



DAIRY CATTLE

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT: Scotty Hollis, scotty.hollis@wareinc.com

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT: _____

STATE FAIR ENTRIES: All livestock for STATE FAIR must be properly identified and enrolled.

Project Description:

The 4-H Dairy educational program and related activities (such as workshops, tours, etc.) provide youth a fun and hands-on learning experience which develops both dairy subject skills (such as nutrition, housing, and health care) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communications) under the direction of caring adult volunteers.

Levels:

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

Project Guidelines:

- To exhibit at the county and state fair 4-H members showing beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine, must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Program or the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). The purpose of this program: Youth will be more prepared to be ambassadors for animal agriculture in their role as youth livestock exhibitors; Animals from youth livestock programs are treated with the utmost care; 4-H members are contributing to a safe, wholesome food supply. This is an annual program that can be completed via online modules or in-person trainings. More information about this program will be provided from the Extension Office.
 - *To participate in the auction youth must exhibit at least one indoor project and participate in the auctioned animal's showmanship competition.*
- In each project manual level, it is recommended to complete a minimum of four (4) different activities each year. These activities can include the "Milking It For More" activities.
- 4-H'er will use and complete one (1) project manual in three (3) years. (You will use the books according to your grade as of January 15 of the current year).
- It is recommended to complete a record sheet.

4-H DAIRY CATTLE:

Identification deadline - May 15

- All dairy steers must be ear tagged and weighed at the Beef ID and have a completed 4-H Dairy ID enrollment in the 4-H Online system by **May 15**.
- 4-H dairy females must have a RFID tag (can be picked up in the Extension Office) and a completed 4-H Dairy ID enrollment in the 4-H Online system by **May 15**.

4-H Fair:

- All 4-H dairy animals will be physically inspected prior to entering the barn and may be rejected or removed due to health issues at any time during the fair.

Exhibit Requirements:

Animal exhibitors also have the option of exhibiting a poster in place of, or in addition to exhibiting an animal. The poster should cover a topic of one (1) of the activities or learning experiences in the completed grade level of the project manual. Posters must follow poster rules. All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to original author. A Champion poster will be chosen in each level (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) for each animal species (Example: Dog, cat, goat, sheep, etc.). A Grand Champion animal poster will be selected from all eligible Champion animal posters.

Any one (1) animal may be enrolled by only one (1) 4-H member. If the animal is owned in a partnership or family corporation, the animal in question may only be enrolled by one (1) member.

- The Dairy Lease program is only for 4-H members who do not own their own dairy cows and/or heifers. 4-H



DAIRY CATTLE

members may not enroll both leased and owned dairy animals. Leasing a dairy female will be considered the equivalent of ownership. The 4-H member should be regularly involved in the care of the female, regardless of where the female is kept, and the 4-H member should have exclusive show rights to the female during the 4-H lease period from May 15 until the 4-H dairy show at the Floyd County 4-H Fair. Leased 4-H dairy females must be registered (although it is not necessary to have the registration paper transferred to the 4-H member's name) by **May 15** and their registration number listed on the 4-H member's dairy 4-H Online entry. Turn in lease form. At check-in during the Floyd County 4-H Fair, the 4-H member with a leased dairy female must provide the female's registration paper. More than one (1) breed may be entered and shown. Exhibitor may show no more than two (2) animals per class. 4-H'er must get permission from Barn Superintendent to have another 4-H'er show additional animal. All exhibitors must be Floyd County 4-H members.

- All animals exhibited at the 4-H Fair must meet Board of Animal Health (BOAH) requirements.
- Check all papers (ownership, registration, age and classification) on all animals with Superintendent before unloading animals at the County 4-H Fair.
- All animals must be tied as designated, with rope halter, never a show halter.
- Feed and bedding to be furnished by exhibitor. Space for each calf will be 18" x 36". Plan accordingly.
- Washing must be done on south side by wash rack. No cattle are to be north of the cattle barn for washing, exercising or grooming.
- All 4-H Dairy members shall be assigned a showmanship identification number that he/she will wear throughout the Dairy Show.
- Grade and registered Dairy cattle will be shown together according to breed; only dairy grade and registered dairy will be eligible for Dairy Show. They will be shown together according to breed.
- All females in milk will show in the cow classes.
- No horns on animals. Scurs are acceptable given that they are hollow/flexible and they would not damage other animals/showmen.
- Milking females may be checked in and checked out after the show is completed at the 4-H'ers request.
- To compete for a Grand and Reserve Grand Champion there must be two (2) or more animals exhibited. Grand Champion contests are limited to winners of the Junior Class Champion and the Senior Class Champion.
- After Champion is selected the second-place blue ribbon exhibit in that same class automatically becomes eligible to show for Reserve; likewise Reserve Champion then becomes eligible for Reserve Grand after the Grand Champion is selected.

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISIONS: Grade in school on January 1 of the current year.

Junior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in grades 3-5 are eligible.

Intermediate Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in grades 6-8 are eligible.

Senior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in the 9th grade or above are eligible.

A Master Showman of each specie is determined through a final round of showmanship which the Champion of each class will compete.

4-H DAIRY STEER

The Dairy Steer Class will abide by the general rules of Dairy Cattle. These steers, bred for meat purposes will show in classes made up by the animal's weight and not by breed. The steer used in a dairy steer project must be 100 percent dairy breeding and will be screened by a committee at the ID (Holstein, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Jersey, Ayrshire, or any cross of the five (5)). Crossbred may not be of beef. All dairy steers must be dehorned (scurs are acceptable) and weigh at least 900 pounds at fair check-in **to show**. Milk teeth must be in place. Animals must be shown "washed down" with no hair grooming except clipping. The Dairy Steer class will be part of the dairy show and will be judged by the Dairy Judge. The number of classes at the Fair will be made up by the barn superintendent. No exhibitor may show more than two (2) animals per class. A 4-H member who exhibits a dairy steer may sell the steer through the 4-H Livestock Sale, if the member so desires. Dairy steers must be identified by tags.

Updated 12-3-25