

Ideas for Dairy Heifer Learning Activities

Beginner Level

Need more ideas for your dairy heifer project? There are hundreds of things you can do! You are being asked to complete **at least five** activities each year. Use this list, the 4-H *Dairy Heifer Resource Handbook*, and your imagination, and then write your ideas in your *Dairy Heifer Project and Record Book*. Have fun!

- Locate and identify the parts of a dairy cow.
- Create a poster with pictures of at least three breeds of dairy cattle. Present the poster to your club and tell about two characteristics of each breed.
- Attend a dairy show and watch the evaluation of the animals. Listen to the judge's comments on placings.
- Explain some characteristics to look for when selecting a dairy heifer for a 4-H project.
- Describe the nutrient content of milk.
- Define pasteurization, and tell why milk is pasteurized.
- Visit a grocery store to find and make a list of five dairy products. Describe how these different products are packaged and stored.
- Describe what a sick calf might look like.
- Make a chart describing the symptoms associated with each of the following diseases: navel ill, scours, and pneumonia.
- Define the term ruminant and give at least three examples of animals that are classified as ruminants.
- Demonstrate how to mix milk replacer properly.
- Name the six classes of nutrients.
- Compare colostrum milk and milk produced by a cow two weeks and calving. Describe how the two types of milk are different.
- Collect five samples of feed ingredients commonly fed to dairy heifers. Tell the major use each serves in the ration as a source of protein, vitamins, minerals, energy, or water.
- Teach a baby calf to drink from a bucket.
- Using a feed tag from a feed you fed your heifer, demonstrate that you can identify the various parts of the feed tag.
- Define the following terms related to dairy cattle genetics: dam, sire, and inheritance.



- Draw a family tree for your heifer. Identify the dam, sire, granddams, and grandsires.
- Assist with the care of a newborn calf (ex. dipping, the navel, feeding colostrum).
- Observe the birth of a calf. Describe the behavior of the calf and the dam following birth.
- Describe or demonstrate three ways you can identify your project animal.
- Make a rope halter for a calf.
- Teach your heifer to lead.
- Wash your heifer.
- Complete the Growth Record in the Animal Records section of this book.
- Exhibit your heifer at the county fair.
- Send a thank you note to award donors and anyone who helped you with your project (advisors, older members, parents, etc.).