



4-H DAIRY CATTLE PROJECT



The Dairy industry is one of the foundations of agriculture in California. There is 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 animals and products.
- Practice principles of cleanliness and sanitation in production and care of dairy products.
- Learn nutritive value of dairy products and promote their use.

4-H Thrive!

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

- Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.
- Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.
- Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Know your dairy breeds
- Identify parts of your animals and learn to evaluate your animal.
- Feed and groom your animal.
- Demonstrate multiple showing techniques.
- Keep cost records
- Learn to make ethical decisions about animal welfare.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Be able to identify a sick animal, how to treat it and future prevention.
- Understand medication uses, storage, how to administer the medication and how it relates to food safety.
- Learn the appropriate handling techniques and appropriate housing for dairy cattle.
- Evaluate feed quality and how it affects digestion

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Learn body condition scoring.
- Be able to debate on animal welfare issues.
- Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.
- Investigate signs and causes of mastitis.
- Explore careers in dairy production.
- Use records to make management decisions.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Learn about new technology developments in the dairy industry.
- Teach your club about genomics and genetic progress in dairy cows.
- Read about important food safety concerns with dairy cattle.

Healthy Living

- Learn nutritive value of dairy products and promote their use.
- Research lactose intolerance and why it affects some people.

Citizenship

- Have your animal as part of a petting zoo, sharing the importance of the dairy industry.
- Be a part of a dairy promotion event
- Study how dairying really affects the environment and the steps taken to minimize impact.

Leadership

- Teach others about showmanship techniques.
- Organize a county grooming clinic.
- Arrange a tour of a local dairy.

Resources

- Showing Ready
www.holsteinfoundation.org/pdf_doc/workbooks/Showing_Ready_Workbook.pdf
- Judging Dairy Cattle
extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/4h/4-h1109.pdf
- MSUCares Preparing To Show Your Dairy Animal
<http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p1759.htm>
- Hoards Dairyman
http://www.hoards.com/blog_showmanship-tips

Connections & Events

Presentation Days – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.

Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.

Curriculum

- **Cowabunga**
<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dairy-cattle/cowabunga/>
- **Mooving Ahead**
<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dairy-cattle/mooving-ahead/>
- **Rising to the Top**
<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dairy-cattle/rising-to-the-top/>

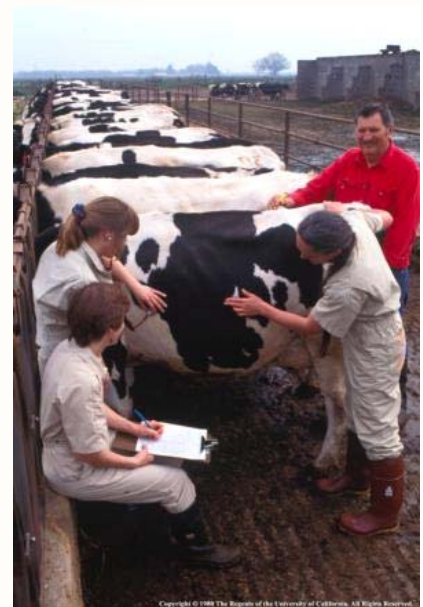
4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit <http://ucanr.edu/orb/>

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University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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