



When youth have a passion for animals, the 4-H Dairy Cattle Project provides a great opportunity to explore their interest. From judging contests and visual presentations to animal production and competitive showing, 4-H'ers can participate in aspects of the project with or without animal ownership.

The project teaches animal husbandry including selecting, feeding, and managing of dairy cattle. Developing teamwork, responsibility, and decision-making alongside both animals and people is unique to the livestock program experience. Hobbies or careers in animal agriculture enable utilization of these lifelong skills and project mastery.

## Starting Out Beginner

*Starting a livestock project is exciting and challenging! There is so much to learn!*

Join a 4-H livestock club to meet knowledgeable, experienced mentors and friends.

Volunteer at your county show.

Develop visual presentations to learn about topics like animal health, then share them with your club and competitively.

Promote milk with the American Dairy Association poster contest.

## Learning More Intermediate

Put your knowledge into practice by competing in contests and purchasing an animal.

Join a dairy products judging team.

Compete in the Dairy Bowl.

Present your animal at your county, district, and state shows.

Explore complex topics for visual presentations such as genetics, reproduction, and nutrition.

Document project activities and goals in your record book.

## Exploring Depth Advanced

Advance your showmanship to the next level competing in regional and national shows.

Showcase your skills in the Dairy Cattle Premier Exhibitor competition.

Share your project experience with beginners.

Use your project record book to review costs, milk production, and other project milestones.

## 4-H Thrive

### Positive Youth Development

#### Developing Competence

Adults create environments where youth can develop competence in their chosen project area.

#### Building Confidence

Youth build confidence as they learn to think for themselves, build mastery, and are recognized for their efforts.

#### Nurturing Caring

Adults nurture a caring environment where mutual trust between youth and adults is established. Caring relationships with adults are key to resilient youth.

#### Finding Connection

Youth build solid connections which are critical to their well-being.

#### Forming Character

Create a community where youth play an active role in developing their character.

#### Determining Contribution

Youth actively contribute to their clubs and communities.

**Mississippi State University is  
an equal opportunity  
institution.**

## Expand your experiences!



### Connections & Events

**For Juniors**  
Project Achievement  
Day Contests

**For Seniors**  
Club Congress Contests  
Premier Exhibitor  
Contest  
National Dairy Judging  
National 4-H Dairy  
Conference

**For Juniors & Seniors**  
State Dairy Judging  
Dairy Cattle Princess &  
Sweetheart Contests

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Contact your local  
Extension office to  
learn more.

### Curriculum

**Level 1: Cowabunga.**  
**National 4-H**  
**Curriculum.**

**Level 2: Mooving**  
**Ahead. National 4-H**  
**Curriculum.**

**Level 3: Rising to the**  
**Top. National 4-H**  
**Curriculum.**

**Dairy Cattle Helper's**  
**Guide. National 4-H**  
**Curriculum.**

### 4-H Record Book

4-H members practice skills in data collection, organization, and analysis as they document their project activities and goals in their record books. The books provide practical information as well as highlight progress made toward goals.

Juniors and Seniors can enter the state record book competition.

Seniors are eligible to win a trip to National 4-H Congress for Dairy Cattle Project record books.

### Resources

1. *4-H Animal Lines*. MSU Extension Newsletter
2. *Animal Identification Process for Mississippi Junior Livestock Shows*. MSU Extension Publication P3385
3. *Dairy Cattle Judging*. MSU Extension Publication P194
4. *Dairy Products Judging*. MSU Extension Publication P142
5. *How to Get Started in 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl*. MSU Extension Publication 3127
6. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy*. MSU Extension Publication P2806
7. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy: Proper Drug Use*. MSU Extension Publication P3689
8. *Leadership Opportunities in the 4-H Livestock Program*. MSU Extension Publication P2837
9. *Methods for Disbudding Dairy Calves*. MSU Extension Publication P3835
10. *Mississippi Livestock Quality Assurance Program for Youth Producers*. MSU Publication P2526
11. *Top 10 Values and Skills Gained Through Participation on a Judging Team*. MSU Extension Publication P3003

## Activity Suggestions

Service and Leadership projects related to the Dairy Project:

- Organize a fundraising event to purchase dairy products to donate to a local food bank or soup kitchen.
- Mentor a fellow 4-H member new to the dairy project.
- Volunteer to help at your county or district livestock shows.
- Conduct a dairy promotion presentation during National Dairy Month in June.

Competitive Activities (Indicate Jr or Sr or Both):

Judging:

- Dairy Products Judging Jr. & Sr.
- National Dairy Cattle Judging, Sr.
- State Dairy Cattle Judging, Jr. & Sr.

Visual Presentation:

- Dairy Cattle Visual Presentation at Club Congress, Sr.
- Dairy Cattle Visual Presentation at Project Achievement Day, Jr.

Miscellaneous:

- Dairy Cattle Shows: Showmanship and Breed Classes
- Dairy Cattle Premier Exhibitor Contest, Sr.
- Dairy Cattle Sweetheart Contest, Jr. & Sr.
- Dairy Bowl, Sr.
- Dairy Poster Contest, Jr. & Sr.
- National 4-H Dairy Conference, Sr.
- State Record Book Contest, Jr. & Sr.

Tour/Field Trip Ideas:

- Tour a Dairy Farm
- Tour a Dairy Processing Plant
- Tour Veterinarian Clinic or Veterinarian School
- Field Trip to a Dairy Cattle Auction
- Field Trip to Dairy Cattle Show

