



October 19th, 2018

Dear Coaches:

The 96th Annual Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 18th, 2018**. We look forward to your participation in this year's event, which will be hosted by the Wisconsin Cheese Maker's Association in Milwaukee, Wisconsin during the International Cheese Technology Expo being held at the Wisconsin Center.

A number of items are attached to this email.

- ❖ 2018 Contest Rules
- ❖ 2018 Event Schedule
- ❖ Contest Entry
- ❖ Joe Larson Merit Award Information

The Finance Committee has again worked diligently to raise funds for the contest, and is pleased to make travel stipends for teams available again in 2018. Guidance for the disbursement of these travel funds will be provided shortly, and will be similar to previous years.

For hotel arrangements, please use the Wisconsin Cheesemaker's site to book rooms. I would encourage you to make your reservations as soon as you can. <http://www.cheeseexpo.org/hotels/>

Entry forms have been consolidated into one online form on the website. To enter your team, please ensure this form is filled out and submitted on or before the Friday, March 30th deadline for entry. You will need your student's names and email addresses for this form. Remember that you can change the students judging on your official undergraduate team up until 8am on the day of the contest. http://www.dairyproductscontest.org/team_entry_form.php

Please plan to arrive in time to attend the coaches meeting on Tuesday, April 17th at 6pm. Coaches and officials will meet beginning at 6 pm. Remember, it is critical that team coaches be at this meeting.

The contest and awards presentation will be held in the center of the action this year. WCMA is excited to host the Collegiate Contest, and all participants are welcome to join in all of the on-floor functions and receptions. WCMA will provide **free registration for coaches and students**. We will send info to register shortly. You can find more information about the show at their site: <http://cheeseexpo.org> .

Finally, I have attached the form to nominate students for the **Joe Larson Merit Award**. Please consider nominating your outstanding undergraduate contestants. Nominate students who best uphold the ideals of the Contest: leadership, professionalism, maturity, and an understanding of the value of sensory work to the dairy industry. Nominations and essays are due by March 30th. Joe Larson made a very generous contribution to the contest and two deserving students will be given the award. Now we need you, coaches, to nominate your students – please don't forget!

If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of your participation in this year's Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest, please don't hesitate to contact me at (507) 272-6474 or tori.boomgaarden@kemps.com. I look forward to seeing you soon in Milwaukee!

Tori Boomgaarden

Tori Boomgaarden
Contest Coordinator
Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest