Four Animal Science students at MSU competed in the Sixth Annual Midwest Dairy Challenge on February 9-11 in Menomonie, Wisconsin. The event was hosted by the University of Wisconsin at River Falls and attracted 68 students from 15 universities and colleges from across the Midwest.

Students representing MSU included Kristi Kocsis, a junior in Animal Science from Lansing; Jared Scheurer, a freshman in Ag Tech Dairy Management from Ionia; Eric Sneller, a junior in Animal Science from Sebewaing; and Jenna Taylor, a senior in Animal Science from Stockbridge.

Dairy Challenge is an innovative competition developed by industry and university professionals for students in dairy-related programs at North American universities and schools. Working in four- or five-person teams composed of students from different institutions, students assessed a working dairy farm and presented recommendations for improvement to a panel of judges and the farm owners.

This year’s event included students from Iowa State University, Lakeshore Technical College, Kansas State University, The Ohio State University, Purdue University, South Dakota State University, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Northeast Iowa Community College, University of Minnesota and the UW-Madison Farm & Industry Short Course in addition to MSU.

Students from MSU received the following placings of Platinum, Gold or Silver for their mixed-university teams: Eric Sneller, Platinum; Kristi Kocsis, Reserve Platinum; Jared Scheurer, Gold; Jenna Taylor, Silver.

The North American Dairy Challenge was established as a management contest to incorporate all phases of a specific dairy business. It strives to incorporate a higher-learning atmosphere with practical application to help prepare students for dairy industry careers. Supported financially through generous donations by industry and coordinated by a volunteer board of directors, the first NAIDC was held in April 2002.