

Idaho's 4-H State Dairy Judging Contest

Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 9 a.m.

Location: Solid Rock Ranch, 6623 Sunrise Ave., Nampa, ID 83686

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Entry

- Each county in Idaho is invited to enter **two** Senior division teams and **two** Junior division teams.
- Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will not have an alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
- The cost to enter the contest is \$50 per team (\$12.50 per contestant). This includes lunch for the team members and one adult advisor. Money for the teams must accompany the registration to be qualified to attend.
- Entries are due by Monday, June 22, 2026. Enter in [ZSuite](#) under the Events tab.
- Entries after that date will NOT be accepted. **No late entries.**
- An Extension educator or Ag Ed instructor from the participants' county must indicate that participants are enrolled members of 4-H or FFA and in good standing.
- Coaches will be given the opportunity to review their team entry prior to the contest. No changes will be made on contest day.

Eligibility:

- Contestants must be currently enrolled 4-H members through [ZSuite](#) and approved by the county extension office or enrolled in a FFA Chapter.
- Contestants must be on a team to participate. If you are not on a team and wish to participate, please let us know and we will combine those individuals together to make or team or add them to teams of three.

Divisions

Senior

- Members must be at least 14 as of Jan. 1 of the current year (age requirement follows National rules).
- This division may include teams of mixed ages.
- A Mixed-age team is a team consisting of members whose ages are from BOTH the Senior Division and Junior Division. Mixed teams will compete in the Senior Division.
- Expected to complete all reasons classes.

Junior

- Members are 8 to 13 as of Jan. 1 of the current year.
- Expected to complete all reasons classes.

Contest:

- Classes will be judged in a designated area and include 6-8 dairy breed classes. Classes will be judged as breed specific unless otherwise noted the day of the contest. Breeds may include Holstein, Jersey, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Ayrshire.
- Three sets of oral reasons will be required.
- A questions class may be added to any class.

Showmanship Contest:

- Contestants must be currently enrolled in a dairy project.
- The cost to enter showmanship is \$20 per contestant.
- Participants must meet these age requirements and have verification of age available:
 - Junior: Open to youth who have reached their ninth (9th) birthday and not yet reached their 14th birthday as of Jan. 1 of the current year.
 - Intermediate: Open to youth who have reached their 14th birthday and not yet reached their 17th birthday as of Jan. 1 of the current year.
 - Senior: Open to youth who are 17 to 21 years of age as of January 1 of the current year.
- Contestants must provide an animal. Contestants need not own the animal they show. Contestants are responsible for obtaining approval from the owner if the animal used is not their own.
- Milking females do not need to be “bagged” for competition. Extra credit will not be given for those who are bagged.
- The judges may ask questions about breed(s), showing and fitting and the general dairy industry.
- The PDCA Showmanship Evaluation Card will be used as a guideline for the judging of the showmanship contest.
- Decisions of the judges and contest superintendents are final.
- Parents are to adhere to the Showring Code of Ethics and to always practice good sportsmanship.
- Past winners may participate again in the Junior and Intermediate Divisions.
- Past winners may not participate again in the Senior Division.
- The required attire for the contest is white pants and a white shirt.

Judging Awards:

- Winning Senior Division members will be eligible to compete at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin.
- Award presented to high team in each division and rosettes to top 3 teams in each division.

- Award presented to the high individual overall in each contest division and rosettes to the top 5 individuals.

Showmanship Awards

- Award presented to the first place in each division and rosettes to the top 5 in each showmanship division.

If you have any questions regarding this contest, please contact Scott Nash at snash@uidaho.edu or 208-317-4375.