SARAH THOMAS

Dublin, OH
919.548.5531
saraht17@vt.edu

Top five most significant judging experiences:
- Assistant Coach for The Ohio State University Dairy Judging Team (2021-present)
- Virginia Tech Dairy Cattle Judging Team (2018)
- Judging contest official for local and state contests in Ohio, Virginia, and North Carolina (2019-2024)
- Virginia State Fair Youth Dairy Show (2020)
- Southside Virginia Junior Holstein Show (2019)

Sarah Thomas got her start in the dairy industry after seeing her older brother show for a neighbor at the North Carolina State Fair. Although she was just five years old at the time, the spark was ignited and has been glowing ever since. Outside of the showring, it was her love of Junior Holstein programs that fueled her even more.

Sarah first caught the "bug" for judging after winning oral reasons as a 4-H contestant in Louisville. She later earned All-American status for both the 4-H and collegiate divisions at World Dairy Expo. In 2018, she was on the Virginia Tech Dairy Cattle Judging Team coached by Dr. Katharine Knowlton. Sarah earned high individual honors at the contest in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and was a member of the second-place team at World Dairy Expo.

In 2021, Sarah graduated with a bachelor's degree in Dairy Science from Virginia Tech. Just two years later, in 2023, she graduated with her master's degree in Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership from The Ohio State University where her research focused on assessing communication needs with Spanish speakers on dairy farms.

Currently, Sarah resides in Ohio and serves as a Product Support Analyst at Select Sires Inc. providing support for Select Mating Service, the company's mating program. She is also an assistant coach under Bonnie Ayars for The Ohio State University's dairy judging team, serves as an advisor to the Ohio Junior Holstein Association, and finds herself back in the showring whenever she can.