dakota State University

To learn more about this unique competition, visit [www.dairyproductscontest.org](http://www.dairyproductscontest.org).