

DAIRY CATTLE EVALUATION
Riley County Fairgrounds, Manhattan, KS
Monday May 5, 2025
Registration: 11:45 a.m. – Noon
Contest: 12:15 – 4:00 p.m.

Please note significant changes that are occurring this year because of changes at the national level. Specific changes include (and are described further below):

- Number of team members (4)
 - No team member scores will be dropped
- Reduction in the number of judging evaluation classes (from 6 to 4)
- No general knowledge exam
- Implementation of team practicums
- Updated tiebreaker information

Eligibility and Team Members

Members of Kansas FFA Chapters in good standing. A team will consist of **4** contestants, and ***ALL*** team member scores will count in the final team score in alignment with the National FFA event. It is *encouraged* that all contestants participated at the district level, and that teams participating in the state CDE were in the top half of placings at the district level.

General Rules and Permitted Resources

- Students should have pencils and a clipboard
- Blank note paper will be provided for taking reasons notes
- No other notes or notebooks will be allowed in the contest
- Except for the team activities, no discussion between students will be permitted at any time
- Cell phone use will not be permitted at any time – please leave them with the advisor
- Violation of any of these policies will result in dismissal from the CDE

EVENT COMPONENTS:

Dairy Cattle Evaluation Classes

Two cow and two heifer classes (4 judging classes total). Judging classes will be based on the Dairy Cow Unified Scorecard. The cattle classes may be tied in place or led in a circle for observation, depending on animal availability. The contestants will be allowed close inspection, but handling of the cattle will not be allowed. There will be 12 minutes per class.

Resource Links:

https://www.purebreddairycattle.com/file_open.php?id=2
<https://www.youtube.com/@VirginiaTechDairyCattleJudging/playlists>

Oral Reasons

Two oral reasons classes. The oral reasons classes may be based on either cow or heifer classes. The reasons classes will be designated by the official judge and announced at the beginning of the event. Oral reasons should be organized to cover major points of difference and should be based

on the Dairy Cow Unified Scorecard. Reasons are limited to two minutes in length, and contestants will be penalized for using notes or reading during their oral reasons. Students will have a minimum of 20 minutes of preparation time.

Resource Links:

- https://www.purebreddairy cattle.com/file_open.php?id=2
- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT1Ule9mYhA9_sormopAllGQjqGcJ-Y-I
- https://www.holsteinfoundation.org/pdf_doc/workbooks/Dairy_Judging_Workbook.pdf
- <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/dairyouth/files/2014/03/Dairy-Cattle-Oral-Reasons-Guidelines.pdf>
- https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201234_10.PDF

Team Practicums

Three team practicum scenarios will be presented to each team. All team members will participate collectively. The practicum scenarios will present information aligning with the topics listed below. Students will have time to evaluate the scenario and will answer at least 10 questions for each scenario (except keep-cull, which will be based on the selection of those animals). Each practicum will be worth 50 points, for a total of 150 points. The team will have 30 minutes to complete this portion.

- Topics for 2025:
- Dairy Herd Record Evaluation (DHIA Herd Summary 202)
 - Genomic Data/Pedigree Analysis
 - Keep/Cull Activity (using animal pictures and pedigree/performance data)

Resource Links:

- <https://www.dairychallenge.org/student-resources/>
- https://www.dairychallenge.org/pdfs/student_resources/Example-202-Herd-Summary.pdf
- https://www.dairychallenge.org/pdfs/student_resources/Explanation-202-Herd-Summary.pdf
- https://www.holsteinusa.com/pdf/print_material/read_pedigrees.pdf
- https://www.holsteinfoundation.org/pdf_doc/workbooks/Pedigree_Workbook.pdf

SCORING

| Activity | Individual | Team |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 4 Judging Classes | 200 | 800 |
| 2 Oral Reasons | 100 | 400 |
| Team Practicum | - | 150 |
| Total | 300 | 1,350 |

Individual Tie Breakers

1. Oral reasons score
2. Evaluation score

Team Tie Breakers

1. Oral reasons score
2. Practicum score
3. Total evaluation score