



Dairy

Description:

The 4-H Dairy program provides youth with educational information and experiences about different Dairy species.

Decatur County Expectations

Animal Livestock Record Sheets are to be completed and returned at check-in. Youth will have cared for and fed one (1) or more animals by May 15th (or earlier for weigh-in).

State Fair Entries

An animal does not need to be shown locally in order to be shown at the state fair. If you do not show at the county level, the animal must still be registered by May 15th in 4-H Online.

Exhibit Guidelines

Lease Requirements for the County and Indiana State Fair: The Dairy lease program is only for 4-H members who do not own dairy cows and/or heifers. Only dairy heifer that will be less than two years-of-age at the time of the county and Indiana State Fair 4-H Dairy Show may be leased. Leasing a dairy heifer will be considered the equivalent of ownership. The 4-H member should be regularly involved in the care of the heifer, regardless of where the heifer is kept, and the 4-H member should have exclusive show rights to the heifer during the 4-H lease period from May 15th until the 4-H Dairy Show at the Indiana State Fair. Leased 4-H dairy heifers must be registered (although it is not necessary to have the registration paper transferred to the 4-H member's name) by May 15th and under the registration number listed on the 4-H member's dairy enrollment form. At check-in during the county and state fair, the 4-H member with a leased dairy heifer must provide the heifer's registration paper and lease agreement signed by them and the person they are leasing the heifer from. **Lease forms are provided by the Decatur County Extension Office.**

General Dairy Rules: Cows in milk may be brought in the day of the show and released the day of the show if the exhibitor has more than one animal. All dairy animals must meet health requirements as listed in the Official Health Requirements. All dairy animals will be shown by breed and released following the Tom Swain Contest. The Danish system, or group judging, will be continued in the 4-H classes. No bull classes are available in the 4-H dairy show. Any animal over two years of age which have received Grand Championship honors at this show in previous years are ineligible for further champion competition.

For information on YQCA or Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care or grounds fee (only dairy members that will be stalling their animals need to complete this form), please refer to the general livestock rules listed on the website. Additional questions and situations will be handled by the species

livestock Project Leaders, 4-H & Youth Development Extension Educator, and the 4-H Council President.

Exhibit Class Guidelines:

Rules For All Breed Classes

The Grand Champion will be allowed to auction one (1) gallon of milk in the 4-H Livestock Auction. The Reserve Grand Champion will be allowed to auction one (1) pound of cheese in the 4-H Livestock Auction. Division of the proceeds will be announced later. All breed classes will be shown in the following order:

Ayrshire
Brown Swiss
Guernsey
Holstein
Jersey
Milking Shorthorn

The following age class information and breed must be selected in Fair Entry:

5 year and older cow: born prior to August 31st, 2020

4-year-old cow: born between September 1st, 2020 – August 31st, 2021

3-year-old cow: born between September 1st, 2021 – August 31st, 2022

2-year-old cow: born between September 1st, 2022 – February 28th, 2023

Junior 2-year-old cow: born between March 1st, 2022 – August 31st, 2022

Senior Yearling: born between September 1st, 2023 – November 30th, 2023

Intermediate Yearling: born between December 1st – February 28th, 2024

Junior Yearling: born between March 1st, 2023 – May 31st, 2024

Summer Junior Yearling: born between June 1st, 2024 – August 31, 2024

Senior Calf: born between September 1st, 2024 – November 30th, 2024

Fall Senior Calf: born between December 1st, 2024 – February 28th, 2025

Junior Calf: born by March 1st, 2025 (at least 4 months old)

Dairy Showmanship Contest

The 4-H Showmanship Contest will be held after the show, with all exhibitors eligible to compete. After winning Beginner, Intermediate or Senior Showmanship, the contestant must move to the next level the following year. Expert Showmanship may be won any number of times. Winners of each class are eligible to advance to the next level in the same year. The following categories are for grades completed:

Beginner Showmanship: 3rd – 5th Grade

Intermediate Showmanship: 6th – 8th Grade

Senior Showmanship: 9th – 12th Grade

Expert Showmanship: Anyone who has won Senior Showmanship

Showmanship Point System

Points, which will be considered in making dairy showmanship awards, are broken into three categories listed below:

Fitting: animal in good condition, but not overly fat. Appearance – clean hide and hair well-groomed showing lots of bloom. Clipping – animal is properly clipped (clip only those parts which are necessary to bring out desirable dairy characteristics). Hoofs and horns properly trimmed and polished.

Training: showman is always on alert, watches both animal and judge. Poses animal to bring out good points and minimize poor points. When standing, animal has head up and stand squarely on all four feet. Neat and attractive halter. Showman is neatly dressed.

Things To Avoid: overwork of animal. Attention straying from animal and judge. Do not use a show stick.