



CLAY COUNTY 4-H DAIRY

***Updated for 2025**

4-H Dairy Superintendent: Deedra Arvin – (317)616-8268 (deedraarvin@gmail.com)

ENROLLMENT:

- a) Enrolled animals must be owned by the 4-H exhibitor by said deadline and must be under the continuous care, responsibility, and ownership through the date of the show, except where change of ownership was to 4-H member's complete ownership. Any animal listed under a family through Indiana 4-H Online may be shown by any member listed under that family profile.
- b) 4-H members must be enrolled in the Clay County 4-H and Dairy Project by **May 15, 2025**.
- c) All 4-H Cattle must be identified through Indiana 4-H online by **May 15, 2025**, this includes market steers, feeder steers, bulls and dairy females.
- d) 4-H dairy steers must be identified with a county 5-digit ID tag and an RFID tag by the annual Cattle ID Day on **February 21, 2025**. All steers will be weighed at this time for the Rate of Gain competition.
- e) All Dairy females must be identified with an RFID tag and tattoo or breed identification ID. The animal must be owned or leased and under the care of the 4-H member by **May 15, 2025**.
- f) All Dairy Feeder Steers and Bulls must be identified with an RFID tag by **May 15, 2025**. All dairy feeders that intend to show at the State Fair must also have a 5-digit county tag.
- g) Premise ID numbers are required for all Dairy enrollments.
- h) All 4-H'ers who plan to exhibit dairy cattle at the State Fair must supply a DNA Hair Sample to the Extension Office by **May 15, 2025** for each animal they plan to exhibit.

HEALTH:

- a) At the time of check in with the Dairy Superintendent and for the remainder of the time at the fairgrounds, the animal must not show symptoms of a communicable disease. For more information on cattle health requirements, call the Indiana Board of Health at (877) 747-3038.
- b) Health rules as provided by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health will be followed. In case of a health question, a veterinarian will be contacted. The Dairy Superintendent can request cattle remain on the trailer until checked by a veterinarian.
- c) No cattle will be unloaded at the fair until inspected and, if necessary, approved by the Veterinarian on duty. Animals showing any sign of communicable disease will not be allowed on the fairgrounds. Warts and ringworm are not allowed.
- d) All cattle exhibiting at the fair must be dehorned or have horns or spurs that do not exceed 3 inches when entered at the fair. Dehorning or castration of animals must be done by **June 15, 2025** to exhibit at the fair.
- e) If an animal becomes ill during the fair, a veterinarian will evaluate the animal and the dairy superintendent will determine if the animal should be released.
- f) All animals at weigh-in and while exhibited at the fair must be dehorned and halter broke to the extent that they are not deemed a safety hazard to the public, other exhibitors, or their exhibitor/owner. **NO EXCEPTIONS**

GROOMING:

NEW FOR 2025

4-H Exhibitors that use groomers for show day assistance at the Clay County 4-H Fair, your groomers **WILL NOT** be required to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. However, if you plan to have groomers assistance at the State Fair, those individuals *may be required* to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. Please reach out to the Extension Office in the Spring for enrollment assistance or refer to the State Fair rule books.

PENNING:

- a) Exhibitors will furnish their own bedding materials (unless a donor is obtained).
- b) The superintendent will assign stall space and tie out space prior to cattle arriving at the fairgrounds.
- c) During fair week all cattle are required to have BOTH halter and necktie while at their assigned stall and tie out.
- d) One fan per TWO head of cattle is allowed. Fans must have proper safety shrouds. No misters or butt fans are allowed.
- e) Power washers will not be allowed in the wash racks.
- f) No stall panels, gates, or posts will be allowed in the tie out area.
- g) Muzzles and electric prodders will not be allowed.
- h) Stall assignments will be made according to Fair Entry completion after **July 1, 2025**. Penning will be assigned by family (siblings).



- i) Cows in milk may arrive at the fair either on Saturday during check-in for cattle or on the day of the dairy show between 6:00 AM and noon. Cows in milk are permitted to leave either upon conclusion of the dairy show (same day) or with the normal release of livestock.
- j) There will be a stall fee of no more than \$5 per head due upon check in at the fair. Please see your superintendent for further communication on this closer to fair.

SHOW:

- a) All cattle will use the rules and age grouping classification utilized at State Fair.
- b) Show classes will be divided into breed and/or weight classes based upon the enrollment each year. Heifers will be shown by age as listed below. The dairy superintendent will divide the classes and adjust as needed.
- c) Show order for all heifers/cows, steers, and feeder calves will be posted no later than 6:00 PM the night before the dairy show.
- d) AOB class will not be offered
- e) All animals will be weighed and/or checked in upon unloading at fair check-in. Registration papers, tags and/or tattoos, and lease agreements will be checked at this time.
- f) To show a dairy female, you must have an RFID tag, signed lease agreement if the animal is leased, and registration papers and legible tattoo if the female is registered. The registration paper and lease agreement (if applicable), must be provided upon weigh in at the fair. If you do not have the lease agreement (if applicable) or if your papers, tattoo and RFID tag does not match the Indiana 4-H Online family profile entry, that heifer/cow will be disqualified.

AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERED DAIRY FEMALES:

- **Spring Heifer Calf** - Born **March 1, 2025 to May 15, 2025**
- **Winter Heifer Calf** - Born **December 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025**
- **Fall Heifer Calf** - Born **September 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024**
- **Summer Yearling Heifer** - Born **June 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024**
- **Spring Yearling Heifer** - Born **March 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024**
- **Winter Yearling Heifer** - Born **December 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024**
- **Fall Yearling Heifer** - Born **September 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023**
- **Junior 2-year old Cow** - Born **March 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023**
- **Senior 2-year old Cow** - Born **September 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023**
- **Junior 3-year old Cow** - Born **March 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022**
- **Senior 3-year old Cow** - Born **September 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022**
- **4-Year old Cow** - Born **September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021**
- **5-Year old Cow** - Born **September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020**
- **Aged Cow Six Years and Older** - Born **prior to August 31, 2019**
- **Dry Cow** – Any milking age

- g) Steers must have milk teeth in place and will be shown by weight and shown only against dairy steers. County ID and RFID tags will be checked at the fair weigh in and if they do not match the Indiana 4-H online family profile entry, the animal will be disqualified.
- h) In addition to the grooming guidelines, no false tails and/or use of and/or addition of any type of artificial hair is prohibited. Only natural hair growing in its original location will be permitted.
- i) All 4-H livestock will be shown by current Clay County 4-H members only.
- j) The Mini 4-H Show will include members that are enrolled in the Clay Co. Mini 4-H program and have met the grade/age requirement per species as listed in their handbook. Mini 4-H members must be entered in the cattle project by **May 9, 2025** to allot time for pairing with an older 4-H member & their animal.

FEEDER CALF: DAIRY

- a) Calf must meet all Clay County 4-H and Indiana BOAH Health Requirements
- b) Animals must be owned by the 4-H member no later than **May 15, 2025**.
- c) The animal must be 100% dairy. Beef/dairy cross breeds will be shown during the beef show. Classes are for steers and bulls.
- d) All calves must be dehorned by 4-H Fair. No ruptured calves may be exhibited.
- e) Calf Age: **August 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025**. Feeder calves **must not exceed 700 lbs.** the day of fair weigh-in. If the feeder calf exceeds 700 lbs., you will be able to show them as a dairy steer.
- f) A Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be selected from the class winners. Calves will be shown by weight.
- g) Show classes will be determined by enrollment each year and at the discretion of the dairy superintendent.



- h) Calves do not have to be weaned at tagging but must be weaned by fair time.

BORN & RAISED:

- Born and Raised animals must be born and raised by the Clay County 4-H member.
- These animals will be exhibited during the steer and female show and placed. After each Champion and Reserve placing is selected, Born and Raised animals will return for Champion and Reserve Born and Raised placings as necessary.
- Exhibitors must indicate county born and raised on livestock entries through Indiana 4-H Online.

RATE OF GAIN:

The Rate of Gain class is for Steers only. The top award will go to the animal with the highest Average daily Gain between the Annual Cattle ID tag day (**February 21, 2025**) and the weigh-in at the fair.

SHOWMANSHIP:

4-H members who participate in 4-H dairy showmanship classes may only show their own animals that will be exhibited by them in a regular 4-H class.

- Junior Showmanship – 3rd through 5th graders** as of **January 1, 2025** are eligible. Once an exhibitor is the overall Junior showman, the 4-Her is only eligible to compete in the Intermediate showmanship class the following year.
- Intermediate Showmanship – 6th through 8th graders** as of **January 1, 2025** and anyone who has won Junior Showmanship. Once an exhibitor is the overall Intermediate showman, the 4-Her is only eligible to compete in the Senior showmanship class the following year.
- Senior Showmanship – 9th through 12th graders** as of **January 1, 2025** and anyone who has previously won Intermediate Showmanship. The winning 4-Her is eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions classes in the same year and future years once he or she has won senior.
- Champion of Champions Showmanship** – All previous Senior Division Champions, including the **2025** Senior Division Champion.

AWARDS

Breed Champion & Res. Champion Junior and Senior Females	Breed Grand & Res. Grand Females	Supreme – Third Overall Dairy Female	Breed Champion & Res. Champion Clay County Born & Raised Female
Supreme & Reserve Overall Clay County Born & Raised Female	Breed Champion Dairy Steers	Grand – Third Overall Dairy Steer	Champion Rate of Gain Dairy Steer
Breed Champion Feeder Steers & Feeder Bull	Grand & Res. Grand Dairy Feeder Calf	Breed Champion Feeder Steers Clay County Born & Raised	

CLAY COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION:

The Livestock Auction/Benefit for the Barns Event will be held upon the conclusion of the fair. In order to be eligible, you must show an animal at the fair and have a designated animal for auction. A small percentage auction fee will be deducted from each member's check. Detailed auction information will be finalized closer to fair.

Only Dairy Beef Steers (no feeder calves) will be eligible to participate in the Livestock Auction. Minimum weight for steers will be based on the market truck assigned. Exhibitors wishing to exhibit a Dairy Beef Steer weighing below 700 pounds must sign a release form acknowledging that their animal is not eligible for sale at the auction. Failure to sign this waiver will disqualify the animal from the beef steer show. **UNLESS A BUYER FOR THESE ANIMALS IS OBTAINED.**

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training. This is an annual program that can be completed in-person by attending one of the classes on the following dates at the Fairgrounds:

- March 19, 2025**
- April 29, 2025**
- May 22, 2025**
- June 30, 2025**



An online option is available for \$12 through the YQCA program. Once you complete this [online course](#), you must email the Extension Office your final certificate emailed to you at completion showing your certification number.

STATE FAIR:

4-H Dairy cows and heifers must be entered separately to be shown at the Indiana State Fair. Refer to the [Indiana State Fair website](#) for entry deadlines and additional rules.

REFERENCES:

[Purdue Extension Dairy Cattle Project](#)
[Indiana State Fair Book – Dairy Cattle](#)

IMPORTANT DAIRY DATES:

February 21, 2025 (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM)	Cattle ID Day at the Fairgrounds
May 9, 2025	Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the Mini dairy show.
May 15, 2025	Deadline to enroll beef cattle on y2.4Honline.com —Your enrollment will not be complete if your animals are not enrolled online. Exhibitors who fail to register their animals online before the May 15th deadline will not be eligible to exhibit at the county or state fair.
May 15, 2025	DNA Samples due to the Extension Office if going to the State Fair.
July 1, 2025	Fair Entry due on fairentury.com (where you will enter your show classes for the fair)
TBD	Deadline to register dairy online for the State Fair.
July 12 - 18, 2025	Clay County 4-H Fair
July 11, 2025 (6:00 PM - 10:00 PM)	Dairy check-in at the Clay County Fair
July 12, 2025 (7:00 AM - 9:00 AM)	Dairy check-in at the Clay County Fair
July 12, 2025	Mini 4-H Cattle Show
July 15, 2025	Dairy show at the Clay County Fair
July 17, 2025 (9:00 PM)	Dairy released
July 18, 2025	Clay County livestock auction
August 1 - 17, 2025	Indiana State Fair
August 10, 2025	State Fair Dairy show



Clay County Terms & Conditions