



4-H Dairy Cattle Project



Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started:

Citizenship/ Leadership

- Volunteer your dairy animal for a clinic or other educational event
- Mentor youth 4-H youth
- Volunteer to help with the Dairy Show at your County Fair.

Are you Into It?

The dairy industry is a sophisticated business and there is a lot to learn!

In the dairy cattle project, you can do more than just produce milk:

- Learn the nutritive value of dairy products and promote their use
- Gain skills in dairy production through the ownership and care of dairy animals and start your own herd
- Learn how milk is produced and the marketing, processing, distribution, consumption, and use of dairy products
- Practice basic principles of cleanliness and sanitation in production and care of dairy products

Communication

- Design a poster on parts of the animal or on dairy breeds
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Participate in a Dairy Quiz Bowl

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic

- Know your dairy breeds
- Identify parts of the animal
- Learn how to select & evaluate your animal
- Recognize the characteristics of a healthy animal
- Develop a feeding schedule and regularly feed your animal
- Demonstrate multiple showmanship techniques
- Learn to groom and fit your animal
- Keep records of expenses
- Show your animal at a county or state fair

Learning More Intermediate

- Practice and improve your judging skills
- Make ethical decisions regarding the care and management of your animal
- Identify a sick animal, how to treat it, and future prevention
- Understand proper usage, storage, and administration of medications and how it relates to food safety
- Learn appropriate handling techniques and housing of dairy cattle
- Evaluate feed quality and how it affects digestion

Expanding Horizons Advanced

- Learn body condition scoring
- Debate animal welfare issues
- Use records to make management decisions
- Investigate signs and causes of mastitis
- Balance a dairy ration
- Develop and understanding of feed quality
- Learn about advanced breeding and reproduction techniques
- Promote the dairy industry
- Explore different career opportunities in dairy production

Healthy Living

- Practice bio-security safety measures for livestock
 - Identify zoonotic diseases
- Design a poster to discuss the safe handling of milk

Science

- Learn the biochemistry of how milk is made in the udder and how the hormones affect the reproductive cycle
- Learn how the 4 different parts of the stomach function



Take Dairy Cattle Further!

- Develop your 4-H Dairy Cattle Project or Public Speaking Skills
- Interested in a college education in the area of Animal Science, Food Resource Economics, Agriculture Education and Communication, or Veterinary Science? Schedule a visit with the University of Florida: ufl.edu
- Register for 4-H University to attend workshops, participate in community service events, hear keynotes, compete in contests, have fun, and meet other youth from across Florida who may share common interests: florida4h.org/
- Check out camps at the Florida 4-H Center: florida4h.org/camps
- Market and sell project animals to other 4-H'ers
- Participate in regional or statewide quiz bowl events and judging contests
- Start your own dairy herd
- Educate communities about the dairy industry
- Attend a local or state dairy show and pay special attention to the judge giving oral reasons on the classes
- Contact your county Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Attend National Dairy Conference uwex.edu/CES/4h/events/dairyconf/index.cfm

Project Sharing Ideas

- Create a poster on a dairy related topic
- Assemble an emergency medical kit
- Investigate the carcass merit of dairy steers
- Design a poster on the many dairy breeds, or on proper selection, or how to judge your animal
- Create a display on proper feed rations
- Demonstrate fitting techniques for show day at a clinic
- Give a demonstration on how to properly register and keep records on your animals

Resources

4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or you can order directly from National 4-H: www.4-hmall.org

Level 1 - Cowabunga
Level 2 - Moving Ahead
Level 3 - Rising to the Top

Available at EDIS:
Training and Showing Your 4-H Dairy Animal
edis.ifas.ufl.edu/
Available at the IFAS bookstore:
ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu

Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be.

Attend animal science events including livestock judging, showing, and National Dairy Conference.

Attend other statewide events. Check them all out at florida4h.org.

Attend the Southeast Dairy Youth Retreat (SEDYR) florida4h.org/programsandevents/southeast-dairy/
FL 4-H Dairy is on Facebook, facebook.com/Florida4HDairy

Record Keeping

Learning to keep good records of what you do, and how much you spend for your project is a 4-H life skill.

The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities:

- 4-H Dairy and Dairy Goat Project Record Book edis.ifas.ufl.edu/
- Project Report Forms can be found at florida4h.org
- Junior (ages 8-10)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

Awards and Recognition

Florida's Recognition Program involves feedback through:

Participation
Setting Goals
Meeting Standards
Peer Competition
Cooperation

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at florida4h.org or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at florida4h.org
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER