

Wyoming County 4-H



Dairy Project Guidebook

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Wyoming County 4-H Dairy Project Handbook

This Dairy Guide contains a brief sketch of the Dairy Program for 4-H members of Wyoming County. This is a reference guide for the program. Events will be scheduled to help you plan a uniform program throughout the year. Each 4-H family receives the 4-H News, which lists the educational opportunities available.

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that kids learn best by doing. Kids and teens complete hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture and civic engagement, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Kids can concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience. Regardless of the project area, all 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements.

How to complete a dairy project:

Each year we receive questions about what youth members need to accomplish to exhibit 4-H projects at the fair. Here is a broad overview of the requirements/steps for 4-H youth members and families to follow. Please reach out to the 4-H office with specific questions for each area.

Can I use one Educational Event for multiple species? The short answer is no. Some events like public presentations can be used for different species but you must designate which species. The only exception is livestock, where we group beef, sheep and swine together as a “species” and one event will cover these groups. We of course encourage youth to take part in more than just one event for any species!

Dairy Cattle (Ages 8-18 as of 1/1/26): 4-H Dairy cattle exhibitors must own or lease their project animals by June 1, 2026. Lease and Grade animal paperwork is due to the 4-H office by June 1st. Please contact us with any animal ownership questions before the deadline. To exhibit dairy animals, youth members must complete one of the specified education events for the dairy program. Pre-registration in the form of a fair entry is also required by July 15th.

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Revised March 2025

Calendar of Educational Events, Activities, & Important Dates:

**This calendar is an outline for the 4-H year. It is subject to change.*

October:

- New 4-H years starts October 1st

December:

- Win-A-Calf and Living Learning Dairy Orientation

January:

- Win-A-Calf Project Starts
- Living Learning Dairy Project Starts
- Dairy Bowl: Traditionally held the last Saturday of the month

February:

- Dairy Jeopardy
- Public Presentations

March:

- District Dairy Bowl: Must compete in county contest to advance onto districts
- County Dairy Judging
- Dairy Discovery Workshop at Cornell

April:

- County Dairy Judging
- State 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest: Must compete in district contest to advance onto states

May:

- Dairy Workshop

June:

- Grade & Lease paperwork due to 4-H office June 1st
- Dairy Challenge
- Dairy Showmanship and Fitting Clinic

July:

- Fair Entry Forms due to 4-H office July 15th
- Win-A-Calf Farm Visits
- Living Learning Dairy Farm Visits

August:

- Wyoming County Fair
- NY State Fair
- State Fair Dairy Challenge Contest
- State Fair Dairy Judging Contest

September:

- Win-A-Calf and Living Learning Dairy records are reviewed, interviews held, and winners selected

Activities:

Many activities are offered to encourage youth to engage in the dairy project. Most of the activities are designed to be educational and teach a lesson or offer an experience which will benefit the members. We do hope that youth will participate in more than one educational activity throughout the 4-H year. To exhibit dairy animals at the Wyoming County Fair, youth members must complete one of the specified education events for the dairy program.

Win-A-Calf and Living Learning Program

This is sponsored by Tompkins Bank. 4-Her's enroll and keep records on a calf from January through August. They show the calf at the Wyoming County Fair, go through an interview with the dairy committee and bank representative, and are visited by the dairy committee at their farm in July. The purpose of the program is to teach youth how much it costs to raise a calf and about the dairy industry in New York State.

Dairy Bowl

This event is conducted in two divisions, Jr. Division- ages 8-13 and Sr. Division- ages 14 and over. The Bowl competition consists of two teams- four members each. Questions are asked by the moderator, and each team has a chance to answer. The first team to answer right gets positive points. The top members from both the Jr. and Sr. events go on to compete at the district contest in March.

Public Presentations

The purpose of this program is to help youth develop poise, self-confidence, the ability to speak in public, and an appreciation of effective communication. County presentations are held in February. There are opportunities to compete on the regional level.

Dairy Judging

The dairy judging program begins in March, with two tours held at different farms. The top scoring individuals in both the junior and senior division are invited to advance to the district level. The top individuals can compete at the NY State Fair. Any 4-H member can participate in the dairy judging contest at the Wyoming County Fair.

Showing and Fitting Clinic

County-wide fitting clinics are scheduled in June to train members how to properly fit and show their project animal. The date will be advertised in the June 4-H Newsletter.

WYOMING COUNTY FAIR AGRICULTURAL RULES: Section 1-9

1. All livestock entries must be made by July 15. All livestock entries, registration, and health papers must be mailed to the 4-H office in Warsaw.
2. All livestock must have been owned and cared for since June 1st of the year of the Fair. All registered cattle must have registration papers or a copy of the non-ownership certificate with them proving that they were owned or under contract by the exhibitor. Registration papers must be in the exhibitor's name by June 1. An exhibitor can only show two animals under the registered animal contract program. If any exhibitors fail to observe this, their animals will be entered with the grades, subject to the rules governing grade cattle exhibitors. **Grade identification papers are due at the 4-H office by June 1.**
3. Dairy cattle exhibits must be in place by 12pm on Saturday and remain until 8am on Thursday.
4. **NO Dept. H exhibitors** will be permitted to stay overnight in the barns while participating in youth activities at the Fair.
5. Stall space for all livestock will be assigned by superintendents. Exhibitors must stable animals as designated to receive premiums.
6. The cattle and horse areas will be checked at release time. Stalls from the 4-H dairy and beef show should be removed by 12pm on Thursday if they are not to be used during the open class show.
7. While showing, livestock exhibitors must not wear clothing or tags which indicate their names, farm names, etc. All exhibitors must wear clothing appropriate for a 4-H event.
8. Animals must be exhibited in a class at the Wyoming County Fair to be eligible for youth exhibition at State Fair.
9. All animals at the fair must be exhibited in a class (unless excused by a section superintendent.)
10. In decorating 4-H club exhibits, 4-H leaders and members must use materials that minimize fire hazard and other risk to the exhibitors and general public.
11. All 4-H beef, sheep, swine, goat and dairy exhibitors must remove bedding from stalls before leaving the Fairgrounds. Open class exhibitors also need dry, clean space for their animals.
12. No cooking is permitted in the dairy, livestock, sheep or horse barns.
13. Animal health laws prohibit community water tubs.
14. No farm signs are allowed during 4-H animal exhibition.
15. All livestock and dairy animals not entered in open class shows **must** leave the Fairgrounds on the day of release.

General Dairy Guidelines

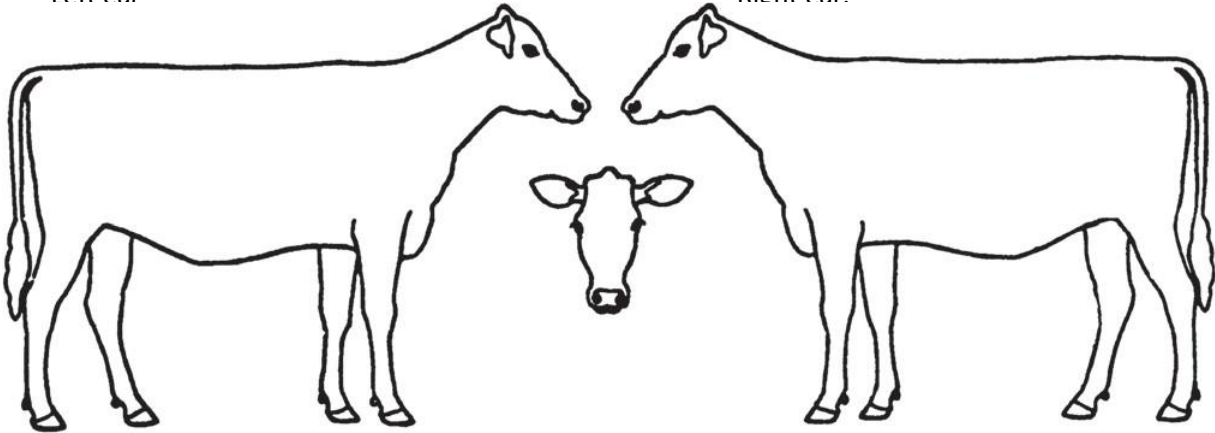
1. Youth may exhibit up to 4 registered dairy animals or 2 grade. Exhibitors must enter the number of animals they plan to exhibit by July 15th to the 4-H office.
2. Exhibitors may enter two registered animals in each class.
3. Exhibitors may enter two grade animals. Grade animals must be registered with the 4-H office, Warsaw, by June 1. Grade form may be obtained from the 4-H office or CCE website.
4. A 4-H'er may lease a registered dairy animal. The non-ownership or lease certificate must be on file at the 4-H office by June 1st. Any 4-H'er who shows a non-ownership or leased animal cannot show any other registered or grade animal (2 non-ownership or lease animal can be shown.)

5. No exhibitor shall show a grade animal if he or she is exhibiting registered cattle or a non-ownership lease animal. (Exception Win-A-Calf participants who have a grade calf in the Win-A-Calf project.)
6. **All owned cattle must be personally owned and registered to the youth exhibitor as well as cared for by that exhibitor by no later than June 1 of the current year. Dual ownership or syndicates are not allowed. NEW EXCEPTION: Dual ownership between siblings will be allowed as long as the following criteria are met:**
 - A: They are bona fide siblings(sister, brother, step-sister/brother, half-sister/brother, adopted)
 - B: One sibling has to designate the animal as their project animal for the project year by June 1st of the current year by filing and completing animal identification form with the 4-H office.
 - C: Designation cannot change during the program year and the animal must be shown and exhibited by designated sibling.
 - D: Bred and owned recognition can be given to designated youth as long as dual ownership is a current and legal partnership filed with breed organization.
7. Each exhibitor must provide hay, straw, and grain for their own animals.
8. **For safety, all dairy cattle MUST be dehorned or they will not be allowed to show at the fair.**
9. All animals should be fed, watered, cleaned and ready for public viewing by 9 am.
10. Exhibitors must care for and show their own animals unless excused by the superintendent.
11. All exhibitors must compete in the showmanship contest. No exceptions.
12. Premiums will be forfeited on any animal taken from the fair prior to the release of dairy cattle at 8am Thursday.
13. **No tranquilizer and performance enhancing drugs may be used on cattle prior to the shows. All exhibitors, their immediate family and any other parties involved in the unethical fitting, showing or misrepresentation of an animal will be subject to forfeit awards and premiums.**
14. Club and individual stalls from the 4-H show should be taken down before 12 pm on Thursday if they are not to be used during the open show.
15. **Dairy exhibitors must remove ALL bedding from their exhibit area before leaving on Thursday.**
16. All dairy exhibitors must be dressed in clothing appropriate for a youth event.
17. The following breed purity standards will be used to designate registered animal status:
 - A. Ayrshire: At least 87% purity as verified by the US Ayrshire Breeders' Association and exhibiting typical breed coloring/characteristics.
 - B. Brown Swiss: A minimum designation of IE as verified by US Brown Swiss Association and exhibiting typical breed coloring/characteristics.
 - C. Guernsey: At least 87% purity with PR designation as verified by the American Guernsey Association and exhibiting typical breed coloring/characteristics.
 - D. Holstein: At least 87% RHA or higher as verified by the Holstein Association USA and exhibiting typical breed coloring/characteristics.
 - E. Jersey: A designation of (4) or higher as verified by US Jersey and exhibiting typical breed coloring/characteristics.
 - F. Milking Shorthorn: A designation of EXP or full herdbook status as verified by the American Milking Shorthorn Society and exhibiting typical breed coloring/characteristics.
 - G. Red and White: Red and White animals must carry 87% dairy bloodlines as designated by RWDCA guidelines and be red and white in color.

New York Youth Dairy Cattle Identification Certificate

Personally owned
 Family owned
 Non-owned
 Date: _____

Name of Animal: _____
 Date Animal Born: _____
 Name of Sire: _____
 Name of Dam: _____
 Registry/Breed: _____ Reg. No.: _____
 Tattoos: Left ear: _____ Right ear: _____
 Ear Tags: Left ear: _____ Right ear: _____



Draw color markings of all the sides or provide photos of each side.

Owner: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Signature of Owner

Telephone

This animal has been care for by the youth and is officially designated as his/her youth project animal as of June 1 of the current year.

Name of youth: _____ Youth Leader's Name: _____
 Address: _____ Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Youth's signature

Leader's signature

Parent/Guardian: _____ 4-H Educator or
 Address: _____ authorized representative: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Parent/guardian signature

Representative signature

Remember to follow Animal Health requirements for Admission to New York State and County Fairs:
<http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AI/vet.html>. Consult your veterinarian.

NEW YORK YOUTH LIVESTOCK NON-OWNERSHIP POLICY

The exhibitor, upon request to the event sponsor, shall provide proof of ownership of any exhibit.

This non-owner **certificate** verifies that a 4-H member in New York and the owner of the animal have entered an agreement. A lease agreement allows a 4-H member to use the specified animal as a 4-H project.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) encourages the use of written lease agreements, however, it is the responsibility of the owner and exhibitor to agree upon the lease terms. Neither CCE nor Cornell University is legally involved in writing, implementing or terminating any lease agreements.

The following policy was revised in 2014 by NYS 4-H Dairy Committee and approved by the NYS Association of Fairs.

*Non-owner/lease opportunities are intended for youth who do not already own an animal of this species type. **Youth may register two non-owned animals of this species type but may be restricted to showing only one of these animals per youth fair, youth exhibition, or 4-H show/exhibition at their county's discretion. This applies for county and state level.***

The following bill was legally adopted by the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets July 1987.

Exhibits shall have been owned by the exhibitor for a period of at least (30) days prior to the entry of the exhibit provided, however, that any animal exhibit entered in a youth fair, youth exhibition or 4-H show or exhibition shall have been in the care of the exhibitor for a period of at least (60) days prior to entry of the exhibit.

Agricultural Expo Center Guidelines

Listed below are the expectations of exhibitors and animals throughout the barn in addition to department H guidelines:

- Animals clean, well groomed, neat, attractively arranged and properly spaced.
- Animals have adequate packed bedding that is clean and dry.
- Stall bed widths should not exceed 8 ½'.
- Aisles must be clean and neat with space for visitors to pass through easily. All show boxes and wheelbarrows **must** be kept out of the walkway aisles.
- Feed, hay, and bedding stored neatly. A week's worth of feed, hay, and bedding is not needed inside the barn, we recommend 1-2 days' worth. If using large bales, limit the amount you bring in (one bale) DO NOT stack a tower of bales for the week.
- Manure storage is not overflowing, and trash is picked up.
- As an exhibitor you are knowledgeable, courteous, and friendly.
- You are courteous to fellow breeders, spectators, and others always.
- Tack areas are clean, neat, and picked up. Show box, pails, feed pans, hoses, brooms, forks, shovels are put away neat and out of the way.
- No additional hose hookups or extensions are allowed in the barn.
- No crockpots, refrigerators, electric stoves, etc. allowed in the barn.
- Minimize the use of staples and nails into wood as much as possible.
- Utilize wire exhibitor Name Tag line above animal stalls to decorate. NOT the boards higher up. Do Not add additional boards.
- All decorations, stalls, etc. must be removed by the conclusion of the fair!
- Clipping chutes must be kept in stall bed space or arranged neatly outside the barn (wash rack side) when not in use.
- Additional fans must be approved by a 4-H educator in charge of your species area.
- 4-H exhibitors must clean stall/pen space at the conclusion of the 4-H show timeframe.
- Tack area/ personal area is just as important as the animal exhibit area.
- Barn should look welcoming and always appealing to the public.
- **You are representing the agricultural industry to the public and it is important that this be done in the best way possible!**

* These guidelines are a work in progress as we grow into this new facility together over the next few years. Thank you for your cooperation!

Helpful Hints:

- Youth members must complete one of the specified educational events for the dairy program.
- Dairy animals must be owned or leased by June 1st.
- Grade and Lease paperwork are due to the 4-H office by June 1st.
- Fair entry forms are due to the 4-H office by July 15th.

Resources:

- Wyoming County Fair Book
 - o Available in the third week of June
- Showmanship Resources:
 - o Holsteinfoundation.org
 - Educational workbooks on showing ready
- Confirmation Resources:
 - o Purebreddairycattle.com
 - Dairy cow unified scorecard
- NYS 4-H Dairy Program
 - o Cals.cornell.edu/livestock/dairy
 - 4-H State Programs
 - 4-H State Contests
 - Dairy Youth at the NYS Fair