



Maryland 4-H State 4-H Dairy Skillathon Contest: General Rules

Objectives of the 4-H Dairy Skillathon

The primary objective of the Maryland 4-H Dairy Skillathon Contest is to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of animal science and management in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. The practical application of the contestants' knowledge and skills is emphasized. The contest's coordinators strive to provide an educational experience for participants as well as an opportunity for the creation of new friendships.

The 4-H Dairy Skillathon offers age-appropriate quizzes and stations that are designed to test youth knowledge of the dairy industry. The stations will include visual diagrams and questions to demonstrate dairy related knowledge.

General Rules

1. Contest date and time: **Saturday, March 21, 2026, Check-in begins at 9:30 AM and the Contest starts at 10:00 AM. The 2026 contest will be held at the Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD.**
2. **This is a contest in which individuals compete. There will be NO team entries.** There will be a \$5.00 entry fee for each contestant. 4-H members wishing to participate should contact their county/city 4-H office. **Official registration for the contest is submitted via the 4-H Online registration system by March 8, 2026.**
3. There is no limit to the number of individuals that each UME unit may register for this contest. **Individuals participating in the statewide contest must be enrolled as a Maryland 4-H member for 2026 in 4-H Online by March 8, 2026.** County offices must verify registration. Counties will be invoiced for entry fees based on the total number of registered participants from their programs.
4. The Maryland 4-H State 4-H Dairy Skillathon Contest will be governed by the prescribed procedures and regulations found in this document. Additional rules may be added for specific purposes. Contestants not complying with the rules will be disqualified. Coaches and/or parents not complying with the applicable Procedures and Regulations will be dismissed from the contest area. All challenges to the contest, including stations, official's decisions and results, must be submitted in writing to the State 4-H Youth Development Specialist for Animal Science within 24 hours of the contest.
5. Spectators will not be permitted in the contest rooms during the contest. Additional details will be provided during the Contest Overview before the contest begins.

Contestants and Eligibility

1. All Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H online by the contest entry deadline and approved by the 4-H Extension Educator of their respective UME unit.
2. Maryland 4-H members must be between the ages of 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year. Juniors are ages 8-10; Intermediates are ages 11-13; and Seniors are ages 14-18.



3. Senior contestants receiving college or vocational training beyond high school (university, college, junior college or technical school) in areas relative to animal or dairy sciences are not eligible to compete in the Maryland 4-H State Dairy Skillathon Contest.
4. Contestants requesting a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event must indicate the need on the contest registration form in 4-H Online by the registration deadline. A reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment to a program that will enable a person who has a disability to participate in and/or benefit from the program. A parent/guardian of the contestant requesting an accommodation will be contacted by a contest coordinator to discuss reasonable accommodation requests. Accommodation requests cannot be accepted or modified on the day of the contest.
5. Participation in this event requires the 4-H member and his/her parent/guardian to agree to the terms and conditions of the *Maryland 4-H Event Liability Release and Informed Consent Agreement*. The agreement will be signed electronically during the contestant's event registration in 4-H Online.

Contest Phases

1. Quiz phase of the contest may include questions about the total dairy industry.
 - a. Juniors – **20 questions** (multiple choice and true/false)
 - b. Intermediates and Seniors – **25 questions** (multiple choice and true/false)
 - c. All questions will be read verbally. There will be about 20-30 seconds after each question is read for participants to mark their answer before the next question is read.
2. Stations phase of the contest will consist of a series of stations or tables where contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Examples of stations which may be used include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Quality Assurance: Dairy Quality Assurance Information & Reading a Pedigree, Feed Tag, and/or Medicine Label
 - b. Breeds: Dairy Breed Identification
 - c. Dairy Equipment: General & Milking Equipment Identification
 - d. Feeding & Nutrition: Feed Identification & Reading a Feed Tag
 - e. Genetics & Selection: Sire Selection & Reading a Pedigree-Genetic Terms & Values
 - f. Animal Care: Disease & Parasite Identification & Quality Assurance
 - g. Dairy Products: Product Identification
 - h. Anatomy & Physiology: External Parts Identification, Skeletal System Parts Identification, Digestive System Parts Identification, Reproductive System Parts Identification, and Mammary System Parts Identification.

Scoring

1. The maximum score for each station of the contest is 50 points.
2. The maximum score for the quiz is 100 points each.
3. Ties in the overall contest will be broken in the following order:
 - a. Highest score in the Quiz Phase; if still tied then,
 - b. Highest score in the Station Phase.
4. Ties within any phase of the contest are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above, beginning with the quiz score. If further tie breaking is needed, the scores at each station, in order, may be used.
5. Contest score cards/answer cards will not be returned to participants following the contest. Contest stations will be available for viewing for a limited time following the contest and official keys will be displayed at each station.

Awards

1. A trophy/award will be awarded to the highest placing individual in each age division.
2. The top ten (10) individuals in each age division will be awarded ribbons.

4-H Dairy Skillathon References

Information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of, but not limited to, the following references:

- The Ohio State University Dairy Resource Handbook (127R)
- The Ohio State University Dairy Learning Lab Kit
- Virginia Dairy Bowl Study Guide (2025) -
https://www.youth.dasc.vt.edu/content/dam/youth_dasc_vt_edu/quiz-bowl/2025%20VA%204-H%20Dairy%20Quiz%20Bowl%20Study%20Materials.pdf
- Holstein Foundation's Showring Ready Workbook (2/2017)
- Holstein Foundation's Milking & Lactation Workbook (11/2017)
- Holstein Foundation's World of Dairy Cattle Dairy Cattle Nutrition Workbook (11/2021)
- Holstein Foundation's Understanding Genetics and the Sire Summaries Workbook (4/2021)
- Holstein Foundation's Pedigree Questions and Answers Workbook (4/2021)
- Holstein Foundation's Dairy Cattle Reproduction Workbook (7/2017)
- Holstein Foundation's Connecting with Dairy Consumers (11/2018)
- Nasco Farm & Ranch Catalog - www.enasco.com/c/Farm-Ranch
- Oklahoma State University Breeds of Livestock Website-Cattle -
<http://afs.okstate.edu/breeds/cattle>
- Dairy Breeds Photos & Dairy Breed Characteristics (Google Drive Folder)
- Dairy Foods: Producing the Best - Cheese Identification & Characteristics of Types of Cheese, pp. 29-30 -
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g9OVRAJo0go2xjqHC9qTc5zLltilOIEX/view?usp=drive_link
- Maryland 4-H Livestock Skillathon Kit-Feed & Hay Samples (12/2018)
- Additional Study Resources & Information can be found online at
<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/cecil-county/local-4-h-youth-education/animal-science-information> (scroll down and click on the *Dairy Judging Events/Quiz Bowls/Skillathon Contests* tab and click on *Dairy Skillathon Resources*).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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