

# Dairy

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**State Fair Entry:** Yes

**Animal Check In:** Friday, July 4, 2025; 9:00AM-12:00PM, Dairy Barn, Kosciusko County Fairgrounds

**Show Day:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025; 1:00PM, Show Arena, Kosciusko County Fairgrounds

**Dairy Skill-a-thon:** Monday, July 7, 2025 7:00PM Show Arena

**All Dairy Heifers must be stalled:** Friday, July 4, 2025 9:00AM-12:00PM

**All Milk Cows\* must be checked in:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025 by 8:00AM

\*All Milk Cows must be on the grounds and stalled by 8:00AM Wednesday July 9, 2025

1. All dairy cows and heifers must be registered in the 4-H member's name unless it is a leased animal and the registration papers in the possession of the exhibitor by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. The members' 4-H Online account for registered animals only must include 840 RFID tag number plus registration number, tattoo or ear tag number and birthdate in order for the animal to be eligible to show as a registered female to show at the county and State Fair. County fair only grade (non-registered) heifers must have a tag, tattoo or 840 RFID number and birthdate to be exhibited at the county fair only. A 4-H member may show more than 1 breed, but may not show more than 1 animal in each breed class.
3. Registration papers of a registered animal's sires and dams must be the same breed.
4. All grade animals will show by breed characteristics determined by the majority of the dairy committee and will show in the same classes as registered animals.
5. All dairy animals must remain stalled until the completion of the entire dairy show and must be removed no later than one hour before the auction starts. Exception of the Sale of Champion animals.
6. A senior champion of the breed must be represented for a Grand Champion to be selected. Grand Champion animals will be selected from junior and/or senior champion animals. The junior champion animals will be brought back for Grand Champion at the Judge's discretion.
7. Nothing should be attached to the walls or center divider (nails, bolts, tape, glue, etc.) without first having barn committee approval.
8. Only dairy and dairy calf feeder steer committee members may adjust or turn fans on or off. Fans generally affect more than one person's animals. Please ask for assistance from a committee member.
9. No automatic water devices will be allowed in the Dairy barn.
10. Since the Dairy Barn no longer has a milking facility or any portable milking equipment, all 4-H members will be responsible for finding their own portable milkers and will be responsible for the disposal of their milk away from the fairgrounds. No milk can be disposed of anywhere on the fairgrounds. If a dairy member is unable to locate any portable milkers, he or she will need to contact the Dairy Superintendent as soon as possible, before the fair begins.

## **Non-Ownership General Rules:**

1. The purpose of the 4-H Non-Ownership Dairy Project is to provide an opportunity for 4-H youth who do not live on a dairy farm to care for and show a dairy animal without the animal being transferred into the youth's name. This is an annual project, so a new lease agreement must be completed and submitted each year.
2. The Dairy lease program is only for 4-H members who do not own their own dairy cows and/or heifers. 4-H members may not enroll both leased and owned dairy animals. Only dairy heifers that will be less than two (2) years-of-age at the time of the 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 15 through 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 15 with their registration number listed on the 4-H member's 4HOnline profile. At check-in during the Indiana State Fair, the 4-H member with a leased dairy heifer must provide the heifer's registration paper and a lease agreement signed by them and the person they are leasing the heifer from. KOSCIUSKO COUNTY 4-H'ERS MAY LEASE GRADE DAIRY HEIFERS FOR OUR COUNTY FAIR. KOSCIUSKO COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS MAY SHOW LEASED COWS IF THEY HAVE BEEN ENROLLED AND SHOWED AS A HEIFER PRIOR TO THE CURRENT 4-H YEAR BY THE

SAME 4-H MEMBER. 4-H animals purchased, sold or offered for sale after the identification 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 identification deadline (May 15) at any show, by anyone other than the person listed on the Indiana 4-H enrollment form will not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. This 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. Dairy cows and heifers owned in a partnership may not be exhibited by more than one person from May 15 until conclusion at the State Fair 4-H Dairy Show. As of 2023, leased dairy cows may be shown as long as the animal was shown by the same 4-H'er from the 2021 Indiana 4-H program year.

3. The agreement between the 4-H member and a dairy producer should include such terms as may best fit their partnership conditions.
4. The lease agreement is to be completed and turned in to the Extension Office on or before May 15<sup>th</sup>. All leases will be reviewed by the Dairy Committee. Those turning in Lease Agreement Forms after the deadline or incomplete will forfeit in NO POINTS, NO AUCTION, AND NO STATE FAIR.
5. The animals and 4-H members must meet and comply with all other rules of the shows they enter.

#### **Female Dairy Cattle Classes:**

Aged cow 6-years & older - born prior to 9/1/19

5-year-old-born prior to 9/1/19-8/31/20

4-year-old-born 9/1/20-8/31/21

Senior 3-year-old-born 9/1/21-2/28/22

Junior 3-year-old-born 3/1/22-8/31/22

Senior 2-year-old cow-born 9/1/22-2/28/23

Junior 2-year-old cow-born 3/1/23-8/31/23

Fall yearling-born 9/1/23-11/30/23

Winter yearling-born 12/1/23-2/29/24

Spring yearling-born 3/1/24-5/31/24

Summer yearling-born 6/1/24-8/31/24

Fall calf-born 9/1/24-11/30/24

Winter calf-born 12/1/24-2/28/25

Spring calf born 3/1/25 or later (must be born before 4/1/25 for Kosciusko County Fair) (must be at least 4 months old on day of state fair show)

#### **Breed Classes:**

Ayrshire

Brown Swiss

Jersey

Guernsey

Holstein

Milking Shorthorn

Red and White Holstein (County Only)

**Special Class:** Dam and Daughter consists of one (1) heifer and its dam

**Special Class:** Produce of Dam consists of a minimum of two (2) animals of any age or gender which are the produce of one (1) dam

The Jason Mithoefer Memorial Award will be awarded to the Master Showman.

#### **Dairy Product Skill-a-Thon:**

Dairy Product Contest will follow the master showman contest on Tuesday evening.

1. Divisions:
  - a. Rookie – Up to Grade 2
  - b. Junior – Grades 3-6
  - c. Senior – Grades 7-12
  - d. Open – Above grade 12
2. Grade is based on the school calendar year 2024-2025.
3. Instructions will be given to each division at the beginning of the contest.
4. All divisions will be run simultaneously.
5. Dairy Skills will consist of multiple skill areas.
6. Each division will have one winner and there will be one overall winner.

#### **Premier Exhibitor Contest (NEW):**

**Division:**

- Junior – Grades 3-5
- Intermediate – Grades 6-8
- Senior – Grades 9-12

The 4-H Dairy Premier Exhibitor Contest aims to provide youth with a comprehensive learning experience that goes beyond showing animals in the ring. The dairy industry requires knowledge in areas such as animal evaluation, breeding, record keeping, and ethical care, all of which are essential for successful dairy management. This contest encourages youth to explore multiple aspects of dairy production.

By participating in various educational opportunities, youth exhibitors can deepen their practical and technical skills, fostering a holistic understanding of the dairy industry. The contest format not only promotes competition but also supports collaboration and lifelong learning, ensuring that participants are well-prepared for future agricultural endeavors. These objectives help build critical thinking, responsibility, and problem-solving abilities, while also promoting career exploration in agriculture, making the contest an invaluable addition to the 4-H Dairy Program.

**Requirements:**

1. Eligible 4-H members must be properly enrolled in 4-H and in the 4-H Dairy Project by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. Eligible 4-H members must be enrolled in FairEntry by June 15h.
3. Exhibit at least one dairy project animal at the Kosciusko County Fair.
4. Participate in the Kosciusko County 4-H Dairy Show Showmanship classes (150 points).
5. Complete the Kosciusko County 4-H Dairy Skill-A-Thon Contest (150 points).
6. Complete a dairy industry knowledge exam (150 points).

**Additional Points may be obtained from participating in the following:**

- Kosciusko County 4-H Dairy Judging Team (100 points)
- Attending 4-H Dairy Workshops (25 points/workshop)
- 4-H Dairy Foods Project (50 points)
- 4-H Homemade Ice Cream Project (50 points)
- Junior Dairy Committee (75 points)
- Volunteer at Taste of Ag (25 points)
- Jr. Leaders (25 points)
- Participation in other local workshops/clinics/Dairy Shows (not QLC or YQCA) \*  
*\*Documentation from club leaders will be required. Proof of out of county shows, clinics and contests will be required.*
- Showmanship Points Scale (150 points)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place = 150
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 140
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 130
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place = 120
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place = 110
  - 6<sup>th</sup> place = 100
  - 7<sup>th</sup> place = 90
  - 8<sup>th</sup> place = 80
  - 9<sup>th</sup> place = 70
  - 10<sup>th</sup> place = 60
  - All others = 50 points
- Participation in outside activities:  
Members may earn bonus points by participating in various county and state level activities. One bonus point will be awarded for every activity participated in. Documentation would be required to be turned in for points to be awarded.

**Ties:** Exhibitors will complete a tiebreaker station at Skill-A-Thon. Scoring from the tiebreaker station will only be used to help break ties for the overall rankings of each division Premier Exhibitor.