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DURHAM, N.H. – Students from the University of New Hampshire won a gold award in the Third Annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC) held recently at Penn State University.

The team from UNH included Jodi Alger, of Hebron, Conn.; Cynthia Blodgett, of Lisbon; Seth Gray, of Pittsburg; and Susan Marston, of Pittsfield. Pete Erickson, UNH assistant professor of animal and nutritional sciences, coached the team.

NAIDC is an innovative two-day competition for students representing dairy programs in North American universities. It enables students to apply theory and learning to a real-world dairy, while working as part of a team.

During the competition, students inspect their designated dairies and interview herd managers. Each team then develops a farm analysis and presentation materials, including recommendations for nutrition, reproduction, milking procedures, animal health, housing and financial management. They then present their recommendations to a panel of judges.

For more information, visit www.dairychallenge.org.

A digital photo of the UNH Team is available at

Caption: (L-R) Coach Pete Erickson, UNH assistant professor of animal and nutritional sciences, Jodi Alger, Cynthia Blodgett, Susan Marston (holding sign), and Seth Gray.