



ALL-AMERICAN INVITATIONAL YOUTH DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING CONTEST Sunday, September 13, 2026

Pennsylvania is proud to host the 2026 All-American Invitational Youth Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. The event is to be held in conjunction with the All-American Dairy Show, the premier autumn dairy classic in North America, scheduled for **September 12 through 16**.

Entries for the 2026 show are now being accepted. The Directors of the Pennsylvania Dairy and Allied Industries Association, along with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission, sponsor the event. As agricultural leaders, they are aware of the need for “hands-on” judging experience, which provides valuable education in evaluation, decision-making, and verbal expression.

Contest Superintendent

David Wilson

563-329-0969

dgw5007@gmail.com

Schedule for Sunday, September 13, 2026

7:45 AM: Team sign-in and pick up judging packets and portfolios, Equine Arena

8:10 AM: Contest Instructions

8:30 AM: Contest Starts

11:45 AM: Lunch will be provided in Banquet Hall for Contestants

7:00 PM: Awards Ceremony Dinner, Banquet Hall (You will be asked the number of dinner tickets your team will need when registering.)

TEAMS AND ENTRIES (Collegiate, Two-Year College, 4-H, and FFA Divisions):

1. Collegiate and Two-Year Junior College – Each agricultural college is invited to enter one official dairy cattle judging team. (Please note a second team “B” may be entered and will receive reasons scores but is not eligible for any awards). The team shall consist of three or four members representing the agricultural college in which they are regularly enrolled.

4-H and FFA – Each state and province are invited to enter one 4-H dairy judging team and one FFA dairy judging team of three or four members. 4-H Team members shall be selected in a manner determined by the State or Provincial Extension Service in compliance with these rules. FFA Team members must be from the same chapter.

- Each team may submit four members to participate in the contest, with the low-scoring member being designated as an alternate.
- The low-scoring contestant, designated as alternate for the team, will be eligible for individual breed and reason awards.

2. TEAM ENTRIES AND PAYMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE

- Register your team and make payment through the online entry system from the All-American Dairy Show website - follow links that say Submit Registration Here at the below website address:
<https://allamericandairyshow.com/iycjc/>
- Entry deadline online must be submitted by **Wednesday, September 3rd**.
- Any questions concerning entries contact the Farm Show Office at 717-787-2905.
- Substitutions may be made by emailing David Wilson at dgw5007@gmail.com by September 10th.
- Entry Fee is \$100 per team. College B team is \$50 per team and must be preregistered.
- Late entry fee of \$200, until Sept 7th. **No entries will be accepted after Sept 7th.**

ELIGIBILITY OF CONTESTANTS - All contestants may only compete in one division per year.

1. **Collegiate** – Each contestant must be a student in good standing in a College or University in the the United States or in the Dominion of Canada offering a full degree course in Agriculture whose whose application has been accepted by the management of the All-American Dairy Show. A contestant must be enrolled in a program of study normally requiring four or more academic years for a baccalaureate degree and must be officially recognized by their home institution as having achieved at least sophomore status. Any student who has acted as an official judge of dairy cattle at a fair or show, has at any time served as a teacher of dairy cattle judging in an agriculture college or secondary school, has completed a four-year course in college work, or has competed in the collegiate division of the contest is NOT eligible for entry.
2. **Two-Year Junior College** – The student must be enrolled in a two-year certificate or associate degree program. Any student who has acted as an official judge of dairy cattle at a fair or show, has at any time served as a teacher of dairy cattle judging in an agriculture college or secondary school, has competed in the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, has competed in the All-American Dairy Show two-year division of the Contest, or has been an employee or paid consultant of a breed organization, breeding service, or similar unit, for which his/her duties include evaluation of dairy cattle for type (excluding internships), is NOT eligible for entry.
3. **4-H** – Contestants must be bona fide 4-H dairy club members, and must not have reached their 19th birthday prior to January 1 this year. They must not have participated previously in the 4-H division of this contest nor in the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. Alternates are considered contestants.
4. **FFA** – FFA team members must be dues-paying, high school FFA members from the same chapter. A graduating senior is eligible to compete in this contest up to and including his/her first national FFA convention following graduation. They must have not participated previously in the FFA division of this contest.
5. If the eligibility of any student is protested, such protest must be made in writing and presented to the contest superintendent no later than the conclusion of the judging portion of the contest. The protest must be accompanied by a check for \$25, which will be returned if the protest is sustained. If the protest is not sustained, the \$25 shall be forfeited.

CONTEST SUPERINTENDENT

1. The superintendent of the contest, in cooperation with the show manager and the advisory committee, will oversee the contest and conduct it in compliance with these rules and regulations. She shall have the authority for the interpretation of the rules.
2. The superintendent shall have a sufficient number of assistants to conduct the contest and tabulate the results.

JUDGING SYSTEM

1. Competent judges shall place all classes while contestants are placing the classes. They shall hear and score all reasons. Judges will file their official placings and cuts with the Superintendent.

METHOD OF CONDUCT

1. No member of any team nor their coach shall be allowed in the cattle barns nor have the privilege of inspecting any cattle at the All-American Dairy Show prior to the contest.
2. All contestants and coaches will report to the superintendent in the Equine Arena at 7:50 AM on Sunday September 13th. Final instructions will be given, and questions answered at this time.
3. The superintendent shall supply contestants with a placing sheet and any other necessary forms. No contestant shall be allowed to take any books, notes, or writing paper into the ring except materials furnished by the superintendent. No electronic devices permitted.
4. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for placing classes where no reasons are required. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for placing and taking notes for oral reason classes.
5. Oral reasons, to be given on the afternoon of the day of contest, should not exceed two minutes in length. Contestants will not be allowed to use notes during oral reasons.
6. Reasons classes will be designated prior to the contest. One or more reasons classes may be heifers. Collegiate contestants will give oral reasons on five classes; Two- Year Junior College & 4-H will give reasons on four classes; and FFA will give reasons on three classes.
7. While the classes are being placed and reasons are being studied and given, there SHALL BE NO COMMUNICATION among the contestants and anyone else except as directed by the superintendents or their assistants.
8. The contestants' desired placing clearly marked on their placing sheet will be circled at the conclusion of each class. The placing sheet will be collected at the conclusion of the last placing class and filed with the superintendent for tabulation.

CLASSES

1. Classes will be selected from animals entered in the All- American Dairy Show.
2. Ten classes of four individuals each shall be judged. A cow class and a heifer class (yearling or calves), if available, will be selected from the following breeds: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey.
3. Animals will be designated by number on the showmen of the animals and lined up consecutively 1, 2, 3, and 4 from right to left as viewed from their rear. It will be the responsibility of each contestant to see that his placing conforms to the numbers on the animals.
4. Animals will be shown in a careful manner so that all contestants will have a fair chance to observe them. Animals will be paraded, held head to tail, and stood side by side. Contestants will view the animals at a distance. There will not be a close inspection of the animals.

DETERMINATION OF RATINGS

1. Ratings shall be based upon a possible score of 50 points for each class placed and 50 points for each set of reasons.
2. The final rank of each contestant in each breed shall be determined by totaling his/her scores on placing and reasons (if any) for that breed. The overall individual ranking shall be determined by adding his/her scores for each of the five breeds.

3. The overall team ranking shall be determined by totaling all the scores of the three team members. The team ranking for each breed shall be determined by totaling the scores and reasons (if any) for each of the three members.
4. All team and individual ties shall be broken using the following sequence where applicable:
 - BREED TIES
 - A. High (individual or team) reason scores for the breed.
 - B. High (individual or team) total score for all breeds.
 - OVERALL TIES
 - A. High (individual or team) reason scores for all breeds.
 - B. Individuals with the highest score on classes that were placed only.
 - C. Team with the highest scoring alternate.
 - TEAM REASON TIES
 - A. Alternate with the highest total reasons score.
 - B. High total team score for all breeds.
5. The results will be announced following dinner at the Awards Ceremony on September 13th starting at 7:00 PM in the Banquet Hall. Any protests of the results must be made in writing within 12 hours of results being announced to the contest superintendent. After careful evaluation of the protest, the decision of the superintendents is final.

AWARDS

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to each top individual, and a \$250 scholarship will be awarded to each top reason individual by David and Janet Hileman of Hilecrest Farms.

\$200 will be awarded to the first-place team in each division.

Special awards will be presented to the high scoring teams and individuals by the following breed associations:

- The Ayrshire Breeder's Association
- The Brown Swiss Cattle Breeder's Association
- The American Guernsey Association
- Holstein Association USA, Inc.
- The American Jersey Cattle Club

The All-American Dairy Show will present medallions in each division for excellence in judging and will also present the following:

- The CUTHBERT NARIN AWARD to the first-place Collegiate Team
- The TWO-YEAR JUNIOR COLLEGE AWARD to the first-place team
- The JOE S. TAYLOR AWARD to the first-place 4-H Team
- The HAROLD R. MCCULLOCH AWARD to the first-place FFA Team
- The HARRY F. ROTH AWARD to the high 4-H, FFA, Two-Year Junior College, and Collegiate Teams in Oral Reasons
- The SUPERINTENDENTS' AWARD to the high 4-H, FFA, Two-Year Junior College, and Collegiate Individuals in Oral Reasons

Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex
2300 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone (717) 787-2905
E-mail aads@pa.gov
Website www.allamericandairyshow.com