

# 127 – DAIRY CATTLE

## 4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

To complete a livestock project in 4-H, member must annually:

- Enroll in 4H Club by March 1
- Be 4-H member in “Good Standing” (complete county and club requirements)
- Complete Project Book and Livestock Record Book
- Attend Quality Assurance Training
- Complete Livestock Skillathon
- Non-Market/breeding Livestock project must be in member’s possession by June 1

\*NOTE: 4-H Members may also choose to exhibit their livestock at the Ross County Junior Fair. Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project in 4-H.

### 1. 4-H PROJECT BOOK & LIVESTOCK RECORDS

- **PROJECT BOOKS:** First-year members will receive a **Dairy Cattle Project and Record Book (#127CA Dairy Calf; #127HE Dairy Yearling Heifer; #127CO Dairy Cow) and Dairy Resource Handbook (#127R)**. Members must retain books for use in future years. The Resource Handbook is given one per family and must be retained for future family members.
- **LIVESTOCK RECORD:** Each member will receive a new **Livestock Record** annually. **Members are required to bring their completed Livestock Record to Skillathon** with all information completed up to the date of the Skillathon.

### 2. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Exhibitors of Market and Dairy Projects must attend Quality Assurance training annually in order to show, exhibit and/or sell their animal at the county or state fair. This training is mandated by the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture for any producer that contributes to the food industry and must be completed at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: **June 24, 2026** for Ross County Fair and June 1 for State Fair.
- **QA OPTIONS:**
  - **Ross County** dates/times go to [ross.osu.edu](http://ross.osu.edu)
    - **QA Sessions (all ages):** Pre-register **by March 1** at [go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance](http://go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance)
    - **Test-Out (ages 15-18 on January 1):** Youth will complete QA for the current year and will then take a test. Youth scoring 70% - 100% will “test out” of QA for next three years.
  - **Other In-Person (all ages):** Exhibitors may attend approved QA programs or clinics. To get credit, it is the member’s responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office.
  - **YQCA Online (ages 14-18 on January 1):** <http://yqcaprogram.org> (\$12/person). Must use 4-H online log-in. To get credit, it is the member’s responsibility to send a copy of the completion document to the Extension office.

### 3. SKILLATHON

- All Ross County Jr. Fair Animal Project Exhibitors must complete a Skillathon to exhibit, show and/or their animal(s). Exhibitors may complete either the Ross County Skillathon OR the Ohio State Fair Skillathon (if offered) for their species. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office, if attending the OSF Skillathon.
- **Skillathon Dates:**
  - Location: Fairgrounds
  - July 7, 5:00pm-7:00pm
  - July 18, 9:00am-11:00am
- **Age Categories:** Members complete Skillathon according to their age (as of January 1).
  - Junior (8-11 years)
  - Intermediate (12 – 14 years)
  - Senior (15 – 18 years)
- **PREMIER SKILLATHON** (all ages): Optional contest. Participants will compete in a Premier Skillathon station in each specie area. Details will be in the *May Family Hotline* and *Ross County Fair Book*.

## JR. FAIR INFORMATION

→ This is not a complete listing of all Jr. Fair rules. Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for details.

To exhibit, show and/or sell an animal at the Ross County Junior Fair, exhibitors must:

- ☑ Enroll in 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter by March 1
  - 4-H members sign up through 4Honline
  - FFA members sign up with Ag Teacher
- ☑ Be 4-H/FFA members in “Good Standing” (complete county and club/chapter requirements)
- ☑ Complete Project Book and Livestock Record Book
- ☑ Attend Quality Assurance Training
- ☑ Complete Livestock Skillathon
- ☑ Complete online “Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form” by July 15
  - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries
- ☑ Submit online DUNF form at fair move-in

\*NOTE: Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project through 4-H or FFA.

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### 2026 JR FAIR IMPORTANT DATES

- **Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
  - **DUNF Form:** due at fair move-in
  - **Fair Move-in:** first Saturday of fair, 7:00am – 11:00am
  - **Dairy Cattle Showmanship:** Sunday, 8:00am
  - **Dairy Cattle Show:** Sunday, following Dairy Cattle Showmanship
  - **Dairy Cattle Product Sale:** Friday evening of fair, 6:00pm (rotate annually with Beef, Dairy Product, Goats)
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1. **JR FAIR EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE.** Exhibitors **must** adhere to the following dress requirements **at all shows and sales** at the fair: must wear nice jeans or slacks (no low-rise, no holes or tears); a shirt, blouse or polo with a collar and sleeves AND without slogans or advertisements (4-H club/member name is acceptable); no cleavage showing; no undergarments showing. Shoes must be closed-toe (no sandals or flip flops).  
Exception: Dairy Cattle exhibitors should wear “Dairy Whites” (white shirt, white pants or skirt)
2. **FAIR VETERINARIAN**  
The Fair Veterinarian is hired by the Ross Co. Agricultural Society per Ohio Dept. of Agriculture guidelines. Determinations related to animal health, care, and wellbeing are up to the discretion of the Fair Veterinarian up to and including animal removal and possession. (Clarification that the Fair Vet gets final say)
3. **DRENCHING.** Drenching of livestock is **prohibited** at an exhibition, unless it is for a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian.
4. **MEDICATIONS.** If a prescription is written that requires medication/treatment, a superintendent must be present each time the medicine/treatment is administered to ensure compliance with the guidance in the prescription. The superintendent must be present before any medicine/treatment is mixed through delivery.
5. **DUNF FORMS**
  - A. All DUNF forms must be submitted online at fair move-in
  - B. Cattle - A separate DUNF must be submitted for **each** animal.
  - C. DUNF form must be correctly submitted, or exhibitor will not be allowed to weigh-in their animal(s).
6. **POSSESSION.** All non-market/breeding livestock projects must be in a member's possession by **June 1**, current year. All Livestock Projects must be in the continual care of the youth and their parent(s) during the duration of the project.
7. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15**
  - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
  - B. Animals at the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.
8. **JR FAIR DAIRY CLASSES:** *\* No more than two entries may be made in each class.*
  - **Jr Heifer Calf** - Born on or after February 1, current year and over 4 months of age
  - **Sr Heifer Calf** - Born September 1, previous year – January 31, current year
  - **Jr Yearling Heifer** - Born February 1 through August 31 of previous year.

- **Sr Yearling Heifer** - Born September 1, (2 years ago) through August 31, (2 years ago).
- **Two Year Old** - Born September 1, (3 years ago) through August 31, (2 years ago).
- **Three Year Old** - Born September 1, (4 years ago) through August 31, (3 years ago).
- **Aged Cow** - Born prior to September 1, (4 years ago).

9. **DAIRY CATTLE PRODUCT SALE: Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules.**

- A. Jr. Fair Exhibitors (*4-H member who is enrolled in #127 Dairy Cattle Project or FFA member taking Dairy SAE*) may participate in the Jr Fair Livestock Sale.
  - B. The sale will be a symbolic sale (the animals do not sell); it will be a Dairy product that must follow the guidelines in the current *Ross County Fair Book*.
    - a. **New in 2026** - The Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Cow exhibitors may bring their animals into the ring to display the cow. The animals will NOT sell; the sale is only the Dairy Product.
  - C. Each Exhibitor may only go through the sale one time. To participate in the sale, the exhibitor must complete the online Jr. Fair Livestock Entry Form by July 15.
10. All livestock exhibitors must clean their stall/pen and aisle by 12:00noon Sunday after fair. Exhibitors not in compliance will be placed on a 1-year probation. If a second offense occurs, the exhibitor will be ineligible to exhibit the following year.

## JR FAIR DAIRY CATTLE SHOWMANSHIP

*Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules (age divisions, fitting/showing rules, show order, etc.)*

### Showmanship Sign-ups

1. **July 15** -Showmanship sign-ups (Beginner, Junior, Intermediate & Senior) are included in the online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form due July 15.
2. Pee wee Showmanship sign-up sheets will be posted in each species' barn. Participants can sign up until the start of the Pee Wee Show.