

2025 State 4-H & FFA Dairy Youth Field Day

The 2025 State 4-H & FFA Dairy Youth Field Day will serve as the **State 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, State FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management Career Development Event, and State FFA Dairy Handlers Activity.**

General Information

Date: Thursday, July 31, 2025

Location: Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg

Schedule

Morning	Senior FFA Team Activity - Teams will receive appointments after registration closes.
12:30 PM	Junior FFA check in
12:40 PM	General Knowledge Exam - Junior FFA and Senior FFA
1:00 PM	4-H Teams and FFA Dairy Handlers check-in
1:30 PM	All teams begin judging classes
3:00 PM	Oral reasons preparation and delivery
4:30 PM	Ice cream social
5:00 PM	Results announced (estimated)

Note: Lunch will not be provided. All teams should eat before arrival at the fairgrounds. Senior FFA teams may wish to pack a lunch depending on their team activity schedule.

Dual Entry Allowed

Youth will be allowed to count their scores in both the State 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest and State FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management Career Development Event if they are bona fide members in each organization and entered in both contests by the registration deadline.

Registration

Please use the following link to register all contestants: <https://tinyurl.com/2025-VA-Dairy-Youth-Field-Day>

Health History and Code of Conduct Forms

It is the responsibility of the lead chaperone to ensure each participant is enrolled and to have the health history form and code of conduct forms for their group members with them at all times. The chaperone should remain in close proximity of the event. (Use the forms for your organization - 4-H or FFA.)

Supplies

1. Each participant must provide:
 - A. Two sharpened No. 2 pencils
 - B. Clipboard with one sheet of blank paper
2. All other necessary materials will be provided by the event committee.

State 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest

Event Rules

1. Teams will consist of three or four members. When four members are entered, the three members with the highest individual scores will be used for the team score.
2. Age requirements
 - A. Juniors will be 9 to 13 years old as of September 30, 2025.
 - B. Seniors will be 14 to 18 years old as of September 30, 2025.
 - C. Youth born between January 1, 2011, and September 30, 2011, have the option to compete either as a junior or a senior.
3. Oral Reasons
 - A. Junior 4-H contestants will present one set of oral reasons.
 - B. Senior 4-H contestants will present two sets of oral reasons.

Event Format

- I. **Judging Classes** (300 points)
 - A. Six classes of four dairy animals will each be placed on type. Classes will consist of heifers, young cows or mature cows. Computer scored Scantrons will be used to record answers on placing classes.
 - B. The dairy cattle handlers will wear numbers, which identify the animals.
 - C. Each class is worth 50 points maximum for a correct placing.
 - D. Participants will have 12 minutes to place each class. For classes on which oral reasons will be given, participants will be given 15 minutes.
- II. **Oral Reasons** (Junior contestants - 50 points, Senior contestants - 100 points)
 - A. Oral reasons will be required on one class for Junior contestants and two classes for Senior contestants. These classes will be designated by the event superintendent prior to the actual evaluation of the class.
 - B. Participants should not use notes during delivery of reasons. Points will be deducted for the use of notes.
 - C. Each class is worth 50 points maximum for each set of reasons.
 - D. Participants will have 12 minutes to prepare each set of oral reasons. No more than two minutes may be used to deliver the reasons before the judges.

Scoring

Activity	Juniors		Seniors	
	Maximum Individual Points	Maximum Team Points	Maximum Individual Points	Maximum Team Points
Judging classes	300	900	300	900
Oral reasons	50	150	100	300
Total Possible Score	350	1,050	400	1,200

Tiebreakers

If a tie occurs, the following events will be used to determine award recipients:

1. Individual
 - A. Oral reasons score
 - B. Placing score - class 1
 - C. Placing score - class 2
2. Team
 - A. Oral reasons score
 - B. Placing score - class 1
 - C. Placing score - class 2

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Katherine Carter at 540-231-2257/TDD* during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

State FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management CDE

Event Rules

1. Each team will be comprised of four members.
2. All four participant scores will be used to determine total team score.
3. Computer score sheets will be used to record answers for the General Knowledge Exam and judging classes. These forms must be completed within the time allotted. No additional time will be permitted to transfer responses to computer scoring sheets. Responses that are not correctly recorded on the computer score sheets will not be considered.
4. FFA Juniors are students who completed grades 6 – 9 during the 24-25 Academic Year.
FFA Seniors are students who completed grades 9 – 12 during the 24 – 25 Academic Year.

Students who have just completed their 9th grade year may choose to participate as a Junior or Senior, but their scores can only count in one division and on one team.

Event Format

- I. **General Knowledge Exam** (150 points)
 - A. The exam will consist of a 50-question exam involving dairy management practices and DHI Records.
 - B. Forty questions will cover various dairy management and industry related topics.
 - C. Ten questions will be answered using a dairy herd record evaluation data sheet to analyze individual cows.
 - D. Participants will have 40 minutes to complete the exam.
- II. **Evaluation** (300 points)
 - A. Six classes of four dairy animals will each be placed on type. Classes will consist of heifers, young cows or mature cows.
 - B. The dairy cattle handlers will wear numbers, which identify the animals.
 - C. Each class is worth 50 points maximum for a correct placing.
 - D. Participants will have 12 minutes to place each class. For classes on which oral reasons will be given, participants will be given 15 minutes.
- III. **Oral Reasons** (Junior contestants - 50 points; Senior contestants - 100 points)
 - A. Oral reasons will be required on one class for Junior contestants and two classes for Senior contestants. These classes will be designated by the event superintendent prior to the actual evaluation of the class.
 - B. Participants may not use notes during delivery of reasons. Points will be deducted for the use of notes.
 - C. Each class is worth 50 points maximum for each set of reasons.
 - D. Participants will have 12 minutes to prepare each set of oral reasons. No more than two minutes may be used to deliver the reasons before the judges.
- IV. **Team Activity** (Senior Teams only - 600 points)
 - A. The team activity will be conducted at the fairgrounds on Thursday morning, July 31, by appointment. The contest coordinator will contact the advisor to schedule the team appointment after registration closes.
 - B. Each senior team will be provided with a dairy farm management scenario to identify problems and determine possible improvements. All necessary information will be provided.
 - C. The 2025 scenario will be based on health/diseases.

- D. Each scenario may include animal welfare, biosecurity, business management, current issues, environmental management and safety concerns related to the topic area.
- E. Team Expectations
 - 1. Teams should assume the role of a hired consultant advising a producer (judges).
 - 2. Teams will be given 40 minutes to prepare their recommendations to be presented to a panel of judges.
 - 3. It is not necessary to describe the scenario to the judges since they are the producer.
 - 4. Teams will be allowed 10 minutes to present their recommendations, followed by five minutes of clarifying questions from the judges.

Scoring

Activity	Juniors		Seniors	
	Maximum Individual Points	Maximum Team Points	Maximum Individual Points	Maximum Team Points
General knowledge exam	150	600	150	600
Judging classes	300	1,200	300	1,200
Oral reasons	50	200	100	400
Team activity	---	---	---	600
Total Possible Score	500	2,000	550	2,800

Tiebreakers

If a tie occurs, the following events will be used to determine award recipients:

- 1. Individual
 - A. General knowledge exam score
 - B. Evaluation score
 - C. Oral reasons score
- 2. Team
 - A. Total general knowledge exam score
 - B. Total evaluation score
 - C. Total oral reasons score
 - D. Team activity

State FFA Dairy Handlers Activity

Event Rules

1. It is highly recommended that participants wear dairy whites. Handlers should not wear FFA jackets during the contest.
2. Handlers should have had prior experience in showing dairy cattle.
3. Handlers will not participate in either the preparation or fitting of the animals assigned.
4. Handlers will report to the event coordinator for instructions at 1:00 PM on the day of the contest.
5. If a dairy handler cannot control his/her animal, this animal may have to be displayed by an alternate holder.

Scoring Criteria

Appearance of the handler	10
Control of animal(s) by the handler	
Setting up the assigned animal to its best advantage	15
Maintaining the animal in its most advantageous pose	15
Effectively restraining while avoiding exciting the assigned animal	15
Moving the animal as requested by the ringmaster	15
Poise and calmness of the handler	20
Display a cooperative, courteous, helpful and positive attitude	10
Total Points Possible	100