

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.

Communication

- Design a poster on dairy breeds
- Take part in a quiz bowl contest
- Teach others about showmanship techniques
- Give a speech on the importance of the dairy industry

Citizenship

- Have your animal as part of a petting zoo sharing the importance of dairy
- Be a part of a dairy promotion event

Leadership

- Arrange for your class to tour a dairy farm
- Be a mentor for a younger 4-H'er
- Organize a county grooming clinic
- Attend the National Dairy Conference and encourage other youth to attend

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER

Are You Into It?

The dairy industry is one of the foundations of agriculture. There's so much more to it than just producing milk! The dairy industry has become a sophisticated business and there's a lot to learn beyond exhibiting your project.

- Acquire skills in dairy production through ownership and care of dairy animals.
- Learn marketing, processing, distribution, consumption, and use of dairy products.
- Practice principles of cleanliness and sanitation in production and care of dairy products.
- Learn nutritive value of dairy products and promote their use.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic / Level 1

- Know your dairy breeds
- Select your animal
- Identify parts of the animal
- Learn to evaluate your animal
- Feed your animal
- Demonstrate multiple showing techniques
- Grooming your animal
- Keep cost records
- Research on where to find answers to all your dairy questions
- Showmanship techniques

Learning More Intermediate / Level 2

- Ramp up your judging skills
- Make ethical decisions
- Identify a sick animal, how to treat it and future prevention
- Understand medication uses, storage, administering of medication and how it relates to food safety
- Learn appropriate handling techniques and housing of dairy cattle
- Evaluate feed quality and how it affects digestion
- Find a career in dairy production

Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3

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



Take Dairy Cattle further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Dairy Cattle:

- Participate in regional or statewide quiz bowl events and judging contests
- Market and sell project animals to other 4-H'ers
- Start your own dairy herd
- Educate communities about the dairy industry
- Attend Animal Science Roundup as part of the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and take the dairy track
- Participate in a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Take part in the National Dairy Conference in Madison, Wisconsin
- Enjoy a summer internship working at a dairy farm
- Take a tour of the new state of the art ISU Dairy Farm
- Attend a local or state dairy show and listen to the judge give oral reasons on the classes
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair dairy show or the Iowa State Fair.
- Contact your county ISU Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine?
Schedule a visit with Iowa State University to explore those majors. www.iastate.edu

Exhibit 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
 - Proper selection and how to judge your animal
 - Fitting techniques for show day
 - Display on proper feed rations
 - Explain various housing and care techniques of dairy cattle
 - How artificial insemination and cloning has changed the industry
 - How to properly register and keep records on your animals
 - Compare and contrast the dairy breeds and their positive traits
- Make a scrapbook of your animal(s)
- Develop a presentation on the following:
 - Grooming your animal
 - How to start a dairy herd
 - The impact of the dairy industry on consumers
 - Comparison on the nutritive value of dairy vs. non-dairy products
 - How to properly show your animal
- Continue exhibiting the same animal(s) to show the progression and how they've changed

Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa 4-H Dairy Cattle www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/dairy.htm • Cowabunga! Level 1 (4H 398A) • Moooving Ahead Level 2 (4H 398B) • Leading the Way Level 3 (4H 398C) • Dairy Project Leaders Guide (4H 398 LDR) • Bottle/Bucket Calf (4H 390) • Learning About Dairy (4H 392) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Dairy Expo link www.world-dairy-expo.com/world-dairy-expo-home.cfm • National Dairy Conference http://4h.uwex.edu/events/dairyconf/index.cfm • Iowa State Dairy Science Program link www.ans.iastate.edu/centers/dairy/ • National Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc. www.dhia.org • The Dairy Site www.thedairysite.com 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy Animal Project Worksheet (4H 392 WS) • Dairy Animal Lifetime Record (4H 393 WS) • WS Dairy Goat Lifetime Record (4H 393A) • Dairy and Dairy Goat ID Report (4H 106A)