



May 6, 2019  
By NCTA News

## [NCTA Aggies excel at nationals](#)

CURTIS, Neb. – Thirty two Aggie students from the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis tested their agricultural knowledge recently at a national collegiate competition in Murray, Kentucky.

Students from NCTA, known as the “Curtis ag school” and the sole two-year campus within the University of Nebraska system, competed in 12 of the 15 events for two-year colleges.

The annual competition is sponsored by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA). Murray State College in Murray, Kentucky hosted the 2019 NACTA Student Contests.

Highlights for NCTA students were Top Overall Individual honors for Kyle Krantz of Alliance and Seth Racicky of Mason City in crops and dairy judging, respectively.

Kyle Krantz won the four-part crops contest with high overall score tying for top score in the math portion, and tying for second top score in the laboratory section.

The NCTA crops team placed third, overall, in crops. Catherine Ljunggren of Aurora was the only contestant among 48 individuals to turn in a perfect 100 points in plant identification.

Seth Racicky won the two-part dairy judging contest with top combined score in class placings and in oral reasons. The NCTA team won second place among six teams.

NCTA student placings in the top 10:

- Kyle Krantz of Alliance, high overall individual (of 48 contestants) in crops and crops math
- Seth Racicky of Mason City, high overall individual (of 25) in dairy judging and in oral reasons
- Catherine Ljunggren of Aurora, 1<sup>st</sup> (of 48) in plant identification portion of the crops contest
- Blake McCormick of Lewellen, 1<sup>st</sup> (of 12) in welding practicum of ag mechanics
- Colbey Luebbe of Seward, 2<sup>nd</sup> high individual (of 12) in horticulture
- Rebecca Saddler of Aurora, 4<sup>th</sup> (of 12) in horticulture
- Jarrod Tuttle of Eltopia, Washington, 4<sup>th</sup> (of 12) in ag mechanics
- Baily Fleischman of Tekamah, 5<sup>th</sup> (of 28) in ag business
- Garrett Lapp, Adamsville, Ohio, 6<sup>th</sup> (of 25) in dairy judging
- Emily Riley of Norton, Kansas, 7<sup>th</sup> (of 25) in dairy judging
- Remy Mansour of Petaluma, California, 7<sup>th</sup> (of 68) in livestock judging
- Camden Wilke of Columbus, 7<sup>th</sup> (of 26) in livestock management
- Jacob Vallery of Plattsmouth, 8<sup>th</sup> (of 48) in crops
- Grant Romshek of Shelby, 9<sup>th</sup> (of 26) in livestock management
- Kallie Hilker of Cambridge, 9<sup>th</sup> (of 22) in business communication

The team competitions were again fierce among some of the larger events for individual number of competitors and teams such as livestock judging, livestock management and crops.

Aggie teams placed:

- 2nd place (of 6 teams) in dairy judging
- 2nd place (of 3) in horticulture
- 3rd place (of 12) in crops
- 3rd place (of 3) in ag mechanics
- 4th (of 7) in agribusiness
- 4th (of 6) in computer applications
- 4th (of 5) in equine judging
- 5th (of 12) in livestock management
- 7th (of 12) in livestock judging

Aggie students apply what they learn in their college classes and experiential learning opportunities at NCTA.

The contest draws nearly 600 students from two- and four-year colleges across the U.S. and Canada.

“The NACTA Judging Conference provides our students an excellent career-based learning experience,” said Brad Ramsdale, Ph.D., agronomy and agricultural mechanics division chair.

“It is great to be part of an event supported by numerous agricultural colleges and universities,” he said.

Along with Ramsdale, coaches were Doug Smith, Ph.D., animal science and agriculture education division chair, and Mary Rittenhouse, chair of agribusiness management systems.

Ramsdale supervised four teams: agricultural mechanics, precision agriculture, horticulture and crops. Dan Stehlik is NCTA's instructor for welding and ag mechanics which includes irrigation technicians, electricity and engines.

Smith's four teams were dairy, equine and livestock judging, plus students in livestock management. Animal science faculty are Joanna Hergenreder, equine management, and Meredith Cable, feedlot management and nutrition.

“The students worked hard and competed exceptionally well at NACTA,” Smith said. “A lot of time was put in on preparation and NCTA was well represented by these young professionals.”

From agribusiness management systems, Rittenhouse coordinated three teams with Associate Professor Jeremy Sievers and Lecturer Dave Jibben. Students competed in ag business, ag computer applications, and agricultural communications (sales).

“In addition to providing students an opportunity to test their abilities and skills on a national level, NACTA also provides bridges for our students to continue to develop these abilities and skills in their chosen fields,” Rittenhouse said.

“Two-year students are exposed to opportunities in the four-year schools and in ag careers, as well,” she added.

The national contest was the final major competition of the 2018-2019 academic year.

(more – photos attached)



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture students earned individual honors for high ranks at the 2019 NACTA Student Contest in Kentucky. (From left) Kyle Krantz of Alliance won the crops, Colbey Luebbe of Seward was second in horticulture, and Seth Racicky of Mason City won dairy judging. (Jocelyn Kennicutt / NCTA News Photo)

Read article online at: <https://go.unl.edu/og7c>

See group photo on Page 4, followed by more photos on Pages 5-9



**The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture** was represented by 33 students and three professors at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture competition held at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky.

L-r, 1<sup>st</sup> row, Sadie Christensen, Colbey Luebbe, Catherine Ljunggren, behind her, Amy Lammers, 2<sup>nd</sup> row, Lindse Painter, Kallie Hilker, Emily Riley. 3<sup>rd</sup> row, Colton Bell, Blake McCormick, Clare Smith, 4<sup>th</sup> row, Rachel Miller, Mariah Mulvey, Jarrod Tuttle, 5<sup>th</sup> row, Maisie Kennicutt, Dalton Olsen, Chase Callahan, behind him Rebecca Saddler, 6<sup>th</sup> row, Camden Wilke, Peyton McCord, Garrett Lapp, and Sam Schukei.

7<sup>th</sup> row, Seth Racicky, Ethan Aschenbrenner, behind is Tyler Aschenbrenner. 8<sup>th</sup> row, Jacob Vallery, Bailey Fleischman, Dr. Brad Ramsdale, Grant Romshek. 9<sup>th</sup> row, Dean Fleer, Kyle Krantz, Nathan Lashley. 10<sup>th</sup> row, Remy Mansour, Will Moeller, Clade Anderson. Top row, Dr. Doug Smith and Professor Mary Rittenhouse.

~ NACTA photos by Jerry Holland, JH Photography ~



**National Champ** Seth Racicky of Mason City, High Overall Individual Dairy Judge, and High Overall Dairy Reasons among students of 2-year colleges at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.



**Second Place Team** in Dairy Judging Team was NCTA's team of Remy Mansour, Petaluma, California; Emily Riley, Norton, Kansas; Seth Racicky, Mason City; Camden Wilke, Columbus; and Garrett Lapp, Adamsville, Ohio. Individually in total points for placings and reasons Racicky was 1<sup>st</sup>, Lapp was 6<sup>th</sup> and Riley was 7<sup>th</sup>.



Colbey Luebbe of Seward was 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Horticulture



**Second Place Team** in Horticulture was the NCTA foursome, from left, Rebecca Saddler, Aurora; Catherine Ljunggren, Harvard; Colbey Luebbe, Seward; and Amy Lammers, Axtell.



**National Champion** in the Crops Contest was Kyle Krantz of Alliance. He was High Overall among 48 students from two-year colleges, tying high score in math, tying for second high in laboratory, and was third in plant ID.



**Third Place Team** in the Crops Contest was the NCTA team, from left, Jacob Vallery, Plattsmouth; Catherine Ljunggren, Harvard; Kyle Krantz, Alliance; and Ethan Aschenbrenner, Scottsbluff. Krantz was High Overall Individual, and Ljunggren paced the plant ID portion of the contest with 100 points.



**Third Place Team** in Agricultural Mechanics was NCTA foursome, from left, Sam Schukei, Kenesaw; Jarrod Tuttle, Eltopia, Washington; Blake McCormick, Lewellen; and Dalton Olsen, Heartwell. High individual on the team was Tuttle, who placed fourth overall. McCormick placed first in the welding practicum.



**Agribusiness Management Systems** students from NCTA competed in three events: 4<sup>th</sup> place Ag Business, 4<sup>th</sup> place Ag Computers and Ag Communications-Sales. From left, are, Mariah Mulvey, Loveland, Colorado; Clare Smith, Marysville, Kansas; Bailey Fleischman, Tekamah; Lindse Painter, Ainsworth; Dean Fler, Pierce; Sadie Christensen, Arnold; and Kalli Hilker, Cambridge. Team leaders were Fleischman, 5<sup>th</sup>, in Ag Business, Hilker, 9<sup>th</sup>, in Computer Application, and Smith, 11<sup>th</sup>, in Ag Communications.





**Livestock Team** students from NCTA competed in four events at nationals, including dairy, equine and livestock judging, and livestock management. Front row, l-r, Maise Kennicutt, Wallace; Emily Riley, Norton, Kansas; Colbey Luebbe, Seward; Rachel Miller, Basehor, Kansas.

(Back) Camden Wilke, Columbus; Nathan Lashley, Curtis (asst. coach); Garrett Lapp, Adamsville, Ohio; Remy Mansour, Petaluma, California; Peyton McCord, Cairo; Will Moeller, Grand Island; Dean Fleer, Pierce (asst. coach), Grant Romshek, Shelby; Seth Racicky, Mason City.

Seth Racicky was high individual of 25 evaluators in dairy judging, and Remy Mansour, was seventh overall from 68 evaluators in livestock judging. (Photo by Coach/ NCTA Professor Doug Smith)

# # #

Sources:

Brad Ramsdale, PhD, associate professor, Agronomy/Ag Mechanics Division chair, 308-367-5225, [bramsdale2@unl.edu](mailto:bramsdale2@unl.edu)

Mary Rittenhouse, M.S., associate professor, Ag Management Systems chair, 308-367-5275, [mrittenhouse2@unl.edu](mailto:mrittenhouse2@unl.edu)

Doug Smith, PhD, associate professor, Animal Science/Ag Education Division chair, 308-367-5286, [doug.smith@unl.edu](mailto:doug.smith@unl.edu)

Writer: Mary Crawford, NCTA News coordinator, 308-367-5231, [mcrawford@unl.edu](mailto:mcrawford@unl.edu)