Dairy

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

Rules & Responsibilities

Failure to meet the expectations outlined below will result in ineligibility to show, or participate in the livestock auction, and forfeit any winnings.

General Dairy Rules: 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. 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.

Enrollment Deadline: All 4-H Dairy animals must be properly enrolled via 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. Animals not enrolled correctly will be ineligible to show at the county and state fair. Lease agreements and DNA hair samples (if applicable) must be submitted by May 15th to the Decatur County Extension Office.

Possession/Ownership: 4-H animals exhibited after May 15th by anyone other than the participating 4-H member, sibling or parent, will not be eligible to show at the county level. The term sibling is defined as any youth member who shares the same 4-H family profile information.

Animal Care Expectations: All exhibitors are responsible for timely feeding, watering throughout the day, and keeping stalls clean at all times. Failure to meet these expectations will result in a documented written warning from the project leader and 4-H Extension. Along with forfeiting your right to show, participate in the livestock auction, and removal of your animal from the barn.

Grooming: 4-H exhibitors may receive clipping and grooming assistance from members of their immediate family (father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, legal guardian, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, grandfather, step-grandfather, grandmother, step-grandmother, aunt, or uncle), from a current Indiana 4-H member, and/or another 4-H members' immediate family.

Grounds Fee/Stalling: Members must complete the grounds fee form and return it to the Extension office with payment by the specified date in order to reserve stalling space.

a. Cows in milk will be brought in the day of the show and released the day of the show.
b. Cows in milk will be stalled under tent on the east side of the livestock pavilion.
c. The tent area where the cows are stalled must be cleaned up after the show.

Arrival & Inspection: All animals must have a visual inspection by a veterinarian or approved species project leader upon arrival and check-in. Any animal deemed sick or uncontrollable by the livestock project leader may be sent home. Any animal with an abscess, ringworm, etc., will not be permitted to exhibit or show unless written clearance is presented and signed by a licensed veterinarian.

Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care/YQCA: In order to exhibit livestock, the county and state require that all 4-H Livestock exhibitors must be certified through YQCA or Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care programs.

Exhibit Guidelines

Tagging: All Dairy cattle must have an 840-RFID tag, which can be obtained from the Extension office, and enrolled by the May 15th deadline.

State Fair Requirements for Registered Dairy Females must have the 840-RFID tag, animal's registered name, registration number, and DNA hair samples.

The tagging information must be accurately listed in the 4-H online system. It might be helpful to take a photo of the tag before placing it in the animal's ear or write it down so that you have a record of it.

Animal ownership and Registration for the County and Indiana State Fair: Each 4-H member shall own (or lease) his/her own exhibit. The ownership or leased agreement must be in effect on or before the county and state identification deadlines and continue through the State Fair 4-H Dairy show. 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. 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 State Fair Dairy Show or the animal will be ineligible for this show.

a. The Dairy lease program is only for 4-H members who do not own dairy cows and/or heifers. 4-H members may **not** enroll both leased and owned dairy animals. As of 2023, leased dairy cows may be shown as long as the animal was shown by the same 4-Her from the 2020 Indiana 4-H program year and forward). Leasing a dairy female will be considered the equivalent of ownership. 4-H animals (horse and pony, dairy, alpacas, and llamas) are only eligible to be leased by one individual 4-H member in a given 4-H program year.
b. 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 with their registration number listed on the 4-H member's 4-H Online profile in the animal identification section under dairy species. 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 lease agreement signed by them and the person they are leasing the heifer from. **Lease forms are provided by the Decatur County Extension Office.**

Registration Paper Requirements: All registered animals must bring registration papers to check-in to show. 4-H ownership should be listed on these registration forms in one of the following approved methods:

- In the 4-H member's name
- Joh Smith and Sons
- John Smith, Sons and Daughters
- John Smith and Family
- Mark Smith (brother) and Mary Smith (sister)
- Family Corporations (the 4-H members' name appears as a holder of stock in the corporation)

- Family Partnerships (the 4-H members' name appears on legal, notarized partnership)

Exhibit Class Guidelines:

Rules For All Breed Classes

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, 2021

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

Jr & Sr 3-year-old cow: born between September 1st, 2022 – August 31st, 2023

2-year-old cow: born between September 1st, 2023 – February 28th, 2024

Junior 2-year-old cow: born between March 1st, 2024 – August 31st, 2024

Fall Yearling: born between September 1st, 2024 – November 30th, 2024

Winter Yearling: born between December 1st , 2024 – February 28th, 2025

Spring Yearling: born between March 1st, 2025 – May 31st, 2025

Summer Yearling: born between June 1st, 2025 – August 31, 2025

Fall Heifer Calf: born between September 1st, 2025 – November 30th, 2025

Winter Heifer Calf: born between December 1st, 2025 – February 28th, 2026

Spring Heifer Calf: born by March 1st, 2026 – May 15, 2026

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

A 4-H livestock member must show their own animal during showmanship in their enrolled species if present at the fair. However, a species member may also borrow a non-state fair animal that is registered in 4-H Online to compete in their division of showmanship in the case that their own animal had died, gone lame, deemed unsafe or was rejected during check-in. The Project Leader(s) and Extension Educator will work with the family and 4-H member to determine the best solution for the 4-H member and family.

Mini 4-H Requirements

To be eligible to show in the mini 4-H Dairy show, the participating Mini 4-H member must be enrolled in 4-H online by May 15th. Minis can use an animal that has been entered in 4-H online and is properly tagged. The mini 4-H member can used their own animal, a family member's animal, or a borrowed animal. If the mini 4-H member's animal's weight exceeds 300 pounds, a parent or guardian must enter the show ring with the mini 4-H member. The mini 4-H show will be shown before the Dairy Breed Classes.

Auction Guidelines

The Overall Dairy Grand Champion will be allowed to auction one (1) gallon of milk or an assortment of dairy products in the 4-H Livestock Auction. The Overall Dairy Reserve Grand Champion will be allowed to auction one (1) pound of cheese or an assortment of dairy products in the 4-H Livestock Auction. Dairy members do have the option to choose whether they want to participate in the auction. If Grand and/or Reserve decide not to participate in auction as an individual, they can be included in the Dairy Group.

Division of the proceeds will be half to Grand, half to Reserve Grand, the remaining two halves will be divided with the remaining Dairy members that don't already have an item in the auction and want to participate in the auction. In the event that Grand and Reserve are won by the same exhibitor, Grand will receive full amount and Reserve will be divided among the remaining Dairy members that don't already have an item in the auction and want to participate in the auction.

Any additional questions and situations regarding the above mentioned rules and responsibilities, guidelines and requirements will be handled by the Dairy Project Leader(s), 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator and the 4-H Council President.

Fraud and Deception

Fraud and/or deception will not be allowed relative to 4-H exhibits. Fraud and/or deception being defined to include, but not limited to, the following terms:

Tampering (altering) and/or misrepresentation relative to an animal's breeding, age, ownership, and/or method of preparation or completion.

Artificial enhancements of adding, removing and/or remedying physical filling under the skin, use of artificial heels, methods to give the appearance of hair in locations where it is not grown naturally and false swatches.

Unethical fitting of animal exhibits considered as consisting of administration of any substance (this includes, but is not limited to, carbonated beverages, alcoholic beverages, forced consumption of water, etc.) or performance of any surgical procedure, altering the animal's conformation and/or rendering its tissue unfit for human consumption at the time of exhibition or subsequent slaughter. Exceptions include hoof trimming, dehorning, removal of hair, manipulation of normally attached hair, and treatments or surgical procedures applied to relive pain and suffering of sick or injured animal, providing such treatments do not render the animal's tissue unit for human consumption.

Determination of Fraud & Deception

Species Project Leader(s), Extension Youth Educator & 4-H Council President will determine if fraud and deception have occurred. Any suspected animals may be required, upon conclusion of judging, to submit to examination or tests as prescribed by the 4-H Council. If the Project Leader(s) determines that fraud and deception have occurred, the result may be disqualification.

Penalty: upon determination that fraud and/or deception has occurred prior to, during, or after judging, any one or more of the following penalties may be imposed:

- The exhibit in question may be immediately disqualified
- The exhibit may not be allowed to be sold in the Livestock Auction
    - In the case of an exhibit already sold at the Livestock auction, the exhibitor may be required to refund/return all sale money in excess of market value to the Decatur County 4-h Council; at the discretion of the Decatur County Livestock Committee, the money will be returned to the buyer (placings of other exhibits will not be adjusted as a result of the imposition of this penalty).
- Any or all premiums, trophies and awards won by the exhibitor in any or all Fair departments may be withdrawn and required to be refunded or returned to the species Project Leader(s).
- The 4-H Exhibitor may be barred from the competition at the Decatur County 4-H Exhibition shows in the project where the fraud or deception for up to three years.

Due Process

The assessment of any or all penalties for fraud and/or deception, excepting immediate disqualification shall follow the below listed processes:

- The director in charge of the department will determine which penalties to impose.
- The exhibitor will be notified in writing of the penalties imposed.
- Within 15 days of receiving written notification, the exhibitor may appeal the decision in writing to the Decatur County 4-H Council.
- A date will be set for the hearing by the 4-H Council and the exhibitor will be notified in writing.