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January 7 , 2026

## 2026 Dairy Cattle Project Information

Attention: Dairy Cattle Members and Leaders  
From: Bailey Schilling, 4-H Youth Development/Livestock Agent

*This letter contains the highlights of the Dairy Cattle Project guidelines. Once the Fair Book & schedule are posted online, each member and leader is responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by all rules and regulations. [4-H and Open Class | The Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds & Events Complex \(treventscomplex.com\)](#).*

Key Leaders: Stan Heeney, Amanda Dye, Susan Wildman & Jennifer Wildman

### 4-H Project Completion Requirements

To complete the Dairy project, members must meet these minimum requirements. Please be aware that some clubs may have additional requirements.

- Participate in a 4-H related (subject matter or audience) demonstration or other speech presentation.
- Participate in a 4-H sponsored community service activity.
- Complete county level requirements such as a record book, Club meeting attendance, etc.

### Premises ID

**Same as 2025: All livestock animals are REQUIRED to have a valid Premises ID prior to the fair entry date of July 8th, in order to show at the Larimer County Fair. This does apply to breeding animals. In the instance that a family needs to move an animal from the premises ID that is on file to an alternative premises, the Extension Office**



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**must be notified immediately and the new premises ID needs to be recorded. Members who house their animals at the same location will share a premises ID. If you have a lease animal please check with the land owner, stable, dairy, etc to see if a Premises ID or Federal Identification has been established.**

If you don't remember your number, you can call the number below and they can provide it to you or you can contact the Extension Office for your number. If you did not show an animal last year, you will need to obtain a Premises ID. It's easy (and free) to obtain a Premises ID. Your fair entries will not be approved until your Premises ID is uploaded to 4-HOnline. You may need to call the Extension Office for assistance if you have already completed your enrollment. You can register by calling 303-869-9130 or go to:

<https://ag.colorado.gov/animals/colorado-location-identification-lid-registration-premises>

### **Animal Care and Housing Form**

This form is intended for any members participating in the Livestock or Horse Projects that keep an animal at a location other than the address documented on 4-Honline. This includes any location where the animal may reside for an extended period of time. This form needs to be uploaded under "other documents" to 4-HOnline and a hardcopy must be turned into the Extension Office. [Microsoft Word - AnimalCareForm.doc \(colostate.edu\)](#).

**All Lease-A-Dairy Members must fill out this form as well.**

### **Meat Quality Assurance Program and Jr. Livestock Sale Information**

- 1) **Meat Quality Assurance Program (MQA)** - All 4-H members must have completed the Meat Quality Assurance Program requirements to exhibit at the Larimer County Fair. MQA requirements and other available training dates are listed in the Clover Connection.

#### **For 2026 Dairy Cattle**

All Dairy Cattle must turn in a copy of proof of ownership, or lease agreement to the Extension Office by May 1. Acceptable forms of proof of ownership/lease agreement include original registration papers or brand inspection. A scanned copy of the acceptable proof of ownership will be retained by the extension office for records.

**Animal information will also need to be uploaded in the Animal ID section of the enrollment system by May 1, 2026.**



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## Tentative Dairy Workshop Schedule & Opportunities

Subject in workshops below is tentative, information may change based upon audience needs or current events. Workshops following the orientation will have a showmanship component where kids are welcome to bring their animal to practice with.

- ❖ January 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 p.m.- General Meeting (Origin Arena)
- ❖ February 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00-3:00 p.m.- Livestock Field Day & MQA (McKee Building)
  - Schedule for event will follow (check your email)
- ❖ February 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 p.m.- More Project Information (Origin Arena)
- ❖ March 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 p.m.- Progress with Your Project Animal (McKee Building)
- ❖ April 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30-8:00 p.m.- Fitting and Showmanship (Origin Arena)
- ❖ May 15<sup>th</sup> 4:00-7:00 p.m.- MQA (McKee Exhibit Hall)
- ❖ July 8<sup>th</sup> 4pm-7pm, Round Robin Workshop (All Species Invited), (Origin Arena)

### Round Robin Clinic

This year there will not be a Round Robin Clinic during the county fair but rather a social for the members that have qualified for the Round Robin. This is an opportunity to get information from fellow showmen about the animal they qualified with. A Round Robin Clinic will be hosted on July 8th in Origin Arena from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. This will be an opportunity for all members to gain hands-on experience and learn more about each of the species.

### Record Books

For this 4-H year, record book checks will take place before the County Fair. Families can choose between four different dates (in July) and two different locations (The Ranch or ARDEC) for the record book checks. In order to show at Fair, members will be required to sign up for a time on one of the dates and complete a record book interview. Members must have their record book up-to-date by the time of the interview. In the event a member fails to have a complete record book they will have until 4p.m. Monday, July 20th to make changes. In the event a member is not able to make any of the record book check dates, families can make an appointment with me by July 1 to set an alternate date for the record book check. Please note that if an exhibitor fails to schedule an appointment with the office and does not attend one of the record book checks, they will forfeit their livestock and equine entries for the Larimer County Fair.

We are implementing this change to the record book process for a few reasons. First, it will allow record book reviewers an opportunity to complete a more thorough and consistent assessment of the record books to verify that they meet expectations. Record book reviewers will be able to interact more with the youth member by discussing their project, which can hopefully reinforce or add to lessons learned by the member.

Below are the dates and times for the record book checks. A sign-up list will be sent out this spring for families to register for a location, time slot, and date.



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### **Record Book Dates and Times**

1. July 7th, McKee Building-4p.m. to 7p.m.
2. July 9th, CoBank Center at ARDEC- 4p.m. to 7p.m.
3. July 14th, CoBank Center at ARDEC-4p.m. to 7p.m.
4. July 16th, McKee Building-4p.m. to 7p.m.

If a member wants to enter their project record book in the Record Book Contest, books must be turned in to the club/project leader and delivered to the Extension Office by 4:00 p.m. September 15, 2026. **Individual Clubs will have a deadline for members to turn in record books.**

### **Tentative County Fair Information**

#### **Round Robin**

Round Robin- Qualifiers must show the animal they qualified with.

#### **Animal Release**

Members who are wanting to take their animals home following the show will be able to do so. There will be a time designated for animals to be released (refer to the Fair schedule when it comes out for these times). Species are not required to leave following their show, they can be released at any of the designated release times. For example, John shows goats and hogs. He keeps his goats on the grounds until his hogs show, both species can be released during the release time following the hog show. In order for livestock to be released, they will need to contact the superintendent to get a signed release slip. The Agent or a member of the show committee will be in the livestock office in case a superintendent cannot be reached.

### **Tentative County Fair Dairy Cattle Show Schedule**

#### **Thursday, July 30, 5:00-8:00pm**

Barn Set-up

#### **Friday, August 1, 8:00-10:00am**

Check-in

#### **Saturday, August 1, 7:00-8:00pm**

Novelty Contests (Fast Draw, Milkout, and costume contest)

#### **Sunday, August 2, 2:00pm-6:00pm**

Dairy Show followed by  
Showmanship



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