

DAIRY

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be *BOLDED and ITALICIZED*! Pay special attention to any projects with *BOLD, ITALICIZED WORDS* because they have changed from last year.

The educational 4-H dairy program and related activities (such as workshops and tours) provide youth a fun and hands-on learning experience. This project develops both dairy subject skills (such as nutrition, housing, and health care) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communications).

| Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for Dairy | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Division/Level | Grades | Completion Activities Needed | Maximum State Fair Entries |
| Level 1 | Grades 3-5 | EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET | Check IN State Fair Website |
| Level 2 | Grades 6-8 | EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET | Check IN State Fair Website |
| Level 3 | Grades 9-12 | EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET | Check IN State Fair Website |

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or shop4-h.org)

- Level 1: Cowabunga!
- Level 2: Mooving Ahead
- Level 3: Rising to the Top

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Livestock and Animal Section for General Guidelines related to all livestock projects. See 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-HOnline and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date.
2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1st at 11:59 p.m.
3. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
4. If wanting to exhibit a poster/display/notebook related to this species, 4-H members may do so under the “Animal Education” Project. (see page 24 for details)

DAIRY TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Each 4-H member's registered dairy cattle that are enrolled must contain the registration number (or dam's registration number) or tattoo number for each animal they are enrolling in the 4-H program. This number must match the corresponding number on the animal's enrollment during check-in at the Hendricks County Fair in order for the animal to be eligible for the 4-H dairy show. Unregistered Dairy Cattle that are enrolled are only allowed to show at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair. 4-H'ers who enroll unregistered dairy cattle need to complete the prompts via the 4-H Animal Enrollment website. All Dairy Cattle must have an 840-RFID tag and have that 840-RFID tag number entered into 4-HOnline by May 15th in order to show at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair as well as the Indiana State Fair. Any Dairy Heifer that will be exhibited at the Indiana State Fair must also submit DNA Hair Sample to the Extension Office by designated date!
2. All guidelines will be in accordance with THE PUREBRED DAIRY CATTLE ASSOCIATION SHOW RING CODE OF ETHICS. Read official health terms and conditions and general terms and conditions located in the front of the Hendricks County Handbook. Especially the terms and conditions concerning tampering, misrepresentation, conduct, drugs, etc.
3. Dairy animals may be any one (1) of the following breeds: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey or Milking Shorthorn. A 4-H'er may show more than one (1) dairy breed, but they may not show more than one (1) animal in each of the age group classes listed on the following pages under AGE GROUP CLASSES. Any other breed of Dairy cattle will be exhibited in an AOB (All Other Breeds) Class.
4. Senior yearling heifers that are “in milk” must show in the cow class.
5. 4-H Lease forms must be brought into the Extension Office prior to May 15th. 4-H animals purchased, sold or offered for sale after the enrollment deadline and prior to the Indiana State Fair shall not be eligible to show at the State Fair. 4-H animals exhibited after the animal enrollment deadline (May 15 for all animals) at any show by anyone other than the person listed on the Indiana 4-H animal enrollment form will not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the county or Indiana State Fair. The term/condition does not apply to siblings and parents, who may show each other's animals at any show during the year without jeopardizing state fair eligibility. This policy applies to all 4-H animal projects. For animal projects without enrollment options, the person who enters them in the county or Indiana State Fair 4-H show is the equivalent of the enroller of the

animals. Family corporations and/or partnerships of the 4-H club member with a parent or unrelated persons are accepted for breeding animals in 4-H dairy classes. Dairy cows and heifers owned in a partnership may not be exhibited by more than one person from May 15 until conclusion of the State Fair 4-H Dairy Show. This person must be the exhibitor of the animal in the current Hendricks County 4-H Dairy Show or the animal will be ineligible for this show.

6. The Dairy lease program is only for 4-H members who do not own their own dairy cows and/or heifers. Leasing a dairy cow/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 cows and/or heifer is kept, and the 4-H member should have exclusive show rights to the heifer during the 4-H lease period from May 15 through the 4-H dairy show at the Indiana State Fair. Leased 4-H dairy cow/heifers must be enrolled (although it is not necessary to have the registration paper transferred to the 4-H member's name) by May 15 with their registration number or tattoo number listed on the 4-H member's dairy enrollment. At check-in during the Hendricks County Fair, the 4-H member with a leased dairy cow/heifer must provide the lease agreement signed by them and the person they are leasing the heifer from. PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU PLAN TO EXHIBIT A LEASED ANIMAL AT THE STATE FAIR, REVIEW THE STATE FAIR LEASING GUIDELINES. THEY ARE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN HENDRICKS COUNTY LEASING PROGRAM.
7. Registration papers must be made available upon request for checking ear tags, tattoos or color patterns at the stalls on the afternoon before the 4-H dairy show. Dairy cows/ heifers whose ear tags, tattoos or color patterns do not match their enrollment and registered breed characteristics will be disqualified from the 4-H dairy show.
8. Sand will not be permitted in the cattle barn.
9. It is recommended that 4-H exhibitors wear white pants or slacks in the dairy show ring. White or colored shirts with 4-H emblems and/or breed insignias are permissible.

AGE GROUP CLASSES

- Spring heifer calf — born March 1, 2025 or later (at least 4 months old)
- 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 29, 2023
- 3-year-old cow - born September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022
- 4-year-old cow - born September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021
- 5-year-old cow & over — born prior to August 31, 2020

4-H DAIRY SHOWMANSHIP

- See Page 134