

Dairy Cattle Skillathon 2022 Study Guide

*Exhibitors will participate in a livestock skillathon for the species they plan to exhibit at the fair. This study guide includes all topics an exhibitor **might** be tested on. Youth will only be tested on a portion of these items. Example questions are given to help study but may not be the same questions asked.*

Be sure to bring your completed project book and show up in proper show dress code as stated in the Jr. Fair rule book for your species.

STATION 1 – Project Book & Interview and Dress Code

Present your completed project book to the judge. The judge will review your record and award points for completion. You will also be asked a series of questions based on the project you are taking. It will be up to you to properly state which project you are enrolled in when you arrive at the interview station. Questions may include general information about your project goals as well as content-based questions. All questions are based on the Dairy Resource Handbook. *Examples of the types of questions you may be asked are listed at the end of this guide.* Individuals must dress in the appropriate dress code as listed in the Jr. Fair Rule Book for your species market or showmanship exhibition.

STATION 2 – Skills Station: Feed Identification and Feed Tag

You will be asked to identify real feed ingredients commonly found in a dairy calf ration and answer questions about a feed tag. To prepare, use pages 198-203 of your Dairy Resource Handbook.

STATION 3 – Quality Assurance

You will be asked questions about Good Production Practices (GPP) # 7, 8 & 9.

GPP #7: Practice good environmental stewardship

GPP #8: Maintain proper workplace safety

GPP #9: Provide proper animal care

Questions will be pulled from information shared at Quality Assurance training as well as from Chapter 13: Caring for Animals in your Dairy Resources Handbook.

STATION 4 – Skillathon Kit Knowledge – Breed Identification

In this station, participants be asked to identify different breeds of dairy cattle using photos and/or matching traits to the breed. Information on this topic can be found in Chapter 2 of your Dairy Resource Handbook, pages 9-14.

STATION 5 – Reproduction

You will be asked questions related to reproduction in dairy cattle, such as identifying parts of the female reproductive system, hormones, and estrous/heat cycles. See Chapter 4 of your Dairy Resource Handbook for information on this station.

TIE BREAKER: Common Cow/Calf Diseases

You will be asked questions related to common diseases in dairy cattle. See Chapter 6, pages 85-90 to prepare.

Sample Interview Questions

All answers can be found in the Dairy Resource Handbook. These are only examples of questions you may be asked.

1. What did you learn this year in your project?
2. What goals did you set this year with your project?
3. Why is milk pasteurized? How is this done?
4. Dairy calves often suffer from coccidiosis. What does this cause?
5. Name the six breeds of dairy cattle.
6. What is mastitis?
7. What are five foods made from milk?
8. What is the rumen?
9. What are signs of heat in heifers or cows?
10. What is colostrum and why is it important?
11. What is the main source of energy for your dairy heifer?
12. What is the gestation period for a cow?