



NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE 4-H DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST AND PDCA JUDGES TRAINING

SPONSORED BY: 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire, Inc., UNH Cooperative Extension, and New Hampshire PDCA.

4-H members 12-18 (divisions for juniors and seniors) as well as interested adults are invited to be a part of this event. This joint event provides an opportunity for both youth and adults to further develop their judging skills.

Youth 15 and older are eligible to compete for the state team that travels to Madison, WI to the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest. **Seniors must give oral reasons.** Juniors will have the opportunity to learn more about and practice oral reasons during an evening workshop.

4-H junior members and 4-H senior members are invited for the two-day tour with an overnight stay. A typical schedule includes two or three farms on Saturday and two more on Sunday for a total of four or five dairy operations in the region. Four or five dairy breeds will be judged – typically 2 or 3 classes of each breed. Hotel arrangements are made for youth and there will be a limited amount of free/social time on Saturday evening.

UNH Cooperative Extension will not provide transportation from farm to farm for participants. It is the responsibility of each family to make arrangements for travel. 4-H members (with valid driver's licenses) who plan to drive themselves may do so with parental permission, but will not be allowed to transport other 4-H members (unless they are siblings).

PDCA members are invited for the two-day tour but are required to make their own arrangements for hotel and meals.

This is the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest. NH's 4-H Dairy Judging Team will be selected at this event. The four high scoring individuals, fifteen or over on January 1, will be the New Hampshire State 4-H Dairy Judging Team with the fifth high scoring individual serving as an alternate. Those individuals selected as top four will be expected to attend practice sessions and submit homework in preparation for the national contest. A \$100 deposit will be collected and returned during the trip to the national contest. Older members who will be entering college in the fall of the national contest are eligible unless they will be taking college-level classes in dairy or livestock selection. National rules prevent participation of youth taking college courses that relate to a contest.

Rules:

1. This contest is an individual competition and there are no county or team awards. Entrants should report to the first farm by 9:00 am. At that time, they will receive their placing cards and instructions.
 2. While judging classes, there will be no talking between the contestants, or between contestants and anyone else except as directed by the judge or contest officials. **Talking or other communication between contestants or between contestants and coaches may result in a zero score for the class in progress at the time; repeated violation will result in dismissal from the contest.**
 3. Twelve to sixteen classes will be judged. Breeds will be chosen based on availability of suitable dairy cattle and may include: Holstein, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn, Guernsey or Brown Swiss. Various age heifer and cow classes will be judged.
 4. The cattle will be designated 1-2-3-4.
 5. Oral reason classes will be designated within one minute of start of class.
 6. Oral reasons will be given by contestants on two classes. Sixteen (16) minutes will be allowed for contestants to judge non-reasons classes, and eighteen (18) minutes will be given to contestants during reasons classes to make their observations, take notes, and fill out their placing cards.
 7. All contestants will be asked to develop a set of written reasons on one class as well. Written reasons will be scored and used as a tie breaker score if necessary.
- Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving reasons; however, their placing card will be offered to them upon entering the reasons room. Judges may ask questions of the contestants. Oral reasons must be delivered within a 2 minute time limit (same as national 4-H dairy judging rules).
10. Official placings will be given after each class, except reasons classes.

JUDGES:

1. Classes will be placed according to the guidelines of the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association.
2. One official judge will place the classes and determine cuts. The official judge, along with another reasons judge will listen to and score oral reasons.

SCORING THE CONTEST:

1. 50 points constitutes a perfect score in all classes.

CUTS: Cuts are a numerical score given to show the difference between the pairs and are used in the calculation of the contestant's score. The New Hampshire 4-H Dairy Judging Contest has adopted the following recommended cut scale:

The total of all three cuts cannot exceed 15. If they total 15, the middle number cannot be larger than 5. If they total 14, the middle number cannot be larger than 8.

CONTEST RESULTS: Contest results will be announced AS TENTATIVE, as soon as possible after the contest ends on Sunday. If scoring discrepancies are discovered, exhibitors must report them to the State 4-H office by the next business day (following the contest) by 5:00 pm. At that time, results will be declared official. Placings will be announced for the following:

1. Top 10 individuals overall – all breeds & oral reasons
2. Top five individuals for each breed – placings only for classes of same breed
3. Top five individuals for oral reasons – total of two reasons scores

In the event of tied scores, ties will be broken as follows:

1. Overall Awards – Senior Contest - The contestant with the highest total oral reasons scores is placed higher. Junior Contest - Tied contestants will be asked questions by the judge, in a sudden-death manner until one answers a question incorrectly to determine who places higher.
2. Breed Awards – If there is an oral reasons score within that breed, the contestant with the highest reasons scores (for that breed class only) is placed higher. If there is not an oral reasons score within that breed, tied contestants will be asked questions by the judge, in a sudden-death manner until one answers a question incorrectly to determine who places higher.

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