



WISCONSIN 4-H DAIRY BOWL

February 7, 2026 – Green Bay, WI

11:00 am contest registration, 11:30 contest begins

**STEM Innovation Center, UW-Green Bay
2019 Technology Way, Green Bay, WI 54311**

Competition in the 4-H Dairy Bowl encourages a 4-H member to develop a more complete knowledge of dairy animals and related subjects. This contest provides an educational dairy program for all dairy project members, including those who may not own a dairy project animal, and provides a way to develop alertness and self-confidence.

The Dairy Bowl is a "quiz bowl" competition where all questions deal with dairy topics. Teams of four members compete with each other in giving oral answers to questions posed by a moderator. Teams receive points for correct answers and may lose points for incorrect answers. The team with the highest final score is the winner.

The contest is organized in a bracket elimination style contest with winning teams advancing into further rounds until a champion team emerges.

Sources of questions are 4-H dairy project literature, Hoard's Dairyman publications and other dairy resources identified within the references section of this document. The Wisconsin 4-H Dairy Bowl rules are as follows:

REGISTRATION

Registration must be completed through 4-H Online by January 19, 2026

Team Registration Fee: There is a \$15.00 entry fee per team with payment due by the day of the event. Payment can be made online when you register or by check on the day of the event. Checks should be made payable to the UW-Madison Extension.

To register: You need to be a currently enrolled 4-H volunteer to register teams for the contest.

Link to register your teams: <https://264hdairyquizbowl.4honline.com>

How to register your team (See link below for helpful screen shoots and more detailed instructions)

1. Click on this link (same as the one above): <https://264hdairyquizbowl.4honline.com>
2. Click on the blue button in the lower right corner that says "Register."
3. Enter your email address and click on the Send Email button to get a link to log in emailed to you. If you are an existing family, use the same email address as your family login in 4-H online.
4. Click on your name in the existing names – you will be able to enter team member names in later.
5. It will ask you what type of registration you want to do, click on county registration.
6. You will go through the questions to register the teams. You can register all of teams on this screen.
7. On the Payment screen, if paying by Credit Card is enabled for the event, you will be able to enter credit card information or you can click on Pay by Check (checks are sent ahead of time or brought to the contest). You will only be able to pay with a credit card during this process and not the day of the event. If paying by check, click on that button. Then, click on the next button.
8. You will receive a confirmation email.

Registration help guide:

https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/10/4HOnline.v2.Participant.Event_.Registration.Guide-public.pdf

ELIGIBILITY

1. Team members must be 4-H members in the county they represent. They need not, however, be dairy project members.
2. Each team must designate a captain and a coach. Each team member should bring their own name card to place in front of them during quiz bowl rounds (a regular size sheet of card stock paper works well for this).
3. Teams should consist of four members. Alternates are encouraged and may be substituted between but not during a match.
4. There will be three age divisions in the Dairy Bowl contest.

Junior team contestants will be current 4-H members who are younger than 14 including those who will celebrate their 14th birthday during the year of the contest.

Senior team contestants will be individuals who have already or will celebrate their 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, or 19th birthday during the year of the contest. (Sr. team members cannot exceed grade 12 **regardless of age**)

Grade 13 Members (regardless of age)- WI 4-H members that are in the 13th grade are only eligible to compete in a mixed team and are not eligible for moving forward to National Contests. This is due to national contests happening after the current 4-H year ends and member eligibility. A grade 13 member's 4-H membership status is complete as of September 30th of the year (the 4-H year runs from October 1st - September 30th). After that time, they are no longer able to enroll as a member because 4-H membership is for members in grades 3 - 13. This is a decision that comes from Divisional and UW Madison policies.

Mixed division has been designated for teams that are any combination of ages BUT the team must contain at least one youth in each age division. *Youth who are still enrolled in 4-H and are in grade 13 or have passed the year of their 19th birthday can compete in the mixed division.

5. **Junior and Mixed (juniors and seniors together) Multi County Teams - For dairy quiz bowl only:** Multi-county team option for dairy quiz bowl junior and mixed teams only.

Parameters:

- The counties should be boarding each other.
 - If there is an extenuating circumstance and reason that you need to have a multi-county team that is not a boarding county, please contact jill.jorgensen@wisc.edu to discuss that opportunity. Those decisions will be made on a case by case basis.
 - It is only for junior and mixed teams. Senior teams would still need to compete with members from their county only.
 - There needs less than 3 people from your county participating to create/join a multi-county team.
 - This is just for the dairy quiz bowl contest.
6. Contestants may attend a college beyond high school. However, club members who enroll in or audit a Dairy Science or Animal Science course prior to the 2025 fall term are not eligible for the senior division of the contest. Also, any club member who enrolls in any Dairy Science or Animal Science short course or satellite course eligible for credits towards a college degree prior to the 2025 fall term is not eligible for the senior division of the contest.
 7. Counties may enter up to three teams in each division with no additional contests. Please include the number of teams in each category when registering.

8. Teams and individuals who have won district or state contests in previous years are still eligible for competition. However, individuals may compete only once at the North American Invitational 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl. Therefore these individuals are not eligible to compete as part of a team that qualifies for the national contest. They must either compete in the mixed division or as a separate senior team not vying for the national contest spot.
9. Teams and coaches are not required to send questions for the contest. All questions will be determined by a team created by the 4-H Outreach Specialist and staff.
10. Senior teams looking into possibly becoming eligible for the [National Contest](#), review the national rules.

PROCEDURES

1. Teams will compete in a series of one-on-one elimination contests until the top team is chosen. Teams will be assigned to the first round of competition before the contest. Some teams may be awarded byes during the elimination as part of the assignment process.
2. Answers and interpretations of questions will be the sole responsibility and final recall of the judges. A team member will have the privilege to ask the judges' panel to verify an answer that he/she feels is correct. Coaches and adults may not challenge the Dairy Bowl officials. Challenges may only be from the youth team members and must be stated immediately after the question is asked. If a coach or a member of the audience disrupts the contest, they will be asked to leave.
3. In the event of a challenge, the contestant will have 2 minutes to prove their stance on the question using one of the approved sources. Coaches may not help the contestant go through the sources.
4. If deemed necessary, the judges can choose to replace any question with a new question.
5. Competition between two teams will be in two phases:
Phase 1: Each team member will be asked three general dairy questions in rotation. Each is worth 10 points with no deduction for incorrect answers. **No teammate assistance may be offered or received.** Questions will not be repeated. Contestants have five seconds to answer the questions. Other teams will remain in isolation until the team in action completes the question.
 - a. **Teams consisting of only 3 members** will only receive 9 of the 12 phase 1 questions. The moderator will skip every fourth question in this circumstance.
Phase 2: A total of 16 toss-up questions will be asked, and bonus questions will be awarded to a team when three different team members have correctly answered a toss-up question (see h.).
 - a. A contestant wishing to answer any toss-up question must activate the signaling device. The first contestant to signal must answer within 5 seconds after being acknowledged by the moderator or losing 10 points.
 - b. If a correct answer is given, the team will be awarded 15 points.
 - c. If an incorrect answer is given, the team will lose 10 points. The question will then be reread to the opposing team. Any member of the opposing team must signal to answer the question. If the answer is correct, the opposing team will be awarded 15 points. If incorrect, they will lose 10 points. If the opposing team chooses not to answer, no points are deducted from their score.

- d. If a contestant answers a toss-up question without signaling, the answer will be declared invalid (not correct or incorrect) and 10 points will be deducted. The toss-up will then be offered to the opposing team (see rule c. above).
- e. If neither team can offer an answer to the question within 10 seconds, the moderator will announce the correct answer, the question will be dropped, and no points will be deducted from either team.
- f. When a signal is activated before a question is completely read, the moderator will stop reading the question. That person may answer the question. If correct, the team will receive the credit. If incorrect, the team will lose 10 points and the question will then be completely reread for the opposing team.
- g. The only discussion allowed between team members will be on bonus questions in Phase 2. Bonus answers must come from the team captain. Only the number of answers required by the bonus question will be accepted. Example: If the bonus has a four-part answer, the first four answers given by the team will be accepted, any more will not count. Fifteen seconds are allowed for discussion on bonus answers before the moderator calls for the answer from the captain.
- h. Bonus questions may be earned in the toss-up round. To receive a bonus question, three different team members must correctly answer a toss-up question. Bonus questions are not passed to the other team if not answered correctly or completely. Points are not deducted for an incomplete or incorrect answer to a bonus question. Bonus questions will be asked whenever three team members have answered toss-up questions correctly with the count kept individually for members of both teams within a match. Individual counts of correct answers do not start at zero following the award of a bonus question. Eligibility for bonus questions does not carry over to another match.
- i. All questions correctly answered, both toss-up and bonus, will be worth 15 points in Phase 2. Partial credit will be given to the portion of bonus answers given correctly. Credit for bonus answers:

2 parts 1 correct - 5 points
2 correct - 15 points

3 parts 1 correct - 5 points
2 correct - 10 points
3 correct - 15 points

4 parts 1 correct - 3 points
2 correct - 6 points
3 correct - 9 points
4 correct - 15 points

5 parts 1 correct - 3 points
2 correct - 6 points
3 correct - 9 points
4 correct - 12 points
5 correct - 15 points

6. Clarification of acceptable answers:

- a. Full names of animals: a contestant must use the full registration name of an animal with the exclusion of suffixes. If the suffix is used, it must be correct, i.e., ET versus ETS or *TD versus *TM.

Examples: Opsal Finley Correct
Opsal Finley-ET Correct
Finley Incorrect
Opsal Finley-Twin Incorrect
Opsal Finley-ETS Incorrect

b. Names of people: when giving a specific person's name, the last name only will be acceptable. The first name is not necessary but, if given, it must be correct.

Examples: Maddox Correct
Doug Maddox Correct
Tom Maddox Incorrect

c. ** Volunteering information – if a contestant first gives a correct answer and goes on to add incorrect information, the entire question will be incorrect.

d. ** Correcting Answers – if a contestant gives a complete answer, he or she cannot correct it. If a partially incorrect answer is given and the contestant makes the correction mid-answer or word, the corrected answer will not be accepted.

7. No notes, video, or audio recordings may be taken by anyone in the audience, including the coaches, during the conduct of the match. Contestants may use the scrap paper provided to them to make notes during the round but may not take these notes with them at the end of the round.
8. The highest total score from Phases 1 and 2 will determine the winning team. In the event of a tie, five additional Phase 2 questions will be asked. **There will be no bonuses attached to tiebreakers.**
9. The first-place senior team at the State Contest will represent Wisconsin at the National Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest in Louisville, Kentucky.
 - a. Youth may participate only once in the National 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest. Participation is defined as actually participating in one or more phases of the contest.
 - b. Only alternates not actively participating by taking the written test or being seated during an oral phase of the contest may return a second year to actively compete.

IMPORTANT FOR 2026: Many sources have been updated, replaced, or are no longer used. Please take a moment to review the sources.

Purebred Dairy Cattle Association

- [PDCA Dairy Cow Unified Scorecard](#) (PDF, 2025)
- [PDCA Scorecard - Revisions Highlighted](#)

2025 Virginia 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Study Materials

Hoard's Dairyman 2025 Reference Guides:

- [Hoard's Dairyman Magazine](#) - December 2022 - December 2025
- [Hoard's Dairyman Reference Guides](#) (the most current)
 - Dairy Cattle Fertility ([2020 Edition](#))
 - Feeding Guide ([2018 Edition](#))
 - Calf Care ([2019 Edition](#))
 - Less Mastitis, More Milk (2004 Edition)
 - People and Parlors ([2016 Edition](#))
 - Caring for Transition Cows (2005 Edition)
 - Manual of Foot Care for Cattle (2013 Edition)
 - Dairy Herd Health (2017 Edition)
 - Corn Silage: From Seed to Feed ([2022 Edition](#))

Holstein USA Resources:

- [2026 Holstein Practice Dairy Bowl Questions](#) (Holstein Foundation)
- [2026 Holstein Practice Dairy Jeopardy Questions](#) (Holstein Foundation)
- [2026 Ayrshire Practice Dairy Bowl Questions](#) (Holstein Foundation)
- [2025 Holstein Practice Dairy Bowl Questions](#) (Holstein Foundation)
- [2025 Holstein Practice Dairy Jeopardy Questions](#) (Holstein Foundation)
- [2025 Ayrshire Practice Questions](#) (Holstein Foundation)
- [2024 Holstein Practice Dairy Bowl Questions](#) (Holstein Foundation)
- [2024 Holstein Practice Dairy Jeopardy Questions](#) (Holstein Foundation)
- [2024 Ayrshire Practice Questions](#) (Holstein Foundation)
- [Holstein Foundation Workbooks:](#)
 - Dairy Judging
 - Showring Ready
 - Connecting with Consumers
 - Milking and Lactation
 - Dairy Cattle Reproduction
 - Pedigree Questions and Answers
 - Understanding Genetics and the Sire Summaries
 - World of Dairy Cattle Nutrition
 - Working with Dairy Cattle

UW-Extension Resources:

- [Extension Resources Dairy Workers Training – Calf Management Cards](#)
- [The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Milking Routines](#)