**93nd Dairy Products Evaluation Contest, Results**

South Dakota State University sealed its eighth consecutive team title at the 93nd Dairy Products Evaluation Contest, in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, just west of Chicago, although its string of eight consecutive individual titles was broken by Stephanie Brooks, representing the University of Tennessee.

This year’s contest was hosted by Tate and Lyle.

Twelve schools from the United States and Canada participated in this year’s contest. The eleven colleges and universities from the United States included Clemson University, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, Pennsylvania State University, South Dakota State University, the University of Missouri, the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Washington State University/University of Idaho, and a newcomer from Colorado, Aims Community College. Canada was represented by The University of Alberta.

Among the contest’s goals is the development of students with a passion for improving and sustaining the sensory quality of retail dairy products.

Students tested their palates against professional judges in six different dairy products, fluid milk, butter, yogurt, Cheddar cheese, ice cream and Cottage cheese. Judges review eight representative samples of the six different dairy products and render judgments on each of dozens of possible attributes and their severity of their departure from the ideal. Students are challenged to present scorecards that come as close as possible to the judgments of the experts.

The first product judged by the students is also the first product that was judged in the very first contest, butter. Rachel Achen of South Dakota State University took first among undergraduates and Zhong Zhang of the University of Missouri claimed first among graduate students. South Dakota State also won team honors in butter.

Kate Bond of Clemson University took first place among undergraduates in Cheddar Cheese, while Liz Reid of the University of Minnesota won the first of three product categories. Iowa State University claimed team honors.

Kahing Choi of Pennsylvania State University was the top undergraduate in Cottage Cheese, while Minnesota graduate student Liz Reid claimed victory in her second product. The team prize was claimed by the University of Tennessee.

First place in ice cream went to undergraduate Lindsay Milligan of Washington State University/University of Idaho. University of Missouri graduate student Zhong Zhang took first place in her division. South Dakota State used its second and third place individual placing to earn team honors.

Nian Liu of the University of Alberta was the first international winner of the day, taking first place among undergraduates in fluid milk. Iowa State’s Lily Benner was the top graduate student in milk. The University of Minnesota was the top team in milk.

Thomas Frederic, of the University of Tennessee claimed first prize in the yogurt division, while in the graduate division, Liz Reid claimed her third title. Frederic also led his Tennessee Volunteers to first place in the team category.

In the All Products category, which compiles scores in all products evaluated, Stephanie Brooks of the University of Tennessee took first place in the undergraduate division, while Liz Reid placed first among graduate students. As previously mentioned, South Dakota State defended its title as the top All Products team at the contest.

This contest owes a deep debt to all of its sponsors, who are listed here: <http://dairyproductscontest.org/sponsors_2014.php>

The contest also wishes to thank [Tate and Lyle](http://www.tateandlyle.com/Pages/default.aspx) for hosting this year’s contest and for opening their Innovation Center facilities to our students for an inspiring tour and social hour.