



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

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 or participating in project aspects that do not require an animal.

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 confirmation, 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. Also, check the rules of the Fair.

Required Animal Identification: Permanent ID - Ear tag (preferred) or legible tattoo.

Forms

Intent to Show/Online Animal Registration Forms: Must be complete with animal information and all verification.

Due Date: May 1st at your county UNH Cooperative Extension office.

Lease Form (if applicable): Lease form must be complete with animal information and all signatures.

Due Date: May 1st at your county UNH Cooperative Extension office.

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 Field Specialist or 4-H Program Coordinator 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

[Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Materials:](http://www.vtdairy.dasc.vt.edu/docs/Youth-docs/2012bowlmat.pdf)

<http://www.vtdairy.dasc.vt.edu/docs/Youth-docs/2012bowlmat.pdf>

[Wisconsin Dairy Youth Page:](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/dairyouth/) <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/dairyouth/>

[How To Get Started in the 4-H Dairy Project:](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/representation/Resource001228_Rep1569.pdf)

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/representation/Resource001228_Rep1569.pdf

[Holstein Foundation Dairy Workbooks:](http://www.holsteinfoundation.org/education/workbooks.html)

<http://www.holsteinfoundation.org/education/workbooks.html>

[National 4-H Dairy Cattle Curriculum:](http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dairy-cattle/) <http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dairy-cattle/>

If you have any questions or for more information:

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