Your 4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE—DAIRY Project

When you work in the dairy project, you have to make many decisions. Sometimes it’s easy to make those decisions, but other times it’s more difficult. This 4-H project can help you learn things so you can make good decisions. Some of the skills you can learn and activities you can do in this project are listed below. Check your favorites. Then, work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make a 4-H project plan of what you want to do and learn this year.

- Learn the difference between beef cows and dairy cows.
- Learn about the different breeds of dairy cattle.
- Learn the parts of a dairy cow.
- Visit a dairy farm and learn how cows are milked.
- Learn how a dairy producer is paid for milk.
- Learn the nutrients found in milk and how they are used in your body.
- Learn about the different feeds for dairy cows.
- Learn what has to be done to have a registered animal.
- Learn the basics to judging a dairy animal.
- Learn the correct way to show a dairy animal.
- Conduct a service project using project skills learned.
- Other ____________________________

"Udderly" Fun Matching

1. The average cow produces . . .
2. Silage is . . .
3. Holsteins are the highest producers of . . .
4. Jerseys are the highest producers of . . .
5. Colostrum is . . .
6. Forages are . . .
7. A cow is dry (not producing milk) for . . .
8. A cow milks for approximately . . .
9. How many times a day are cows milked?
10. A calf is bottle fed for . . .
11. A ruminant is . . .

Answers: A. 5 to 7 gallons of milk daily. B. A cow’s first milk; it contains antibodies, protein and vitamins. C. Butter fat. D. A fermented forage that is usually corn, wheat or alfalfa. E. 60 days within a year. F. 2 to 3 times a day. G. 305 days within a year. H. 6 to 8 weeks. I. Total pounds of milk. J. Feeds high in fiber such as grasses, corn and wheat. K. An animal with four stomach compartments.
Anatomy of a Dairy Cow

Knowing the anatomy of a dairy cow will help you to become familiar with selecting the ideal animal. Study the body parts below. Find out what each part does and what you should look for when selecting a dairy cow. Share what you learn with your 4-H friends. Then, search for the names of the body parts in the puzzle.

Milk: The Nearly Perfect Food

Milk contains important nutrients that humans need. Pound for pound, milk contains more nutrients than any other food. For example, milk contains vitamins, minerals, water, carbohydrates, proteins and fats.

Did you know that every part of milk and milk products can be enjoyed to the last drop? You probably like cheese and ice cream. What other things are made from milk? Make a poster about different things made from milk. Share your poster in a 4-H meeting.

Service Ideas

- Conduct a demonstration about the care of a dairy animal for younger children.
- Encourage people to consume dairy products for better health.
- Sponsor a dairy farm tour or trip to a dairy plant.

Additional Resources

Making decisions is an important part of the dairy project. This activity sheet has given you the opportunity to explore things to think about as you make decisions in dairy. You’ve learned about dairy cow anatomy, halters and other cool things. But this is just the beginning! Use the resources listed below to continue learning about the dairy project.

- School & public libraries
- People who work with dairy cows
- Dairy magazines
- 4-H project groups
- The 4-H dairy Web page: http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/dairy.htm

Career Scavenger Hunt

By asking others, researching on the Internet or reading a book or magazine—search for a job that uses dairy skills and knowledge. Here’s what you are looking for.

1. Job Title _________________________________
2. Job Description ____________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
3. Education Required ________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________