March 27, 2024

Dear 4-H Dairy Member and Parents,

Please read this letter carefully as it contains information regarding enrollment of dairy heifers and cows for the 2024 project year. **The 4-H and Open Show will both be judged together on Thursday, July 11, 2024.**

**Important Project Information:**

* Any youth that plans on exhibiting livestock this year at the county and/or State Fair will need to enroll their animals in the 4HOnline system by **May 15th**. *It is the responsibility of the 4-H member* and or family to enroll their animals online.
	+ Grade animals are not required to be identified through a Breed Association. All grade animals MUST have purebred sires, and can be grades but not crossbreeds.
	+ Leased Animals must have a lease agreement form on file with the Extension Office NO later than May 15th. Forms can be found at the Extension Office or website. Refer to State Fair rules.

**Animal Requirements:**

* **It is a requirement that all Dairy Animals have a 840-RFID tag AND A HAIR SAMPLE. This is a requirement to go to BOTH State Fair and the LaPorte County Fair. Even if you are only exhibiting at the county level, a DNA hair sample is required.** The new 2024 Indiana 4-H Animal ID chart can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/4HAnimalChart>

**Other Important Information**

* **Pen Reservations**

Dairy pen reservation forms are enclosed. Additional forms are available on the Extension Office.

Pen reservations and fees of $4/head must be turned into Allison Younggreen at the Workshop. Please make checks payable to La Porte County 4-H Dairy.

* **Animal Check-In**

All animals will be checked-in Monday, July 8th, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. by a committee member. If breed or age is in question, two veterinarians will determine the correct class and owner will be notified.

* **Dairy Workshop**

This year’s workshop date is TBD but will be held at the home of Mike Ekovich Jr., 2828 N. 500 East, Rolling Prairie, IN at 5:30 p.m. CDT.

**Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Or YQCA Requirements**

Each 4-H member who is participating in Beef or Dairy Feeder, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Swine, and Poultry projects will need to complete a quality assurance program by June 14th.

1) The Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program. These trainings will all be held in-person for the upcoming year and registration is open in 4HOnline, under Events, look for LaPorte County – Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care.

2) YQCA certification (online only) will be accepted. Please visit [yqcaprogram.org](file:///%5C%5C42laporte.boilerad.purdue.edu%5Chome%5CShared%5C4-H%20Youth%5CLetterhead%20%26%20Templates%5C2020-2021%5Cyqcaprogram.org) to take the online training. Once completed it is your responsibility to send a copy of your certificate to the Extension Office so they have record of completion. Those certificates can be sent directly to woznia11@purdue.edu

**Fair Entry**

FairEntry is the second step in being able to exhibit animals at the LaPorte County Fair. All 4-H members will need to enter the animals that they intend to bring to the fair exhibition in Fair Entry by June 14, 2024.

You will use the same email and password that is used with 4HOnline when visiting <https://fairentry.com>

**Dairy Classes**

More than one animal per class may be signed up. However only one animal per class may be shown by a

4-H member. The other animal or animals may be shown as an open class entry. The La Porte County 4-H show will run as a breed show with no distinction between Registered and Grade cattle.

Classes are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Born Between |  | Born Between |
| Spring Calf | 3/1/24 – 5/1/24 | Jr. 2 Yr. Old Cow | 3/1/22 – 8/31/22 |
| Winter Calf | 12/1/23 – 2/28/24 | 2 Yr. Old Cow | 9/1/21 – 2/28/22 |
| Fall Calf | 9/1/23 – 11/30/23 | Jr. 3 Yr. Old Cow | 3/1/21 – 8/31/21 |
| Summer Yearling | 6/1/23 – 8/31/23 | 3 Yr. Old Cow | 9/1/20 – 2/28/21 |
| Spring Yearling | 3/1/23 – 5/31/23 | 4 Yr. Old | 9/1/19 – 8/31/20 |
| Winter Yearling | 12/1/22 – 2/29/23 | Aged Cow | before 8/31/19 |
| Fall Yearling | 9/1/22 – 11/30/22 | All Dry Cows |  |

1. Spring Calf thru Fall Yearling Classes will compete for Junior Champion. Junior 2 Year Old thru Dry Cow will compete for Senior Champion award in each breed.
2. Once an animal has reached the age of Jr. 3 year old, the member who initially shows the animal as a Jr. 3 year old or older is the only member who may show the animal thereafter.
3. **Every** animal should have a descriptive card including the name, age (date of birth), sire, dam (name or tag#), and name of exhibitor on display.

#### **Indiana State Fair Entry**

A member does not need to own an animal to exhibit at State Fair. Indiana State Fair has a lease program available for those members who do not own their animals. You will find the rules for leasing animals for exhibit at the State Fair at <https://www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair/livestock/4-h-competitions-entry-information>. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. If you plan to exhibit at the State Fair you need to enter online at <https://www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair/competitions--contests>.

Please do not hesitate to call the Extension office 219-324-9407 or 4-H Dairy Project Coordinator Mike Ekovich 219-608-1700, Pam Ekovich 219-608-1620 or Mike Ekovich Jr. 219-363-4646 with questions.

Sincerely,

The Dairy Committee

Enclosures: Pen Reservation