



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Dairy Cattle

Project is designed for members 8-18 years old.

Inspiring youth to:

- Explore the possibility of expanding to make a profitable enterprise
 - Learn:
 - Selection and Judging
 - Record Keeping
 - Nutrition
 - Health
 - Reproduction and Genetics
 - Quality Assurance
 - Competition
 - Consumer Awareness
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Showing Your Animal and Industry Knowledge

Inspiring youth to:

- Increase awareness about issues of animal well-being and the assurance of quality products from dairy cattle
 - Learn how to groom and show your animal and how to win and lose graciously in the show ring
 - Better understand how dairy products enter the food chain
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Selecting and Raising Your Animal

Inspiring youth to:

- Learn which characteristics to look for in a modern dairy animal
 - Learn about the costs associated with feed, equipment, and birth or purchase of an animal
 - Understand the nutrition requirements for dairy cattle at all stages of production and how to balance for maximum production
 - Learn about common diseases and parasites of dairy cattle and what to do to prevent them
 - Learn about reproductive systems of dairy cattle and how traits are passed from parents to offspring
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Colorado State University, U.S Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating. To simplify technical terminology, trade names or products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of product names is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.

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Dairy Cattle

Tips:

- Water is the most important nutrient. Always provide access to fresh, clean water to your animal.
- House your animals in an area where you can readily observe them to best monitor feed, water, and their health.
- Provide fresh, high quality feed.
- Feed a balanced ration that will allow the calf to develop adequately and at the right body condition.
- Holstein heifers should gain, on average, 1.7-1.8 pounds per day from birth to the day they calve.
- When selecting a heifer, keep in mind that March, June, September, and December are age breaks used at most shows. An animal born on March 1st, for example, would have almost three months advantage over an animal born on May 30th.
- Before starting a dairy project you should consider that it may have a sizeable investment, often exceeding \$2000. You should develop a cash flow budget and be sure that you have adequate funding for this project.



Resources:

- Exhibit & Judging Requirements
- Record Books
- Manual Information

Located at: Colorado4h.org



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**Beyond
Ready**

Dairy Industry Careers



Herdsman

Oversees all activities that go into breeding, milking, and maintaining dairy cattle



Feed Sale Representative

Sells livestock feed to dealers, farmers and production facilities



Food Inspector

Public health professional who ensures the safety of food products processed in private plants



Embryologist

Responsible for the study of embryos, their development and use with in vitro fertilization



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
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Degrees/Certifications:

Dairy Science
Business
Nutrition
Engineering
Ag Science
Ag Business



Breed Association Representative

Person who presents, sells and supports products and services for dairy farmers and businesses



Calf Barn Worker

Individual works with dairy calves to prepare them to be introduced into the herd



Veterinarian

There are veterinarians that work specifically with dairy cattle



Hoof Trimmer

Person who trims the hoofs of cattle