

77th ANNUAL STATE 4-H DAIRY SHOW
March 26-28, 2026
Hillsborough County Fairgrounds
215 Sydney Washer Road Dover, FL 33527

Check In.....Thursday, Mar 26, 2026 1:00-6:00 PM
Release.....Saturday, Mar 28, 2026 **after clean-up.**

TENTATIVE Schedule of Events

Mandatory Meeting of all Exhibitors.....Thursday, Mar 26, 2026 at 6:30PM
Dairy Judging Contest..... Friday, Mar 27, 2026 at 8:30 AM
Quiz Bowl Contest.....Friday, Mar 27, 2026 at 1:30 PM
4-H Dairy Cattle Showmanship Contest.....Friday, Mar 27, 2026 at 6 PM
4-H Dairy Cattle Show-Heifer ClassesSaturday, Mar 28, 2026 at 8 AM
4-H Dairy Cattle Show-Cow ClassesSaturday, Mar 28, 2026 at 12:30 PM
Awards Banquet.....Saturday, Mar 28, 2026 at 6 PM
4-H Dairy Cattle Released.....Sat., Mar 28, 2026 after clean up.

SHOW SUPERINTENDENT: Chris DeCubellis
University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science
State Specialized Agent, 4-H Dairy/Animal Science
PO Box 110230
Gainesville, FL 32611
Phone: (352) 846-4444 Fax: (352) 294-3544 Email: cdecube@ufl.edu

4-H Dairy Youth Show Committee

Ben Butler, Johan Heijkoop, Trisha Heijkoop, Gene Holcomb, Chris Holcomb, Colleen Larson, Jacob Larson, Dianne Spann, Larry Williams, Karen Hamilton, Lori Jorgensen, Sharon Spratt, Michelle Dunn, Taylor Boyd, Nicholas Hammer, Chance Huggins

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Seventy-Fifth Annual State 4-H Dairy Show is:

- To teach fundamentals of good dairy husbandry
- To emphasize production and quality of dairy cattle
- To stress the breeding of better dairy cattle
- To aid in the development of a state-wide dairy program to advance the economic welfare of Florida
- To demonstrate the finer points of showmanship and exhibition
- To provide for 4-H Dairy Club members a fitting climax to this year's efforts.

The show is under the direction of the University of Florida/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service and exemplifies the 4-H Club Motto, "To Make the Best Better."

RULES & REGULATIONS:

All entries in this category shall be subject to general rules and health regulations of the state of Florida.

1. Entries shall be restricted to bona-fide 4-H members who have reached their 8th birthday and have not passed their 18th birthday prior to September 1, 2025, carrying a dairy project and certified by the respective County Agents. A club member actively enrolled in college or who has attended college one term is not eligible.
2. A member may enter a maximum of six animals, plus any bred-by-exhibitor. Animal numbers may need to be reduced if entries exceed capacity. **Only two substitutions per exhibitor allowed, same ownership rules apply.**
3. All animals must have been owned/ leased and in the care of the club members by January 1, 2026.
4. In order to show, all animals must be registered in the name of the 4-H member to be eligible. Breed registration papers, second step of Genetic Recovery papers or grade identity papers of all animals must be available and presented to the Superintendent upon arrival and must show the member to have been the owner by January 1, 2026. Papers MUST remain with the animal.
5. All grade animals must have an identification certificate issued by the respective breed association or Florida Grade Identity Certificates, which must offer positive identity of the animal, the date of birth and date of sale to current owner. For more information on identifying an animal through breed associations, contact your County Agent or Chris DeCubellis at cdecube@ufl.edu or (352) 846-4444.
6. 4-Hers may show leased animals provided the signed agreement is on file with Chris DeCubellis by February 1, 2026. Constraints outlined by the lease agreement must be met and a signed copy attached to the registration papers or grade identity papers provided to the Show Superintendent.
7. **All entries shall be completed in the 4HOnline enrollment system before March 15, 2026**

8. Horns: In order to reduce the chances of bodily harm to 4-Her's and to the other dairy animals, all animals must be dehorned to enter the State 4-H Dairy Show. **ANIMALS WITH HORNS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**
9. All animals showing as two-year olds and older must show evidence of reproduction. Cows 3 years of age and older must have freshened at least one time. Two-year olds and older must have freshened or have been diagnosed pregnant prior to show, documentation required at check-in. Any animal not meeting these requirements, as determined by the Superintendent will be disqualified.
10. All animals must be shown by their owner/lease holder. Any exceptions must be cleared with the Superintendent before the animal is shown.
11. There will be no bedding provided. Please bring shavings (no straw) for your animals to be bedded on. All bedding material will need to be picked up and removed.
12. All clipping inside of the arena must have a plastic tarp under the grooming chute to contain hair clippings.
13. **All 4-Her's must be an active participant in the fitting and grooming of their own animal to the best of their ability according to the age and skill level.**
14. **Tack space will be limited!** Please plan accordingly.
15. Any exhibitor or parent not cooperating with the Superintendent or Committee shall forfeit their premium winnings.
16. All youth are required to take the ethics certification class and supply your valid number in order to be eligible to exhibit cattle at the State 4-H Dairy Show.

SHOW DIVISIONS

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Ayrshire | 4. Holstein |
| 2. Brown Swiss | 5. Jersey |
| 3. Guernsey | |

All animals of the same breed will be shown together.

The animals will be judged by the Modified Danish System. They will be placed into three groups: Blue, Red, White – according to their nearness to correct conformation in the opinion of the judge.

Any premium money will be divided among the animals in these groups according to the group in which they are placed. Hence, every creditable animal shown will be placed and receive some cash award (if available).

Only blue-ribbon animals will be considered for champion selection

CLASSES FOR INDIVIDUAL ANIMALS

1. Fall Heifer Calf – born September 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025
2. Summer Heifer Calf – born June 1, 2025 - August 31, 2025
3. Spring Heifer Calf – born March 1, 2025 - May 31, 2025
4. Winter Yearling – born December 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025
5. Fall Yearling – born September 1, 2024- November 30, 2024
6. Summer Yearling – born June 1, 2024 - August 31, 2024
7. Spring Yearling – born March 1, 2024 - May 31, 2024
8. Junior Bred By Exhibitor
9. Junior Champion
10. Reserve Junior Champion
11. Junior Two-Year Old – born September 1, 2023 - February 28, 2024
12. Senior Two-Year Old – born March 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024
13. Three-Year Old Cow – born March 1, 2022 - February 28, 2023
14. Four-Year Old Cow – born March 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022
15. Five Year-Year Old Cow – born March 1, 2020 – February 29, 2021
16. Aged Cow – born before March 1, 2020
17. *Senior Bred by Exhibitor
18. Senior Champion
19. Reserve Senior Champion
20. Grand Champion
21. Reserve Grand Champion

An Award for Best Udder in each Cow Class will be recognized. Animal must have calved to be eligible.

Any heifer that has calved will be placed in the Junior Two-Year Old class.

PREMIUMS AND AWARDS

Within the limits of available money, the following premium will be paid on individual animals:

Grade Cattle and Registered Cattle

Blue	\$35
Red	\$30
White	\$25

***Bred By Exhibitor**

The Show Superintendent will determine, based on previous class standings, which animals will be brought into the class for this Award. The top place Blue Award Winner in each class will be asked to return for the class.

A Bred By Exhibitor animal is an animal in which the Dam was owned by the 4-H'er at the time she was bred and resulted in a calf that was born. The calf then is considered a Bred By Exhibitor animal.

The individual's name must be shown in the Breeder section. If the dam was owned by a family member or family farm at the time of breeding, the resulting calf is not considered a Bred By Exhibitor.

SHOWMANSHIP AND GROOMING CONTEST

4-H'ers will be divided into classes by age as of September 1, 2025, as follows:

JUNIOR DIVISION

1. 8 years of age
2. 9 years of age
3. 10 years of age

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

4. 11 years of age
5. 12 years of age
6. 13 years of age

SENIOR DIVISION

7. 14 years of age
8. 15 years of age
9. 16 years of age
10. 17 years of age and above

**For above classes, exhibitor must own the animal shown.

Appearance of Exhibitor

At all times upon exhibiting your animal in the show ring, 4-H'ers must adhere to the following: Clothes and person must be neat and clean; white shirt with collar and white pants are preferred. Closed toe shoes are required. Durable, protective shoes are recommended when large animals are exhibited. No T-shirts or cell phones will be allowed in the ring.

County Groups

A group may consist of three animals of any breed and may be registered or grade or both. The county agent or leader shall select 3 animals, OWNED BY THREE DIFFERENT CLUB MEMBERS, unless there are less than 3 different exhibitors exhibiting from that county to enter in the county group competition. Only one group of animals may be entered by each County.

A Rosette will be awarded to each of the top twelve County Groups. In addition, trophies will be awarded to the top three County Groups.

RELEASE:

Cattle will be released on Saturday, March 28th, after clean-up. Exhibitors have the option to leave with their animals either after the banquet on Saturday night, or Sunday morning, **after their area is cleaned up**. Times will be announced.

4-H DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING CONTEST
Friday, March 27, 2026, at 8:30 AM
Junior, Intermediate & Senior Divisions
Show Arena

The State 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest is an individual event

Participation in the State 4-H Dairy Show Judging Contest shall be restricted to bona-fide 4-H members. It is not necessary for a county to enter cattle in order to enter the judging contest.

The **Junior Division** includes all 4-H'ers **10 or younger as of September 1, 2025**, the **Intermediate Division** includes all 4-H'ers **11 to 13 year olds as of September 1, 2025** while the **Senior Division** is for those 4-H'ers **14 and older as of September 1, 2025**

All contestants will be required to place 6 classes of Dairy females. Senior contestants will be required to give a minimum of 2 sets of oral reasons. Intermediate contestants will be required to give one set of oral reasons and one set of written reasons. The junior contestants will be required to write one set of reasons and answer questions from a pre-selected class.

Suitable recognition will be made to high individuals in the contest at the awards banquet.

Selected individuals will be invited to participate in the 4-H Dairy Judging summer workout program based on their age and performance at the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest and the Florida State Fair Dairy Judging Contest.

Any questions about this contest please call Chris DeCubellis at (352) 846-4444 or cdecube@ufl.edu.

4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL CONTEST
Friday, March 27, 2026, at 1:30 PM

The contest will consist of multiple rounds of 15 toss-up questions until the winner has been decided.

There will be three divisions this year (Junior, Intermediate and Senior).

Any questions about this contest please call Dianne Spann at (863) 634-3327 or fdspann@ufl.edu

4-H DAIRY RECORD BOOK CONTEST

The Record Books should be the last complete Record Book that was reviewed by a selection committee within the county. **The top three junior, intermediate, and senior record books will be selected for recognition and an award for the top three individuals.**

Record Books must be postmarked to Chris DeCubellis, PO Box 110230, Gainesville, FL 32611
by March 6, 2026.

THE CARROLL L. "BUD" WARD AWARD

A Challenger's Class open to previous winners that are not eligible to show in their class, 4-H agents, dairy club leaders or other interested youth and adults attending the show. The class will be held after the show on Saturday, March 29th.

Upon winning three years in a row, this rotating trophy becomes the property of the showman. A person may win this trophy only one time; thereafter they are eliminated from competing.

NOTE: For this class, animals shown do not have to be owned by their exhibitor and placing will be based on showmanship only. This is a trophy class only.