BE A PART OF THE PASSION!

The livelihood of the dairy industry depends on knowledgeable professionals and an educated public.

Have you ever wanted to be part of a program that:



- Provides hands-on leadership?
- Allows you to meet people with similar interests from around the state?
- Introduces you to potential future professors and employers?
- Ignites your passion for the dairy industry?
- Looks great on the resume you develop during the program?

If so, the Indiana 4-H Dairy Youth Academy is for YOU!

"This program has provided me with a better understanding of the dairy industry. It has also refined my future goals, provided new friends, networking connections and useful life skills." Lastly, it is FUN!

2023 Dairy Academy Graduate

For More Information:

Please contact any of the following:

Jeff Pell

Lead Contact

Purdue Extension – Hendricks County 317-745-9260 jpell@purdue.edu

Kelly Heckaman

Purdue Extension – Extension Area Director 574-527-5917 kheckaman@purdue.edu

Emily Kresca

Purdue Extension – Kosciusko County 574-372-2340 eluc@purdue.edu

Sara Haag

Purdue Extension – Marion County 317-275-9305 shaag@purdue.edu

Robert Kelly

Purdue Extension – Elkhart County 574-533-0554 kelly115@purdue.edu

Jamie Reed

Purdue Extension - Newton County 219-285-8620 reed258@purdue.edu

Michele Jones

Purdue Extension – Morgan County 765-342-1010 jonesm@purdue.edu

Brieanna Slonaker

Purdue Extension – Marshall County 574-935-8545 brieanna@purdue.edu

If you are in need of accommodations to participate in the program or need an interpreter or translator, please Contact Jeff Pell by August 10th at 317-745-9260.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.





Youth Academy



3025

Sponsored by:





Purdue Extension

Dairy Youth Activities Committee

Evansville Young Dairymen
Praire Farms
Central Star

Be a part of this Exciting Opportunity for 4-H Dairy Youth!

The Dairy Youth Academy is for youth in grades 10-12 (as of September 1, 2025) who are interested in pursuing a career in the dairy industry.

The program consists of a series of hands-on workshops that focus on specific facets of the dairy industry, including veterinary science, dairy nutrition, and production management.

The Dairy Youth Academy exposes participants to progressive and profitable agricultural businesses and helps prepare them for employment as managers, technicians, and other agri-service professionals.



Objectives of the Academy:

- Expose young people to herd management, crop management, and farm business management techniques on farms in the Midwest.
- Explore career opportunities through interaction with dairy industry leaders and professionals.
- Enhance teamwork approaches to problem solving.
- Develop and improve communication skills.
- Develop the leadership skills to make positive changes and contributions to the dairy industry.

Youth Academy Schedule*:

National 4-H Dairy Youth Conference September 28—October 1, 2025 Madison, WI

Leadership, Careers, Resumes, Industry

December 5-7, 2025 Location: TBD

Multi-State Dairy Tour March 6-10, 2026

Indiana 4-H Dairy Class GraduationSummer 2026

Indiana State Fair

Action Demonstration & 4-H Junior Skill-a-thon August, Day 1 of State Fair Dairy Exhibition Indianapolis, IN

State Quiz Bowl Delegate Selection

*(Some dates subject to change to avoid conflicts with other activities)

Please note: We need to have a minimum of 6 participants to conduct the 4-H Youth Dairy Academy. If the minimum number is not met we will discuss alternate options.

"One of the most important things I learned from the academy was to learn how to change. Our world is changing everyday and so is the dairy industry, so in order to be successful in anything we do, we need to be flexible and educate ourselves to be better!"

-Kylei Kline - Class 4 Graduate

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1. To be eligible to participate in the academy You must be in grades 10-12 by September 1, 2025.
- 1. Be currently enrolled in the 4-H program.
- 2. Are able to reasonably commit to the Dairy Youth Academy from September of the current year to August of the following year.
- 3. Are not exhibiting dairy animals at the World Dairy Expo during the current year.

Applications details can be found at https://bit.ly/4HDairyAcademy

Due: August 10, 2025

Registration Process:

To apply, access the 4HOnline Event Link at https://purdue.link/Dairy25-26

Answer the questions and attach your essay and recommendations.

To be eligible to participate in the academy The top 14 delegates will be selected based on their leadership and written application by a pan-el of industry and extension representatives. Upon acceptance in the Academy, delegates must pay a fee of \$250. Most expenses will be generously covered by our sponsors.

Each delegate will be required to evaluate how dairy industry conferences and agricultural tours have enhanced the development of their career opportunities in the dairy industry. These reports will be compiled and delivered in an oral presentation to the local groups and affiliates.