

**California State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest
Rules and Regulations**

I. GENERAL RULES

- A. Each county is invited to enter one or more 4-H livestock judging teams of three members. Teams may also be made of individuals from multiple counties within the California 4-H YDP. A team may also enter one alternate. When the alternate judges, the three members with the three high scores will make up the team total.
- B. Each 4-H livestock team must be accompanied by a 4-H team coach that is certified as a 4-H adult volunteer. (4-H team coach/adult leaders must be 21 years or older.)
- C. For national contests: In addition to the coach, there should be appropriate chaperones present to accompany team members. 4-H leader-chaperones must be at least 25 years of age and in good standing with their county 4-H YDP. The coach may act as a chaperone if he/she meets the age requirements listed.
- D. Each contestant must have passed his or her 14th birthday and not have passed his other 19th birthday on January 1st and be enrolled in 4-H and the 4-H dairy project as a 4-H member by January 1st of the calendar year in which the State and National contests are held.
- E. Contestants in state 4-H competition must not have participated in official post secondary (university, college, junior college) competitive events of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area. (For example, a contestant who has competed in an official collegiate dairy judging contest is ineligible to compete at the state level).
- F. An entry fee will be set each year for each team and for individual entrants which must be forwarded with the entry form for the state contest. The money received from this fee is used in defraying the expenses of the contest.
- G. Information regarding rule sheets, meeting date, times and place will be forwarded to 4-H counties by the State Animal Science Advisory Committee which will oversee and coordinate the state contest.
- H. Violation of the above rules will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest. Rule infractions will be handled on a case by case basis by the State Animal Science Advisory Committee in consultation with the State 4-H Program Director.
- I. The site of the official State 4-H Dairy Judging contest, the content of the general rules for each year's contest and makeup of the contest will be determined each year by the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee.

- J. As with all 4-H events and programs the California 4-H Code of Conduct must be adhered to at all times by contestants, coaches and volunteers. Adults must also agree to abide by the adult volunteer code of conduct.
- K. No 4-H member is to leave the grounds of the contest without the permission of their coach and/or volunteer-chaperone.

Any 4-H members who have been found to have violated any of the above rules will be subject to immediate suspension from the contest and forfeit awards.

Contestants

A team may consist of three or four members. The top three scores will be used to determine the official team. If a team only has three members, they are the official team. These same three individuals will be used in selecting sub-contest, team winners. All contestants may compete for individual awards.

Classes

Class	Individual	Team
Milking Class 1	50	150
Milking Class 2	50	150
Milking Class 3	50	150
Heifer Class 1	50	150
Heifer Class 2	50	150
Heifer Class 3	50	150
Reasons 1	50	150
Reasons 2	50	150
Reasons 3	50	150
Pedigree Class	50	150
TOTAL	500	1500

Tie Breaker

1. The team or individual scoring the highest total reasons score(s) will be the winner.
2. If a tie still exists, the total score of the individual or team will be used to determine the high individual or team.

Sub-contest Awards

Sub-contest awards will be given for high teams and individuals in the following areas: Milking, Heifers, Pedigree, and Reasons. (Milking and Heifer sub-contests include reasons for respective classes. Reasons sub-contest includes all reasons scores.)

Rules

- I.* Six classes of dairy cattle, each consisting of four animals, will be judged in this contest. These classes shall be three of milking cows and three of heifers.
- II.* All contestants must report on all classes and will be graded on the following basis: Correct placing - 50 points; Correct reasons - 50 points.

- III.** Contestants will not be allowed to handle the animals.
- IV.** Twelve (12) minutes will be allowed for placing non-reasons classes.
- V.** Seventeen (17) minutes will be allowed for placing reasons classes. These classes will be designated before the cattle are judged.

Each contestant will give three (3) sets of reasons. Two (2) minutes will be allowed for each presentation.

- VI.** One class will be judged on pedigree and performance record. There will be a twelve (12) minute time limit for placing of the class of four pedigrees. Placings will be based on:
 - A.** predicted differences and cow indexes as computed by the USDA.
- VII.** predicted differences and individual scores for type.

The perfect score will be 50 points.

VI. AWARDS SYSTEM

These may vary from year to year depending on the site of the contest, the organization or individual in charge of planning the overall event and the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee.

- A.** The State 4-H Incentive Program will award gold, silver, and bronze medallions respectively to the first, second, and third high point individuals/teams in the contest.
- B.** Ribbons will be given to first, second, third, fourth and fifth place teams and individuals in each category.
- C.** The top placing team in the State 4-H Dairy Judging contest shall be eligible to represent the State of California in the official National 4-H Dairy Judging competition at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. If the top team does not desire or are ineligible to participate in the official National 4-H Judging Contest, then the succeeding high scoring team shall be eligible in order to represent California at the National Dairy Judging Contest.
- D.** After the highest placing team is identified to represent California at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest the remaining teams or individuals in succeeding order of scores will be identified to represent California in other national 4-H dairy judging contests that have limitations of one 4-H team per state.
- E.** Contestants who have judged as an alternate at the National 4H Dairy Judging Contest are considered as being part of the official State team and are ineligible to compete a second time at the National level.
- F.** The state designated dairy judging teams will be required to acquire sponsorship assistance to attend the national events, until such time State support is developed through the State 4-H Foundation (State 4-H Incentives and Recognition).

VII. JUDGES

- A. A committee of judges shall select and place all classes and hear and score all reasons. The judges shall decide which classes require reasons. If the number of teams entered indicates that additional judges are necessary to expedite and make more efficient the hearing and scoring of reasons, the contest chairperson shall appoint such judges.
- B. The judges shall place the classes and enter their placings on placing cards, indicate the cuts to be made and file that card with the contest chairperson.
- C. Contestants may be handed their placing card as they appear before each judging committee to give their reasons. When the contestant has finished, the judge will place the official reason grade upon the placing card and submit for tabulation/scoring