



Dairy Activity Sheet - 2024

Level 3 - Grades 9-12

Due May 24 to the Extension Office



\$1.00

What you will do in this project:

- Enroll in the 4-H program by January 15.
- Complete a minimum of 2 activities on this Dairy Activity Sheet and turn it into the Extension Office **by May 24** or earlier. This activity sheet consists of activities, and record sheet.
- Attend County 4-H Dairy workshops when offered.
- Recommend that the 4-H family purchase and review the project resource manual.
- Refer to the Allen County 4-H Rules Book for a complete listing of all regulations concerning this project.
- To show heifers or cows at the County Fair or Indiana State Fair identify animals in Indiana 4honline by May 15.
- To show heifers or cows at the County Fair level complete FairEntry online by the May 24, 2024 deadline.
- All Dairy Cattle shown at the Allen County Fair and the Indiana State Fair must have an 840 RFID tag.
- To exhibit beef, dairy, swine, goats, sheep, llama/alpaca, horse and pony, rabbits, and poultry, 4-H members must be certified either through the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program or Indiana's Quality Livestock Care program. These are annual programs that can be completed via online modules or in-person trainings. For more information about in-person trainings in your county, please contact your County Extension Office. More information about YQCA is available at <http://yqcaprogram.org>. If completing online, please email a copy to your county extension educator. Must be done by May 24, 2024.

Management Tips:

- Each dairy farm has their own methods of feeding and raising the cattle, make sure you follow carefully the methods and practices of that farm.
- Make sure the cattle are feed twice daily according to their growth rate and condition.
- Provide clean, fresh water to cattle at all times.
- Provide hay for roughage.
- Check daily for sickness, unusual things, or change in behavior.
- If out in pasture, provide protection from adverse weather conditions.
- Make sure pens are well cleaned and bedded at all times.
- Practice washing and brushing cattle before the fair for a soft and shiny coat of hair.
- Clip your show cattle far enough in advance of the fair to give time for the hair to grow back. Full body clipping is usually done 30 to 60 days before the fair.
- Exercise cattle daily in the coolness of the morning and evening, not in the heat of the day to avoid stressing your cattle.
- Practice posing your heifers and cows correctly. Practice leading your cattle with you walking backwards. Walking forward may also be used. Remember to walk slowly.

4-H Member: _____ 4-H Club: _____

Grade in School (January 1, 2024) _____ Years in this project _____

Signature of 4-H Member verifying that you have completed these activities:

Signature of Parent that you have reviewed this information:

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4-H Animal Care:

The Indiana 4-H program strongly supports positive animal care and strongly opposes animal abuse. 4-H is also dedicated to the mission of developing youth and volunteers through “Learning by Doing” programs. 4-H livestock projects teach life skills such as acquiring knowledge, making decisions, and applying leadership skills.

- When working and caring for animals, it is important to insure that appropriate safety measures are in place for both the animals and the persons who care for them. Therefore, there is no substitute for knowledge, common sense, and experience.
- Animal handlers should study and learn to anticipate an animal’s reaction and try and avoid problem situations. It is most important that 4-H members understand an animal’s behavior so one can “outsmart” not “out-muscle” an animal. Foremost in the 4-H’er mind should always be safety of the handler and the animal. Moving animals is more of an art than a science. Movement of animals requires planning and knowledge to accomplish it with the least amount of time, effort and stress to the animal.
- An animal’s good health is often directly related to the environmental factors associated with its living space. The presence of predators, dust, odors, pests, temperature, and humidity has a direct effect on an animal’s well-being.
- Animals react favorably to daily care and comfortable housing. Consideration should also be given to specific animal needs such as size of their housing space, lighting, and ventilation. The best facilities and equipment cannot and should not be a substitute for daily observation and careful attention to signs of illness, injury, and/or unusual behavior.
- Frequent consultation with your veterinarian is a must. Reasonable attention must always be given to the use of drugs and their approved withdrawal times.



Manure Management

In today’s society manure management is not only an issue for the dairy farmers and their farm, but also with their local community. Dairy farmers have a role to play in their community’s acceptance of animal agriculture. Yes, your dairy farm may have been in the same location for years, but with urban development these new neighbors are not



aware of what livestock farms may produce. As a dairy farmer you need to be an advocate for sound animal husbandry and environmentally friendly practices. The public concern is very important. Your neighbor could shut you down if they feel you are not taking care of your farm properly.

Why it is important to understand the volume of manure produced by dairy animals?

If you were to build a manure storage structure, what three items must you consider:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Manure systems are important on dairy farms. These systems must be able to handle _____, _____, and _____ used on the dairy farm. Manure systems can be categorized as _____ or _____. Every farm that has any livestock on it does have one, if not both of these in use.

When building manure storage structure there are federal regulations that you must abide by. Each state may also have stricter regulations to follow. What organization enforces these regulations?

Federal regulations are also in existence for Animal Feeding Operations. They are watching CAFO's closely. What does CAFO stand for? _____ -
_____. These large farms also bring down the regulation on the smaller farms like your farm.

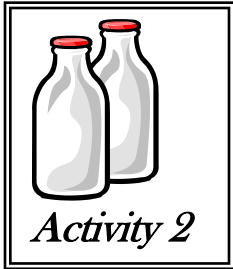
A dairy farmer needs to keep in mind two important areas with their manure and how it affects their property and property around their farm. These two areas are under watch by the USEPA. Name the two areas being watched _____ &
_____. Besides the USEPA being involved in manure management, what other government organizations might become involved if there is a manure management problem on your farm _____ &
_____.

Briefly describe how your farm handles manure. You might state what system you have in use, how often you clean your areas, have you put up a manure storage building, etc.

We need to make sure as dairy farmers, we pay attention to how we handle our manure. We need to create goodwill within our community among our neighbors. As dairy farmers we have a role to play in the general public's acceptance of animal agriculture.

Reference: Chapter 9 –OSU Dairy Resource Handbook

Milk Production and Mammary Health



What are the three roles of the mammary system:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

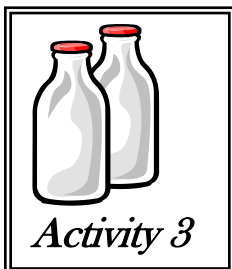
The udder of a cow may hold how many pounds of milk? _____ -
Why are the suspensory ligaments so important to a cow and the dairy farmer?

Your cow needs to be kept healthy, comfortable and relaxed to let down her milk properly. When your cow feels her best, her pituitary gland releases _____. This process is known as _____.

A dairy farmer needs to protect their cows from _____. This is an inflammation or infection of the mammary gland caused by _____. Name two types of mastitis _____ & _____. There are tests to check for mastitis. List the three most common tests _____, _____, and _____. There are two types of mastitis –causing organisms. Identify them and list some of the prevention management practices of each.

1. _____
2. _____

To ensure a market for the future, dairy farmers must always be aware of what the consumer would think of their farm and their milking procedure. _____, _____ and _____ combine to help ensure that quality milk is produced, cow and udder health remains good, and the dairy farm can be as profitable as possible. Remember that how you care for your dairy animals with their health and housing has a major impact in the public eye. You are producing an item that helps maintain the human body. If you do not keep proper care, your farm could be in danger.



Feeding Systems

Okay, by now you have been around your dairy animals long enough to know how to feed them. There are three main systems that your animals may be fed by. That is grazing, forage and grain fed separately, and by total mixed rations (TMR). It is possible that you may use all three ways or a combination of these.

Describe each of the feedings systems:

Grazing: _____

Forage and grain fed separately: _____

Total mixed ration (TMR) _____

No matter what type of feeding system is used, management is the key to success. Your milk production and profit that your farm makes depends on how you feed your animals.

What is balanced ration? _____

Most of the time your local feed dealer has a nutritionist who will figure out your balanced ration. This may change periodically due to the moisture of your silage, haulage and other feed you may add in your ration. Sometimes an analysis of your feed needs to be done at the feed lab to determine your requirements. Your animals requirements are needed to keep them healthy.

There are many different feedstuffs to be fed to your animals. Below are listed just a few. You need to finish filling in the chart with the information you find in your resource book. You might even learn about some feedstuffs that you do not use on your farm.

Name of Feed	Color	Texture	Other Characteristics
Soybean Meal			By-product after removing oil from oil seeds; 44% crude protein (CP) soybean meal= soybean meal plus soybean hulls; 48% CP=soybean meal without hulls.
	Green		Large Cubes with noticeable hay particples pressed together
White Salt		Granular	
	Brown	Flaky	By-Product from making beer from grains; particles more oblong than for soybean hulls
Cottonseed Meal		Granular to Powdery	
Ground Corn			
Urea	White Dark Brown		Sweet smell; high in sugar; made from sugar beets (most common source) or sugar cane

ALLEN COUNTY 4-H

LIVESTOCK RECORD



Records serve as a way to measure your own success with a project. When answering these questions, you should be able to see where improvements can be made for next year and if you wish to continue with this project for another year.

For this Project Record:

Why did you choose to raise and care for these animals this year?

How many animals did you manage during the past 12 months? _____

How many were market animals? _____

How many were breeding animals? _____

How many animals did you purchase or add during the past 12 months? _____

Did you purchase these animals alone or in partnership with someone else? _____

If you did purchase animals, why and how did you determine which animals to buy?

Did you sell any of your animals during the past 12 months? _____

If yes, how did you find a buyer for your animals?

Describe improvements you made to your animal's housing during the past 12 months.
(Include equipment, buildings, land, etc...)

List two new things that you learned about your project animals or the breed that you did not know before.

1.

2.

Where did you go to find more information about the care of your animals?

What health practices did you use with your animals the past 12 months?

In regards to raising these animals, what is one thing you will do differently the next 12 months that you did not do this past 12 months?

Premise ID Number where cattle are coming from _____

____ Completed 4honline enrollment by January 15, 2024

____ Completed Animal ID in 4honline by May 15, 2024

____ Completed Fair Entry on line by May 24, 2024