



Discover Dairy

A 4-session series to explore the world of dairy cattle

What is it, and why does it matter?

Discover Dairy is a set of four lessons for youth grades 4th - 8th to explore the basics of dairy cattle! The series was designed for an online learning format, but it can be adapted to an in-person experience. Throughout the series, youth learn the basic characteristics of dairy cattle breeds that can help them select one to purchase, lease, or otherwise get to know; how to feed and care for them; what careers they can consider in the dairy industry; and what they can do to continue learning about these amazing animals. People have a long history with dairy cattle, and you don't have to own a dairy animal to learn about and appreciate them. Understanding them helps us keep them happy and healthy!



How do I facilitate it?

Clicking on each link below will bring you to the lesson's folder, which includes a slide deck, and take-home activity sheets to send to youth. To prepare for the session, read through the slides and handouts, and make changes to any text highlighted in yellow. Please note that to make your own edits to the slide deck and take-home activity sheet, you will need to either download it to your computer or make a copy in your Google Drive. For more information on how to do this, click [here](#).

[General Dairy Knowledge](#) - Youth learn about dairy animal genders, basics of the anatomy of cows and heifers, and characteristics of each dairy breed.

Participants will need:

- [Dairy cow anatomy handout](#)
- Writing utensil
- Optional: paper to take notes

Special preparation:

- If in person, ensure you have speakers, as there are videos in slide deck to share

[Session 2: Nutrition & Care](#) - Youth learn about basic dairy nutrition, the digestive tract, and how to care for dairy animals.

Participants will need:

- [Digestive tract handout](#)
- Writing utensil
- Marker/highlighter
- Optional: paper to take notes

[Session 3: Mammary Gland and Milk Products](#) - Youth learn about the mammary system of dairy cows and how different dairy products are made

Participants will need:

- Mammary gland handout
- Writing utensil
- Optional: paper to take notes

Special preparation:

- If in person, ensure you have speakers as there are videos in slide deck to share

[Session 4: Dairy Careers](#) - Youth learn about various careers they can have working with dairy cattle and hear from a guest speaker about their own experience.

Participants will need:

- Optional: paper and writing utensil for notes

Special preparation:

- Find a speaker to talk about their career that is focused on the dairy industry

Adaptations

Discover Dairy is a series of four 45-minute lessons. Please feel free to use these lessons as they are presented or to add your own creative twists to meet the needs of your program.

Adaptations for online delivery

Each of the lessons was designed with online delivery in mind. One overall consideration for adaptation is in the area of accessibility. All of the lessons include a slide deck, but for some, the slide deck and associated images are integral elements of the activities. While the slides and associated materials were developed with accessibility in mind, some might require adjustment to meet the specific needs of your audience. Adaptations might include turning on closed-captioning for videos and Zoom sessions and providing alternative methods for accessing or viewing the materials, including sharing links to access the material on their own devices.

Adaptations for in-person delivery

The length of the program will need to be extended from 45 minutes to about one hour depending on the number of participants. Take-home activities can be incorporated into the lesson for participants to complete. Take time to plan out the distribution of supplies and be sure to have enough volunteers to assist. Some of the lessons refer to videos that can be shown online; videos may still be used depending on the accessibility of equipment. If technology is not available to project the slides, consider printing off select slides on large sheets of paper to display to the group of youth. A packet of the slide deck printed for individual use might also be considered.

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