



Animal Science 4-H Dairy

North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

The 4-H dairy project is about more than just producing milk. Breeding animals allow you to start your own herd.



Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

- Acquire skills in dairy production through ownership and care of dairy animals.
- Keep production and financial records on one or more head of livestock.
- Learn marketing, processing, distribution, consumption and use of dairy products.
- Practice principles of cleanliness and sanitation in the production and care of dairy products.

Communication

- Teach someone the important traits in selecting a breeding heifer.
- Share a presentation on the importance of following drug labels.
- Create a poster of products made from milk.

Citizenship

- Volunteer to do a dairy products promotion presentation during June, Dairy Month.
- Provide dairy product taste testing at a grocery store to promote local food.
- Volunteer to help at the county fair.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1	Learning More Intermediate/Level 2	Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know your dairy breeds. • Select your animal. • Identify the parts of the animal. • Learn how to evaluate your animal. • Feed your animal. • Demonstrate multiple showing techniques. • Groom your animal. • Learn about different dairy products. • Recognize a healthy animal. • Learn about milk grades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramp up your judging and milk-grading skills. • Make ethical decisions. • Understand the digestive system. • Identify common external parasites and other health issues. • Understand medication uses and storage, how to administer the medication and how it relates to food safety. • Learn the appropriate handling techniques and appropriate housing for dairy cattle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about EPDs and select a sire for your animals. • Balance a dairy ration and understand feed quality. • Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques. • Identify and learn to treat common diseases. • Learn about milk marketing options and products.

Leadership

- Arrange for your class to tour a dairy farm.
- Be a mentor for a younger 4-H member.
- Lead a dairy grooming and showmanship clinic for other 4-H members.

Entrepreneurship

- Research careers in dairy production.



Learn more at www.ndsu.edu/4h/ or contact your county NDSU Extension office.



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Opportunities to explore dairy:

- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration.
- Visit a local creamery to observe preparation and packaging.
- Learn how to evaluate dairy products.
- Compare feed tags from different companies.
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health.
- Attend a dairy show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging dairy cattle.
- Exhibit at or attend local, regional, state or national dairy shows and conferences.
- Bring a dairy animal to livestock camp at ND 4-H Camp or participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your county fair dairy show or the North Dakota State Fair.
- Contact your county NDSU Extension office for other local workshops, activities and events.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with North Dakota State University to explore those majors (www.ndsu.edu).



Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H dairy show:
 - ⇒ Heifer
 - ⇒ Cow in milk
 - ⇒ Dry cow
 - ⇒ Showmanship
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a related topic:
 - ⇒ Nutritional value of dairy products
 - ⇒ Feeding rations
 - ⇒ Preventative vaccinations
 - ⇒ Photos of different dairy breeds
 - ⇒ Daily routine in caring for animals
 - ⇒ Making a rope halter
 - ⇒ Grooming techniques
 - ⇒ Developing a foundation dairy herd
 - ⇒ Best care techniques for newborns
 - ⇒ Impact of local foods on local economy
 - ⇒ How to tattoo
 - ⇒ Milk-handling procedures
 - ⇒ Make a scrapbook of your animal
 - ⇒ Continue exhibiting the same animal(s) to show the progression and how they've changed

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Recordkeeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National 4-H Dairy Curriculum - Cowabunga! (GBF141) - Mooving Ahead (GBF142) - Rising to the Top (GBF143) - Dairy Helper's Guide (GBF241) • ND 4-H Livestock Showmanship Manual (GB092) • Dairy Learning Lab Kit Educational Trunk • Livestock Camp at North Dakota 4-H Camp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ND Dairy Coalition • Midwest Dairy Assoc. • National Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc. • National Dairy Conference • NDSU Dairy Extension and Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H Dairy Record (GBF095) • Planning for My Project Adventure (PA093) • ND 4-H Project Plan (PA095) • ND 4-H Plan of Action (PA096) • ND 4-H Participation for 11- 19 (PA098)
		<h3>Contests</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest

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