

# 4-H Dairy Cattle Project



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SNAPSHOT 4H1615

## CURRICULA & RESOURCES

### Michigan 4-H Curricula

- » Michigan State University 4-H Youth Development Dairy Cattle: [http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/dairy\\_cattle](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/dairy_cattle)
- 4-H Animal Project Record for Beginning Members (4H1457)
- 4-H Livestock Record Book for Intermediate and Advanced Members (4H1177)
- Feed Record Card (4H1277)
- Member's Personal 4-H Record Book (4H1192)
- Michigan 4-H Judging Cards (4H1193-1296)

### Curricula - Other States

- » Cornell University Dairy Youth Recommended Resources: <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/dairycattle/dairyresources.html>

### National 4-H Curricula

- » Dairy Cattle <http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dairy-cattle/cowabunga/>
- 1 - Cowabunga (08161)
- 2 - Moving Ahead (08162)
- 3 - Rising to the Top (08163)
- Helper's Guide (08164)

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## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

One of the foundations of agriculture, the dairy industry consists of so much more than just producing milk. It's 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 about marketing, processing, distributing, consuming and using 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.

## THE BIG PICTURE

### Starting out:

- » Learn the breeds of dairy cattle.
- » Select a project animal.
- » Identify parts of the animal.
- » Explore milk production systems.
- » Demonstrate how to groom a dairy heifer.
- » Demonstrate dairy showmanship techniques.
- » Learn to evaluate your animal.
- » Explain the difference between the digestive tracts of a calf and of a cow.

### Learning more:

- » Judge a class of cows and present oral reasons.
- » Demonstrate how to select calves based on desirable dairy traits.
- » Discuss ethical situations in the dairy industry.
- » Describe signs of health and illness in dairy animals.
- » Properly identify the components of an animal's medication label.
- » Analyze dairy cattle behavior.
- » Judge and give oral reasons on hay quality.
- » Compare the digestive systems of a pig and of a cow.
- » Demonstrate proper milking procedures.

### Expanding horizons:

- » Identify parts of the Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) record.
- » Learn about and debate animal well-being.
- » Inspect a dairy for quality indicators.
- » Explore the various career choices within the dairy industry.
- » Perform a California Mastitis Test (CMT) and interpret results.
- » Give a presentation on embryo transfer.
- » Detect heat in dairy cattle.
- » Demonstrate how to detect pregnancy in cattle.
- » Demonstrate how to deliver a calf.

# 4-H Dairy Project Snapshot



## FOCUS ON DAIRY

### Science

- » Investigate and compare the different types of milk – whole, 2 percent and skim.
- » Observe and record normal behavior of a dairy animal and compare it to abnormal behavior.
- » Research the technological advances in the dairy industry.

### Citizenship & Leadership

- » Volunteer your animal for a petting zoo to share the importance of dairy.
- » Participate in a dairy promotion event.
- » Mentor a cloverbud 4-H member new to a dairy project.

### Communication

- » Create and present a poster on dairy breeds.
- » Participate in a dairy quiz bowl contest.
- » Teach others about showmanship techniques.
- » Give a speech on the importance of the dairy industry.

### Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.



## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit MSU's website at [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu) to explore those majors.
- » Join a local 4-H club.
- » Tour a dairy farm. Try the MSU Dairy Teaching and Research Center, open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- » Attend a dairy show and observe the techniques of the participants and judges.
- » Write an educational article for publication in your local newspaper about a specific topic relating to the dairy industry.
- » Participate in a dairy quiz bowl or judging contest.
- » Job shadow a local veterinarian to learn more about animal health.
- » Attend a state level 4-H dairy event; visit [http://www.ans.msu.edu/ans/youth\\_extension\\_programs](http://www.ans.msu.edu/ans/youth_extension_programs) for many more opportunities.
- » Complete a dairy project record book to track your experiences in 4-H.

## Curricula & Resources, continued

### Other Resources

- » The Dairy Site: <http://www.thedairysite.com/>
- » Holstein Foundation: <http://www.holsteinfoundation.org/>
- » Michigan State University Department of Animal Science, Youth Dairy Cattle Programs: <http://www.midairyyouth.ans.msu.edu/>
- » National Dairy Herd Improvement Association: <http://www.dhia.org/>
- » National Milk Producers Federation: <http://www.nmpf.org/>
- » World Dairy Expo: <http://www.worlddairyexpo.com/>

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