

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