



# 2026 Ohio State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest

The 2026 Ohio 4-H Dairy judging contest will be held Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am during the Spring Dairy Expo held at the Ohio Exposition Center. Registration for the State contest will be online again this year through the Spring Dairy Expo Entry page at:

<https://showman.app/shows#/spring-dairy-expo>

and should be available sometime in February. **Everyone must enter as an individual.** Teams will be made according to age and residence following registration. All out of state contestants will be entered in the Open contest and will compete individually. Early online registration costs are \$8.00 per person and the cost after Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> is \$15.00. PLEASE take advantage of the discount and register early!!

You may pick up your packets on the morning of the contest, beginning at 8:00am in the Coliseum (for those that have registered early). Late Registration is also available from 8:00 to 9:00 am on the day of the contest. LUNCH is **NOT** included in this fee and will not be supplied. Cash or Check will be accepted the day of the contest. Checks can be made out to: The Ohio State University. For more information and updates, please follow the following link: <https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/dairy/events>.

To make this easier for you we eliminated the need for the County 4-H extension agent's signature prior to the contest. **We will be validating enrollment with the county agents following the contest (this does not apply to the Open division).** There are several reasons for this, the first being that the actual 4-H enrollment deadline for most counties is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Another reason is to improve accountability for multiple county teams, and lastly, it will save the coaches from having to collect signatures.

## Contest Details

- ❖ The contest is held annually during the Spring Dairy Expo at the Ohio State Expositions Center, Columbus, Ohio.
- ❖ The date this year is **Wednesday**, April 1st in the Coliseum Arena. LATE REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON WEDNESDAY MORNING beginning at 8 am. The contest will begin at 9:00am. If you have pre-registered you will still need to pick up your packets at the registration table the morning of the contest.
- ❖ The cost is **\$8.00 for each contestant** if pre-registered. Cost will be **\$15.00** the day of the contest. **LUNCH is NOT included in this fee.** Cash or Checks will be accepted. No credit cards will be accepted the day of the contest. Checks can be made out to: The Ohio State University.
- ❖ There will be Team photos prior to the contest in the coliseum. Please allow time for these prior to the start of the contest.
- ❖ This contest will be used to help in the selection of the State 4-H dairy judging team. Individuals who would like to try out for the State team are expected to compete in this contest.
- ❖ There are 4 divisions. Seniors will be age 15-18, Intermediates 12-14, and Juniors 8-11. All age divisions are based on age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. There is also an Open division open to anyone 8 years of age and older that are not Ohio 4-H members. All divisions will place 4 animals in

each of the six classes. Intermediates will give 2 sets of oral reasons and may use notes. Seniors will give **2** sets of oral reasons WITHOUT notes. Open division contestants may give reasons if they would like, please notify us at check in if you will be giving reasons.

- ❖ Teams will be comprised of a minimum of 3 individuals. This year, all members from the same county in each division will be on the same team regardless of number with only the top three individuals counting towards the overall team score.
- ❖ Counties may enter one team per division with no limit on the number per team.
- ❖ Counties without enough members for a team may combine with other counties to form multi-county teams. NOTE: You must be approved by our office to have a multiple county team.
- ❖ You may enter as an individual if you do not have a team. You may be placed on another county's team if there is a need.
- ❖ If a team does not have enough members in a specific age division, you may move up an individual from a younger division. However, they are required to follow the rules for that age division. For example, a Junior could become a member of an Intermediate team, but they would need to present 2 sets of oral reasons.
- ❖ There will be three rings with three classes of cattle in the arena at a time. Contestants will be divided into different rings on the day of the contest. Reasons order by contestant number, will be organized immediately following completion of classes. There is **NO** talking among contestants allowed during the contest or oral reasons.
- ❖ All Intermediates and Seniors will be asked to stay in the arena where they will be divided into groups for reasons immediately following the last class until reasons are completed. **NO COACHES or Parents** are allowed to remain in this area.
- ❖ Results will be available on our website at: <https://springdairyexpo.com>
- ❖ or by visiting <https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/dairy/results-0> by Friday, April 3rd and will be emailed to the coaches that provide email addresses. **All 4-H divisions (Junior, Intermediate and Senior) awards will be presented April 1<sup>st</sup> in the Coliseum prior to the Showmanship contest.** Awards can be mailed if requested.
- ❖ If you have a participant with special needs, please contact us **PRIOR** to the contest.

For more information please contact: Sherry Smith at [smith.10072@osu.edu](mailto:smith.10072@osu.edu) . [sbgs82@att.net](mailto:sbgs82@att.net) or 330.465.2376

