



# Animal Science 4-H Dairy

## North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

**The 4-H dairy project is about more than just producing milk. Breeding animals allow you to start your own herd.**



**Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.**

- Acquire skills in dairy production through ownership and care of dairy animals.
- Keep production and financial records on one or more head of livestock.
- Learn marketing, processing, distribution, consumption and use of dairy products.
- Practice principles of cleanliness and sanitation in the production and care of dairy products.

### Communication

- Teach someone the important traits in selecting a breeding heifer.
- Share a presentation on the importance of following drug labels.
- Create a poster of products made from milk.

### Citizenship

- Volunteer to do a dairy products promotion presentation during June, Dairy Month.
- Provide dairy product taste testing at a grocery store to promote local food.
- Volunteer to help at the county fair.

## Here's what you can do all year!

| Starting Out<br>Basic/Level 1  | Learning More<br>Intermediate/Level 2   | Expanding Horizons<br>Advanced/Level 3   |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know your dairy breeds.</li> <li>• Select your animal.</li> <li>• Identify the parts of the animal.</li> <li>• Learn how to evaluate your animal.</li> <li>• Feed your animal.</li> <li>• Demonstrate multiple showing techniques.</li> <li>• Groom your animal.</li> <li>• Learn about different dairy products.</li> <li>• Recognize a healthy animal.</li> <li>• Learn about milk grades.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramp up your judging and milk-grading skills.</li> <li>• Make ethical decisions.</li> <li>• Understand the digestive system.</li> <li>• Identify common external parasites and other health issues.</li> <li>• Understand medication uses and storage, how to administer the medication and how it relates to food safety.</li> <li>• Learn the appropriate handling techniques and appropriate housing for dairy cattle.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about EPDs and select a sire for your animals.</li> <li>• Balance a dairy ration and understand feed quality.</li> <li>• Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.</li> <li>• Identify and learn to treat common diseases.</li> <li>• Learn about milk marketing options and products.</li> </ul> |

### Leadership

- Arrange for your class to tour a dairy farm.
- Be a mentor for a younger 4-H member.
- Lead a dairy grooming and showmanship clinic for other 4-H members.

### Entrepreneurship

- Research careers in dairy production.



Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.



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### Opportunities to explore dairy:

- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration.
- Visit a local creamery to observe preparation and packaging.
- Learn how to evaluate dairy products.
- Compare feed tags from different companies.
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health.
- Attend a dairy show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging dairy cattle.
- Exhibit at or attend local, regional, state or national dairy shows and conferences.
- Bring a dairy animal to livestock camp at ND 4-H Camp or participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your county fair dairy show or the North Dakota State Fair.
- Contact your county NDSU Extension office for other local workshops, activities and events.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with North Dakota State University to explore those majors ([www.ndsu.edu](http://www.ndsu.edu)).



### Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H dairy show:
  - ⇒ Heifer
  - ⇒ Cow in milk
  - ⇒ Dry cow
  - ⇒ Showmanship
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a related topic:
  - ⇒ Nutritional value of dairy products
  - ⇒ Feeding rations
  - ⇒ Preventative vaccinations
  - ⇒ Photos of different dairy breeds
  - ⇒ Daily routine in caring for animals
  - ⇒ Making a rope halter
  - ⇒ Grooming techniques
  - ⇒ Developing a foundation dairy herd
  - ⇒ Best care techniques for newborns
  - ⇒ Impact of local foods on local economy
  - ⇒ How to tattoo
  - ⇒ Milk-handling procedures
  - ⇒ Make a scrapbook of your animal
  - ⇒ Continue exhibiting the same animal(s) to show the progression and how they've changed

| 4-H Resources   | Other Resources  | Recordkeeping   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National 4-H Dairy Curriculum</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Cowabunga! (GBF141)</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Mooving Ahead (GBF142)</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Rising to the Top (GBF143)</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Dairy Helper's Guide (GBF241)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ND 4-H Livestock Showmanship Manual (GB092)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Dairy Learning Lab Kit Educational Trunk</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Livestock Camp at North Dakota 4-H Camp</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">ND Dairy Coalition</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Midwest Dairy Assoc.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Dairy Conference</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">NDSU Dairy Extension and Research</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">4-H Dairy Record (GBF095)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Planning for My Project Adventure (PA093)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ND 4-H Project Plan (PA095)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ND 4-H Plan of Action (PA096)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ND 4-H Participation for 11- 19 (PA098)</a></li> </ul> |
|   |  | <h3>Contests</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest</a></li> </ul>   |

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