



## Dairy

Georgia 4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime. Through a competitive process, students explore their interests, unleash their creativity, share their work, and celebrate their achievements! This guide provides 9th—12th graders with examples for getting started with their project exploration.

### Description of Project:

4-H'ers may explore the dairy industry including establishing and managing dairy cattle and milk goat enterprises, by-products, and end-products.

Through this project 4-H'ers may:

- learn about and acquire skills for animal selection, breeding, feeding, care, production, management, ownership, exhibition, marketing, by-products, and end-products of dairy cattle and milk goats
- discover the industry's current and historic roles, scope, contributions of science, environmental and societal impacts, and economic significance
- explore equipment and safety protocols of animal care and production
- understand cleanliness and sanitation as applied to the production and care of milk and dairy products
- demonstrate sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- develop an appreciation for the production of milk and dairy products and understand their importance in human nutrition
- study bio-security of the dairy and milk animal industries and food supply
- understand the role of veterinary care of dairy and milk animals
- explore career opportunities related to dairy and milk industries

### Overview:

- ⇒ Choose project
- ⇒ Develop skills in:
  - Project
  - Leadership
  - Service
- ⇒ Prepare portfolio for work completed from January 1—December 31
- ⇒ Prepare presentation
- ⇒ Practice
- ⇒ Compete
- ⇒ Reflect

### Examples of Project Development Experiences:

- Attend dairy camps, vet classes, livestock auctions, field days, livestock shows, etc.
- Tour milk processing plant, dairy farms, veterinary clinics, feed stores, and/or animal barns
- Acquire and read books, trade magazines, pamphlets, and online media about the industry
- Raise and show a Commercial Dairy Heifer
- Participate in 4-H Dairy Judging, fitting contest team, and/or Dairy Heifer Record Books
- Interview an animal and dairy scientist, producer, or local dairy farmer and discuss the industry
- Shadow a veterinarian, dairy farmer, and/or animal scientist and learn of job responsibilities
- Join a 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl team

## Project Sharing and Helping Examples:

- Volunteer as a teen leader and assist with coaching a dairy judging team
- Hold a fitting demonstration for community members, schools, civic groups, etc.
- Host a show preparation seminar for interested youth
- Mentor a younger 4-H'er in showing an animal
- Hold a feeding and management demonstration for dairy heifers
- Start a dairy and milk science project club and lead meetings to share your knowledge with others
- Arrange for industry speakers to discuss agricultural issues for community members
- Demonstrate your work through presentations and exhibits at schools, civic clubs, senior homes, chambers of commerce, etc.
- Write news articles, blogs, or social media posts about your project and your accomplishments
- Set up dairy and milk product exhibits at fairs, libraries, etc.
- Organize a dairy farm or milk processing plant tour or farm day
- Mentor a younger 4-H'er in the Dairy and Milk Science project
- Promote Dairy Month in your community and display posters

## Recommended Resources:

- [georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement](http://georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement)
- [georgia4h.org/livestock](http://georgia4h.org/livestock)
- [georgia4h.org/livestock/resources.htm](http://georgia4h.org/livestock/resources.htm)
- [extension.uga.edu/agriculture/animals](http://extension.uga.edu/agriculture/animals)
- [caes.uga.edu/departments/animal-dairy-science.html](http://caes.uga.edu/departments/animal-dairy-science.html)
- [agr.georgia.gov](http://agr.georgia.gov)
- [usda.gov/topics/animals](http://usda.gov/topics/animals)

## Special Considerations:

- Actual animal exhibiting is not a requirement of this project.
- This project can address any issue related to the production of milk. Members may gain experience in a number of ways, such as assisting with the management of a dairy herd, raising animals, or studying processing and marketing.
- Youth should practice internet safety. A best practice is to include a friend or parent in all communications and interactions.
- Be sure to gain land owner permission prior to entering someone else's property.
- Exercise safety when handling tools, animals, and equipment.
- Live animals and weapons are not permitted in the presentation.

## At Competition:

*Dairy 4-H projects may use posters, artifacts, biofacts, and/or technology to support their presentation. The time limit for presentations is 12 minutes. Computers, projectors, screens, and other technological devices may be used.*

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Sources: Silcox, Ronnie and Larry D. Guthrie. 1998. *Junior/Senior Project Notebook*. "Dairy and Milk Science Project."

The University of Georgia CAES. 2016. Project Achievement. <http://www.georgia4h.org/projectachievement/>

