



Introduction to the NH 4-H Dairy Cattle Project Fact Sheet

UNHCE 4-H Youth Development 4-H Animal Science Work Team

4-H Dairy project members participate in one of the largest animal project areas. In addition to learning about and caring for an animal, 4-Hers can also participate in quiz bowls, judging clinics and contests, clinics that teach you how to prepare for a show, as well as the opportunity to attend National Dairy Conference. They also may attend many fairs or shows and make many lifelong friends. Non farm youth can participate by leasing an animal from one of New Hampshire’s dairy farmers.

There are approximately 130 dairy farms in New Hampshire with an average of 115 milking animals per farm. The New Hampshire dairy industry impacts state and local economies with more than \$141 million in total output, 3717 jobs and more than \$19 million in labor income. Dairy farming also helps support many businesses related to the production of milk such as feed stores, milking equipment suppliers and tractor dealerships.

Up to 36 4-H members, 12 and older, are selected with their animals to attend the New England 4-H Dairy Competition at the Eastern States Exposition. This competition brings together the best 4-Hers in the dairy project from throughout the New England area. The selection process is based on the animal’s conformation, fitting and showmanship, and a quiz. Selection takes place at the 4-H Dairy Qualifying Event held in August in conjunction with the New Hampshire PDCA Dairy Show.

- Required Participant Age:** 8 - 18 as of January of the current year
- Required Animal Age:** 4 months of age or older to go to any 4-H fair or event.
- Recommended Animal Vaccinations:** Rabies vaccination (recommended vet administered) 30 days and not more than one year prior to the date of the show and must originate from non-quarantined, tuberculosis negative herd.
- Required Animal Identification:** Permanent ID - Ear tag (preferred) or legible tattoo.

Forms

- Approval Forms:** Must be complete with animal information and all signatures. **Due Date:** May 1st
- Owned/Leased Form:** Ownership or Lease form must be complete with animal information and all signatures. **Due Date:** May 1st

Policies

NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Animals - If a 4-H member’s ONLY project animal dies, is critically ill to the point of being “unusable”, or is deemed unsafe for the 4-H member to use as a project, after having been properly listed on their approval form, the Extension Educator or Program Associ-

may verify the loss or condition, and allow the 4-H member one replacement project animal. A new approval form is to be submitted. In this instance, the replacement animal can be shown at all fairs (except Eastern States).

If a 4-H member's animals are unable to be exhibited for any reason (illness, death, etc.) and they have other project animals listed on their approval form that are eligible, then there is never any substitution allowed. They may show the remaining animals on their approval form only.

In the event that a 4-H dairy member's ONLY approved project animal dies or is permanently injured, a replacement animal can be approved after May 1st for 4-H competition in NH if the loss is verified by an Extension Educator and ownership or lease is established. A replacement animal cannot be shown until after this verification has occurred.

Rabies Requirements for NH 4-H Animals - Upon recommendation of the New Hampshire State Veterinarian, all mammals shown or exhibited at New Hampshire 4-H events including fairs, shows, clinics, 4-H club meetings, county activities day or any other event sponsored by 4-H must have a current inoculation for rabies given at least 30 days prior to the event. A licensed veterinarian administered rabies vaccination is recommended. Rabies vaccinations cannot be given to 4-H animals under three months of age AND we require the vaccination be given at least 30 days prior to exhibiting an animal. All 4-H project animals must be at least four months of age by show to be shown, exhibited or brought to any 4-H event.

Other health requirements vary by species and show. Individual shows and fairs may have additional vaccination and health requirements as recommended by the New Hampshire State Veterinarian's office. Always check the fair book for additional health requirements.

Resources

- 4-H Animal Science Series - Skills for Life - Dairy Manuals - (set of 4)
- Hoard's Dairyman Magazine - Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin
- Holstein Foundation Workbooks - Nine workbooks can be downloaded at: <http://www.holsteinfoundation.org/workbooks.htm>
- UNHCE Dairy Cattle Project Page - extension.unh.edu/4H/NH4-HDairyProject.htm
- Questions? - Call Andrea Sawyer (352-4550), staff liaison to the State 4-H Dairy Curriculum Committee.

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