

## News Release

### U of M Crookston NACTA Team Wins Sweepstakes at 2014 Judging Conference

By Itolfe on Friday, May 2, 2014

For the second year in a row, the University of Minnesota Crookston team competing at the annual North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) brought home the sweepstakes in the four-year college division.

The win included a number of first place finishes.

Individuals finishing first included Eric Derosier, a senior from Red Lake Falls, Minn., majoring in agricultural business finished first in the contests in ag business, ag communications, and ag computers; Emily Goff, a senior majoring in equine science from Danvers, Minn., finished first in the livestock management contest; Justin Goodroad, a senior from Lindstrom, Minn., majoring in horticulture finished first in the contest in horticulture; Sarah Morris, a senior majoring in animal science from Ramsey, Minn., finished first in the contest in meats; Travis Duresky, a senior majoring in ag systems management finished first in the ag mechanics contest; and Emily Campbell, a junior majoring in animal science from Aitkin, Minn., finished first in the dairy contest.



The teams in horticulture, dairy, livestock management, ag mechanics, and ag computers finished in first place.

Members of the teams competing at NACTA were:



First Name	Last Name	Team	Year	Major
Cassie	Adams	Livestock management	junior	Animal Science
Joe	Blaufuss	Ag Communications; Soils	senior	Agricultural Systems Management
Emily	Campbell	Dairy; Livestock Judging	junior	Animal Science
Cedric	Citrowske	Meats; Quiz Bowl	junior	Agricultural Systems Management and Agricultural Business
Andrew	Clark	Crops; Quiz Bowl	senior	Agronomy
Eric	Derosier	Ag Business; Ag Communications; Ag Computers	senior	Agricultural Business
Travis	Duresky	Ag Mechanics	senior	Agricultural Systems Management
Ben	Genereux	Crops	senior	Agronomy
Emily	Goff	Livestock Judging; Livestock Management	senior	Equine Science
Justin	Goodroad	Dairy; Horticulture	senior	Horticulture
Matson	Gravelle	Soils	senior	Golf and Turf Management
Ashley	Hoffman	Ag Computers; Crops	senior	Agronomy and Agricultural Business
Tiffany	Hulinsky	Ag Business; Dairy; Horticulture; Quiz Bowl	senior	Agricultural Business
Jeremy	Love	Ag Mechanics	senior	Agricultural Systems Management
Mitzi	Marlin	Ag Business; Ag Communications; Livestock Judging	senior	Agricultural Business
Sarah	Morris	Dairy; Meats	senior	Animal Science
Jared	Nowacki	Livestock Judging; Livestock Management	senior	Agricultural Business
Brian	Oachs	Ag Business	senior	Agricultural Business and Agronomy
Dylan	Pratt	Meats; Livestock Judging	junior	Animal Science
Ashley	Radke	Horticulture	junior	Horticulture
Steph	Reko	Horticulture	junior	Horticulture
Dustin	Smith	Crops	senior	Agricultural Business and Agronomy
John	Sorenson	Quiz bowl	junior	Agricultural Systems Management
Greg	Sparby	Ag Communications; Ag Mechanics	senior	Agricultural Systems Management
Cody	Thompson	Soils	senior	Agricultural Systems Management
Ben	Tinkham	Ag Mechanics	senior	Agricultural Systems Management
Kurtis	Wacker	Soils	senior	Golf and Turf Management
Haley	Weleski	Ag Computers; Meats	senior	Communication
Reno	Williams	Ag Computers; Livestock Management	junior	Agricultural Systems Management

The judging conference was held at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo., April 10-12, 2014. Students began preparing for the contests in November and are allowed to compete only one time per contest with the exception of soils which allows a student to compete twice. The contests are hands-on and the judging contests, like those in crops, dairy, and livestock, require the student to both rank and provide reasons for their decisions. The NACTA Team raises its own funding in order to participate in the competition.

#### Background

NACTA is dedicated to advancing the scholarship of teaching and learning in the agricultural, environmental, natural, and life sciences. NACTA competitions have been held since 1957 and involve knowledge and skills contests covering various agricultural topics. The competition is rigorous, including college and university students from all across the nation. To learn more, visit [www.nactateachers.org](http://www.nactateachers.org).

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 20 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus--as well as 13 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

In the photo, at right: The 2014 NACTA team with their awards and the team's sweepstakes trophy.

In the photo, at left: back row: Dylan Pratt, Cody Thompson, Brian Oachs, Andrew Clark, Justin Goodroad, Emily Goff. Middle row: Dustin Smith, Ashley Hoffman, Jared Nowacki, Ben Genereux, Eric Derosier, Emily Campbell. Front row: Mitzi Marlin, Haley Weleski, Cassie Jo Adams, Sarah Morris, Ashley Radke with Associate Professor Margot Rudstrom.

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