

# DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING

Dairy Judging trains young people in decision-making skills related to the Dairy Industry. 4-H members learn:

- How to evaluate the milk production of Dairy Cows and Heifers.
- How to evaluate the proper structure of Dairy animals.
- How to evaluate the longevity of Dairy Cows in production.
- How to justify placings in a set of oral reasons.

**Publication(s):** Tennessee State Junior Dairy Judging Contest web site:  
<http://animalscience.ag.utk.edu/Dairy/4-HDairyProject-Judging.html>  
Dairy Judging Manual:  
<http://animalscience.ag.utk.edu/Dairy/pdf/4-H/TN4-HDairyJudgingManual2004.pdf>  
Practice Judging Cards under the Region Related section of Judging Teams.

**Specialist:** Jeff Mitchell, Knoxville, 865-974-7289  
Email: [jmitchel@tennessee.edu](mailto:jmitchel@tennessee.edu)

**Eligibility:** See the Judging Team Eligibility Table located in the Region Related section under Judging Teams. A county can enter as many Junior High and Senior judging teams as they wish in this contest.

## General Rules:

Participants will be asked to judge five to six classes of dairy cows and/or dairy heifers. Classes will consist of four animals. Attempts will be made to have at least two breeds represented, as well as at least two cow classes and two heifer classes, in the contest. The five major breeds are Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey and Brown Swiss.

Junior High Level participants will be required to answer written questions on three classes. The questions will ask members to identify the animal in the class with the most or least desirable traits, such as: Frame, Dairy Character, Body Capacity, Mammary System, and Conformation. Junior High Level participants will not be required to give oral reasons.

Senior Level participants will be required to give three sets of oral reasons to a qualified reasons taker. Reason takers have the option of asking questions about the class. **Review the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Judging Contest Manual for additional rules.**

## Regional Contests:

Regions may choose to hold regional level contests separately or in conjunction with the state contest. Teams are not required to qualify for the state contest by participating in a regional contest.

**State Contest:**

The State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest will be held at the Williamson County Fair in August. The 4-H Contest is held concurrently with the State FFA Contest. All county Senior High 4-H dairy judging teams are eligible to compete in the contest. Contestants who previously represented Tennessee at the National Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Madison, Wisconsin are not eligible. Counties may also enter Junior High teams for the Junior High Invitational contest held in conjunction with the Senior High contest. A completed entry form must be sent to the Extension Dairy Specialist prior to the contest.

**National Contest or Tour:**

The top placing team will have the opportunity to participate in the National Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Madison, Wisconsin. The National Contest usually takes place during the first week of October. It is important to note that winning Senior High 4-H teams should come prepared to make a decision in which National or Regional Contest they would like to compete, following the State Contest. Limited funds are available through the 4-H Dairy Endowment to support the top three Senior High 4-H teams.