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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OHIO'S STATEWIDE 2012 4-H DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST
AT SPRING DAIRY EXPO**



COLUMBUS, OH – The setting is Spring Dairy Expo on March 31st in a very crowded Cooper Arena. It is the largest, singular event for dairy youth in the state of Ohio. Both 4-H and FFA members from all parts of the state have come to compete in the Ohio Dairy Judging Contest. Someone's dream is about to become reality, while others will return home having achieved their personal best.

4-H judges compete in three age divisions; junior, intermediate, and senior. Six classes of 4 animals each are paraded for 12-15 minutes. Intermediate and Senior participants are required to present two sets of oral reasons, so the ability to record good notes is of the utmost importance. All 4-H judges are required to answer questions pertinent to each class. Those questions are prepared by the officials for the contest. Within each age division, awards are given for High Individual Overall, High Individual in Placings, and High Individual in Reasons. Similar team awards are also presented

It is of value to note that our Senior 4-H participants have tripled since 2008 and overall there were 140 4-Hers competing this year. With FFA members, the contest included nearly 400 youth. Tanner Topp claimed the top title in both the 4-H and FFA contests. This does not often happen! Plus Ian Lokai was the winner of the Junior Division in 2011 and moving up to the Intermediate division for 2012, he repeated his success as the High Intermediate Individual. There was also some very competitive sibling rivalry taking place for the Jackson Family. Many individuals have parents who are judging alumni and yet others are new to the skill and proving their worth with higher placings. All of these are stories worth noting!

A collaboration of 4-H and FFA volunteers were integral to the day's success. Many thanks to all those who coach dairy youth at home, the assistance of FFA coordinators, FFA Dairy Handlers who presented the cattle, and our officials: Lee Kohler, Larry Schirm, Julie Delavergne. OSU judging team alumni: Neal Duncan, John Langel, Hannah Thompson and Laura Gordon played a very pivotal role by listening to reasons. Entering all the scores for the day were Reagan Bluel (OSU Dairy Farm Manager) who was assisted by Paige Gott, Danni Ye, Bo Harstine, Peter Yoder (graduate students in the department) and Annie Eilenfeld, a second year veterinary student. Quality cattle for the contest are selected from exhibitor herds at the show. We appreciate these folks for sharing their finest with our contest. Many others were involved in photography, filming, moving cattle to the ring, checking and running scorecards. It takes a large crew of dedicated volunteers to manage a successful contest.

With the input of youth and the volunteers that guide them, the contest has proven its worth by serving as both an educational and competitive event that will assist youth in building a successful future with improved communication skills.

**Following are the highlights of the 2012 Ohio 4-H contest
Individuals and Teams:**

High Junior Individuals OVERALL were: 1st: Clayton Lamb, Lorain County, 2nd: David Miley, Wayne, 3rd: Brandon Piper, Licking, 4th: Rachel Lokai, Champaign/Logan, and 5th: Joelle Ziegler, Union.

High Junior Individuals in Placings: 1st: David Miley, Wayne County, 2nd: Brandon Piper, Licking, 3rd: Clayton Lamb, Lorain, 4th: Joelle Ziegler, Union, 5th: Rachel Lokai, Champaign A

High Junior Teams were: 1st: Wayne County, 2nd: Champaign A Team, 3rd: Lorain, 4th: Stark A, 5th: Wayne/Holmes

High Intermediate Individuals OVERALL were: 1st: Ian Lokai, Champaign County, 2nd: Rod Headland, Mahoning/Columbiana, 3rd: Hannah Dye, Mahoning/Columbiana, 4th: Kadey Starkey, Champaign C, and 5th: Cari Cooley, Fairfield

High Intermediate Individuals for Placings were: 1st: Ian Lokai, Champaign County, 2nd: Rod Headland, Mahoning/Columbiana, 3rd: Lindsay Barto, Trumbull 2, 4th: Hannah Dye, Mahoning/Columbiana 5th: Kadey Starkey, Champaign C

High Intermediate Teams Overall were: 1st: Mahoning/Columbiana, 2nd: Trumbull, 3rd: Wayne, 4th: Champaign A, 5th: Union/Madison

High Intermediate Individuals for Reasons: 1st: Ian Lokai, Champaign County, 2nd: Hannah Dye, Mahoning/Columbiana, 3rd: Keaton Topp, Darke/Shelby, 4th: Brennan Topp, Wayne, and 5th: Lee Hesler, Adams

High Intermediate Teams for Reasons: 1st: Champaign A, 2nd: Mahoning/Columbiana, 3rd: Wayne, 4th: Trumbull, and 5th: Lorain

High Senior Individuals OVERALL were: 1st: Tanner Topp, Wayne County, 2nd: Emily Dudash, Champaign/Logan, 3rd: Hilary Jackson, Champaign/Logan, 4th: Ella Jackson, Champaign/Logan, and 5th: Molly Michael, Fairfield

High Senior Individuals for Placings were: 1st: Hilary Jackson, Champaign/Logan County, 2nd: Tanner Topp, Wayne, 3rd: Emily Dudash, Champaign, 4th: Cody Hall, Adams, and 5th: Glenn Tipton, Fairfield

High Senior Teams Overall: 1st: Champaign County, 2nd: Adams, 3rd: Wayne B, 4th: Wayne A, 5th: Licking

High Senior Individuals for Reasons were: 1st: Hilary Jackson, Brown County, 2nd: Emily Dudash, Champaign, 3rd: Ella Jackson, Champaign, 4th: Tanner Topp, Wayne, and 5th: Laura Bond, Trumbull A

High Senior Teams for Reasons: 1st: Champaign, 2nd: Wayne B, 3rd: Trumbull A, 4th: Licking, 5th: Adams

HIGH OVERALL INDIVIDUALS

(This result figures Intermediates and Seniors together)

1st Tanner Topp, Wayne County

2nd: Emily Dudash, Champaign County

3rd: Hilary Jackson, Champaign/Logan County

4th: Ella Jackson, Champaign/Logan County

5th: Ian Lokai, Champaign County

6th: Rod Headland, Mahoning/Columbiana

7th: Hannah Dye, Mahoning/Columbiana

8th: Molly Michael, Fairfield County

9th: Corey Jodrey, Adams County

10th: Kadey Starkey, Champaign County