



2023-2024 Delaware 4-H Dairy Judging Contest Leaders' Guide

For special accommodations in accessing this event please notify the extension office two weeks prior to the event.

Introduction:

The Delaware 4-H Dairy Judging contest is held annually during the Delaware State Fair in conjunction with the Delaware FFA Dairy Judging Career Development event contest. The contest consists of judging and placing five classes and giving two sets of oral reasons. The contest is organized by officials from the Delaware 4-H and FFA Programs with assistance from volunteers.

Purpose:

Judging contests are utilized by the Delaware 4-H program to develop critical thinking skills such as comparing and contrasting, decision making, and oral communication as well as to enhance project knowledge.

Eligibility of Participants:

Participants must be current Delaware 4-H members. Each county is allowed 10 participants for no more than 30 contestants total. If a county does not fill all ten of its slots, then those unused slots become available for other counties to use. Individual counties determine the selection process to fill these slots. Attending judging practices is the best way to ensure a young person's participation. These practices are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Project groups are welcomed and encouraged to do some of their own training as well. Each county is required to hold some sort of qualifying event to be able to participate in a judging contest at the state level. Please check with your county agent if you would like more information on the county qualifying event.

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Contest Format:

The State 4-H Dairy Judging contest is held in the Quillen Arena. Participants are expected to report at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the contest in order to receive their judging cards and to hear any additional instructions. Youth may not be permitted to participate in the contest if they are late. They also need to bring with them a clipboard, plain paper for taking oral reasons notes, and a pen or pencil. No additional material is permitted and may result in disqualification. All participants compete against each other regardless of age or experience. Participants may not use any type of electronic device (cell phone, pager, pda, etc.) during the contest and will be disqualified if they are caught doing so.

The contest consists of judging five classes of dairy cows or heifers and giving two sets of oral reasons. They have approximately 12 minutes to judge the class and take any notes necessary to give their oral reasons. Handlers give contestants several different views; side, front and rear, and then walk the cattle. At a designated time participants may be allowed in for a “close inspection”.

Once time is up contestants must hand in their placing card in to officials. It is important that they note their class placing on their notes sheet for the oral reasons classes because once the placing card is handed in, they may not have it back.

Participants are expected to give two sets of oral reasons on the designated classes at the conclusion of the judging classes. A short break for preparation time is allowed. . Oral reasons are ideally delivered within two minutes without the use of notes. They are judged on criteria such as terminology, organization, accuracy, relevancy and presentation. A participant will score higher if they can deliver their oral reasons without the use of notes. Sometimes after the delivery of oral reasons, the judge will ask the participant a few specific questions to see how well they understood or observed the class.

Available Resources:

There are several resources available for use by 4-H Leaders, parents and members to help prepare for the dairy judging contest. The judging manual, Dairy Cattle Judging Made Easy, is available from the Kent County Extension Office. In addition to giving pointers on judging dairy cattle, it also gives instructions on the proper format, terms and delivery of oral reasons. Each county also has access to the dairy learning laboratory kit. This kit can be signed out to borrow for meetings and trainings. In the kit you will find lots of activities that

support learning and preparing for the State 4-H Dairy Judging contest. Additionally, here are some good web resources to assist in preparing youth:

http://www.holsteinfoundation.org/pdf_doc/workbooks/Dairy_Judging_Workbook.pdf

<http://www.uvm.edu/~jagilmor/judging/judging.html>

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/4-h1109>

<http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/publications/dairy-cattle-judging>

<https://afs.ca.uky.edu/4h-youth/dairy/state-dairy-judging-contest>

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/4hdairyjudgingvideos/>

<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h/opportunities/programs/animal-science/judging/dairy-judging-resources>

[Judging Dairy Cattle—Giving Reasons \(missouri.edu\)](#)

[Oral Reasons - More Correct INSTEAD OF Better.pdf \(missouri.edu\)](#)

<http://4h.ansci.cornell.edu/animal-programs/dairy/>

<https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/dairy/dairy-publications-resources>

<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1234&title=Dairy%20Judging%20Terminology:%20A%20Guide%20to%20Saying%20What%20She%20is%20and%20Not%20What%20She%20Isn%27t>

Virginia Tech Dairy Judging YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNRhuG51jwgcPVkExTScg8w>

https://extension.umaine.edu/4h/wp-content/uploads/sites/38/2010/08/judging_dairy_cattle.pdf

<https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/projects/animal-science/livestock/dairy-cattle/>

The Hoard's Dairyman website is another good resource <http://www.hoards.com/> Under the youth tab in the center of the header, <http://www.hoards.com/youthresources> you can find Dairy Judging 101 videos and practice classes with instructions and how to order materials and reprints.

Finally, visit YouTube and search for "4-H Dairy Judging". There are lots of great videos of classes from contests with official placings and comments.