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.

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

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 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.

4-H GROWING TOGETHER

IOWA 4-H PROJECT HOT SHEET

IOWA 4-H PROJECT HOT SHEET

*For more information or to obtain project materials contact your county ISU Extension Office or go to:
www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/dairy-cattle
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

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<tr>
<th>4-H Resources*</th>
<th>Other Resources</th>
<th>Record Keeping</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cowabunga! Level 1 (4H 398A)</td>
<td>National Dairy Conference <a href="http://4h.uwex.edu/events/dairycont/">http://4h.uwex.edu/events/dairycont/</a></td>
<td>Dairy Animal Project Worksheet (4H 392 WS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moooving Ahead Level 2 (4H 398B)</td>
<td>Iowa State Dairy Science Program link <a href="http://www.ans.iastate.edu/centers/dairy/">www.ans.iastate.edu/centers/dairy/</a></td>
<td>Dairy Animal Lifetime Record (4H 393 WS)</td>
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<td>Leading the Way Level 3 (4H 398C)</td>
<td>National Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc. <a href="http://www.dhia.org">www.dhia.org</a></td>
<td>WS Dairy Goat Lifetime Record (4H 393A)</td>
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<td>Bottle/Bucket Calf (4H 390)</td>
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<td>Learning About Dairy (4H 392)</td>
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