

Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show
Wilson County Fairgrounds, October 9-10, 2026

General Policies

1. **General Policies:** All exhibitors in the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show and their parents/guardians are required to read and comply with all policies and procedures contained in the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show Handbook.
2. **Interpretation of Rules:** The Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show is administered, managed and governed by UT Extension. This entity is responsible for the administration of all applicable rules and policies, including enforcement and penalties. Management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret rules and regulations, settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard hereto, or otherwise arising out of the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine.
3. **Eligibility:** Competition is limited to either Tennessee 4-H members who were enrolled in the fourth grade or later and Tennessee FFA members who were enrolled in agriculture education courses on January 1 of current calendar year and who have not reached the end of the calendar year of their high school graduation or the end of the calendar year of their 20th birthday, whichever comes first. The exhibitors must be under the supervision of an Extension Agent or FFA advisor and shall be required to comply with all rules of the shows.
 - Signature of Extension Agent or FFA Advisor of said exhibitor on entry form is required to confirm that: the entry is a bona fide project of their 4-H or FFA program; is a member in good standing; **the animal is in the regular care of the youth exhibitor by July 1 through the show;** Extension Agent or FFA Advisor has read the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show Handbook, and Participant has been advised of these rules as well as The National Show Ring Code of Ethics; been cautioned regarding sabotage, tampering, prohibited substances, unethical fitting and all rules and regulations have been complied with, to the extent of their participation.
 - The exhibitor and parent or legal guardian of the exhibitor **must sign the entry forms** certifying that they have read the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show Handbook and that Participant has been advised of these rules and regulations as well as The National Show Ring Code of Ethics; cautioned regarding sabotage, tampering, prohibited substances, unethical fitting and agrees to observe and abide by all rules and regulations.
 - The exhibitor **must have a current Tennessee Youth Quality Assurance Program (TYQA) Certification.**
4. **Rules Violation:** Any exhibitor, parent or leader, who individually or through other persons, violates any rules, may result in both animal(s) and exhibitor(s) being barred from participation in current or future shows. All premiums, awards received, and sale receipts may be forfeited.
5. **Discourteous Behavior:** Discourteous conduct by exhibitors, parents, leaders, Extension Agents, FFA Advisors or anyone else representing an exhibitor, toward a judge, any member of show management or other exhibitors may result in the exhibitor and/or animal being dismissed from future Tennessee Junior Livestock Events and awards received being

forfeited.

6. **Publicity Release:** As indicated by the signatures of the exhibitors, parents or guardians on the entry forms for Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show, authorizes the University of Tennessee and/or their representatives to photograph, film, audio/video tape, record and/or televise their image and voice and biographical material, participation in the various events and to publicize, in whole or in part in any medium or developed in the future without any restrictions.
7. **Care and Treatment of Animals:** All animals that are exhibited at the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show are to be under the care and management of the 4-H or FFA member. The exhibitor's supervising Extension Agent, or the exhibitor's supervising FFA advisor, or UT Extension staff member has the right, with prior notification, to inspect any animals at a reasonable time during the ownership period. All animals that are exhibited in the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show are to be treated in accordance with accepted humane livestock management techniques. Exhibitors are expected to comply with all federal, state and local laws or regulations concerning the treatment and care of animals. Specific areas of concern include but are not limited to:
 - Animals should be provided with feed and water on a regular basis. A special effort should be made to ensure that market animals receive feed and water before the show and sale.
 - Medication given by or under the direction of a veterinarian must adhere to withdrawal times on the product label.
 - Animals which have been accidentally injured must receive appropriate veterinary attention.
8. **Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages:** Consumption of alcoholic beverages at the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show is not permitted. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in the person(s) being dismissed, associated exhibitor(s) and/or animal(s) being dismissed, and awards received being forfeited. Additionally, show management reserves the right to alert the appropriate police agency.
9. **Safety:** Everything possible will be done to prevent accidents; however, if any should occur, neither the University of Tennessee, nor University of Tennessee personnel, nor other persons, nor any other organizations connected with the management of the show assume any liability, either legal or otherwise to persons or property.

Show Procedures

Health Requirements: Animals exhibited at the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show must meet the following requirements: Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) will be required for every animal exhibited at the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show. It is expected that junior exhibitors will bring only healthy animals to the shows. The CVI must be dated within 90 days of the respective show. All animals are subject to being inspected after arrival at the show facilities and any with clinical signs of contagious disease will be quarantined or sent home immediately at the discretion of the show veterinarian.

ALL livestock must have official forms of identification in order to have a valid health certificate.

Dairy Cattle: all dairy cattle must have an 840-RFID tag.

Ownership, Possession and Registration:

- Registered Dairy Cows and Heifers: All cattle must be individually identified with an 840-RFID tag and be in the regular care of the youth exhibitor by July 1 through the show. All animals must be registered or recorded with their respective breed organizations by July 1. Animals must be registered solely in the name of the junior exhibitor, in a partnership solely with residents of Tennessee or leased by the junior exhibitor. Partnerships may include other juniors, adults or a farm. Animals will be eligible, as long as the junior's name is included in this partnership. In the case of multiple juniors in a partnership, the junior showing the animal will be designated at the time entries are made. A copy of the registration paper should accompany the entry form by the entry deadline. Lease agreements must be in place by July 1.
- Grade Dairy Heifers: Grade dairy heifers must be individually identified with an 840-RFID tag and be in the regular care of the youth exhibitor by September 1 through the show.

Animal Lease Program: The objective of the leasing program is to provide all youth with the opportunity and the educational experience of participating in the Tennessee Junior Dairy Show Program. Leased animals must conform to all rules associated with the respective show (ie. ID requirements, possession dates, exhibition rules, etc.). Completed lease forms and a copy of the animal's registration paper must be submitted along with the entry forms to the County Extension Office by the entry deadline.

Show Shirts: All youth **must** wear the show shirt provided while exhibiting in Showmanship and the Animal Show.

Entries:

1. Entries for regional shows and the State Junior Dairy Show are to be made on official entry forms that are available from the UT Animal Science Department website (<https://animalscience.tennessee.edu/animal-exhibitions/#tab-strongdairystrong>).
2. ALL entries for regional shows and the State Junior Dairy Show must be submitted through the local Extension office. This is the procedure for both 4-H and FFA members.
3. There is no limit to the total number of animals that can be entered/shown, but youth may only exhibit 2 animals per class. Exhibitors will show their own animal unless they have two animals in the same class. Youth exhibitors who have entered two dairy animals in the same class are to complete the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show Substitute Showman Form and turn it in at check-in of the show. The substitute showman must be a 4-H or FFA member that is in the same or lower grade as the youth that entered the animal.
4. Legible copies of registration papers, copies of application for registration or transfer or related identification information (i.e., pedigrees) must be attached to entries.
5. All animals must conform to the following breed purity requirements to be eligible for the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show.
 - Holstein: Must be 87% Holstein.
 - Jersey: Must be a Generation Count 4 or higher.
 - Guernsey: Must be 87.5% Guernsey.

- Milking Shorthorn: Must be 87.5% Milking Shorthorn.
 - Ayrshire: Must be 87.5% Ayrshire.
 - Brown Swiss: Must have one of the following registration certificates:
 - Standard Registration Certificate: white with a green border for Registered Brown Swiss Females and Certified Identity Enrolled Females (CIE).
 - Brown Swiss Step II Identity Enrollment (IE): green registration paper with black border.
 - Grade Heifer Show: Any dairy heifer from the above breeds that is 1) unregistered or 2) does not meet the breed purity standards listed for that specific breed. Grade heifers must be from the dairy cattle breeds listed above and are subject to a breed sifting committee to determine eligibility. The decisions of the breed sifting committee are final.
6. Complete entry forms must be received by the UT Animal Science Department by August 1. Animals should be entered if there is any possibility they will be shown. Animals can easily be scratched before the show, so be sure to enter all possible show animals.
 7. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be sure that his/her entries meet the criteria to qualify for exhibition.
 8. All entries must be signed by the exhibitor, a parent or legal guardian, and a local Extension agent or FFA advisor.
 9. Incomplete or illegible forms will not be accepted and will be returned to the Extension agent. Animals will not be entered if entry forms are not complete. Extension agents and vocational agriculture teachers should review all entries prior to submission.
 10. Entries for Fairs and Open Shows: All three Tennessee regional shows (Eastern, Central and Western) are held in conjunction with a fair. Completing an entry form for a Tennessee regional or State Junior Dairy Show DOES NOT automatically enter an exhibitor or animals into fair records. You must check with the fair that hosts your show for deadlines, barn space, fees, etc. Procedures might be different for each Tennessee regional show. To be eligible to show in open shows or other junior shows (i.e., Appalachian Fair in Gray, Tennessee), you must adhere to the requirements and deadlines set forth by that particular show or fair. The UT Animal Science Department WILL NOT enter any junior into any open show or into any junior show other than the three regional shows and the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show.

Tennessee Youth Quality Assurance Program (TYQA): Youth must be TYQA certified in order to exhibit at the TJLE Beef Expo. For more information about TYQA, contact your County Extension Office (<https://animalscience.tennessee.edu/quality-assurance/>).

Bred by Exhibitor (BBE): To be eligible for BBE awards and recognition, the junior exhibitor must be listed as both the breeder and owner of the animal on the registration paper. This could be solely in the name of the junior exhibitor or in a partnership solely with residents of Tennessee. Partnerships may include other juniors, adults or a farm. Animals will be eligible, as long as the junior's name is included in this partnership. If eligible, this must be indicated on the entry form. Animals bred and owned by the exhibitor but not so indicated on the entry form will not be eligible for recognition. At the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show (and some

regional shows), the Champion and Reserve Champion of the heifer classes and cow classes will be selected; and then, if needed, the Champion BBE animal will be selected from the highest-placing BBE animals in the classes.

Production Awards: All cows with official proof of production will be eligible to receive an award at the State Junior Dairy Show. Current lactation production records will be used if official records with projected 305D ME (305-day mature equivalent) will be available by Oct. 1. Previous lactation records (on 305D ME basis) will be used if cows are dry or have not been milking long enough (by October 1) to have a 305D ME projected for their current lactation. Previous lactation must have started after May 1 of the previous year to be eligible. The exhibitor must have owned the animal for its entire lactation to be eligible. The animal within each breed with the highest record on a twice daily energy corrected milk on a 305-day mature equivalent basis (ECM 2x 305D ME) will receive an award of merit. To be eligible for production awards, the DHI cow index number and/or barn number, the DHI herd code and RAC number must be indicated on the official entry form. The UT Animal Science Dairy Extension office will compute ECM 2x 305D ME from DART cow pages prior to the State Junior Dairy Show. Any entries lacking complete DHIA information will be ineligible for production awards.

Substitute Exhibitors: Exhibitors will show their own animal. Any animal shown by anyone other than the exhibitor who entered the animal may result in forfeiture of all premiums and awards unless prior approval is given by show management. Substitute exhibitors will be granted for serious illness/injury or other situations deemed unavoidable at the time of show.

Premier Exhibitor Program: The purpose of the Premier Exhibitor award program is to provide 4-H and FFA members the opportunity to demonstrate the skills and knowledge learned and gained by participating in the junior livestock projects. This recognition program will increase the emphasis on the knowledge and skills attained by the youth and will complement the wholesome competition, social development and fun learning traditionally associated with junior livestock shows.

A Premier Exhibitor for will be selected at the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show in each of the following divisions:

- Explorer - (4th grade)
- Junior Level I - (5th & 6th grades)
- Junior Level II - (7th & 8th grades)
- Senior Level I - (9th & 10th grades)
- Senior Level II - (11th & 12th grades)

To be eligible for the Premier Exhibitor competition, youth must exhibit an animal in the dairy cattle show as well as participate in showmanship and in the skillathon contest. The Premier Exhibitor will be the individual who earns the most points by participating in these three educational events. A previous Premier Exhibitor winner in a particular division is not eligible to compete in the same division of the same show in future years (i.e., cannot win Senior Level I Premier Exhibitor more than once).

Skillathon: This event consists of different activities that will evaluate an exhibitor’s knowledge gained from participation in the dairy cattle project for a total of 100 points. Each exhibitor will participate in the skillathon as an individual. The activities will increase in difficulty as the grade division increases. Examples of skillathon activities include but are not limited to feed, breed and equipment identification, health and production practices and record-keeping.

Existing study materials can be found at <https://tiny.utk.edu/DairySkillathon>.

Dairy Cattle Show: Dairy cattle will be evaluated by the judge based on their merit related to breed and industry standards and assigned a Blue, Red or White. The highest possible score for Blue is 100, 90 for Red and 80 for White. The lowest possible score for any animal is 80.

- Points in the Blue group will be given starting at 100 points and decreasing by 2 points for each placing through 10th place. Any Blue past 10th place will receive 80 points.
- Points in the Red group will be given starting at 2 points below the last placing Blue in the class, but not higher than 90 points. Points will decrease by 2 points for each placing through the 5th place Red. Any Red past the 5th place Red will receive 80 points.
- All animals in the White group will receive 80 points.

Showmanship: Each exhibitor will receive a score for their placing in showmanship, which will count for Premier Exhibitor:

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| 1 st place: 100 points | 5 th place: 96 points | 9 th place: 92 points |
| 2 nd place: 99 points | 6 th place: 95 points | 10 th place: 91 points |
| 3 rd place: 98 points | 7 th place: 94 points | All other Blues: 90 points |
| 4 th place: 97 points | 8 th place: 93 points | All Reds: 80 points |

Tie Breakers: Ties in Skillathon and Premier Exhibitor will be broken as follows:

Skillathon: Stations 1-5 individually in order, Showmanship score, Animal score

Premier Exhibitor: Skillathon score, Showmanship score, Skillathon stations 1-5 individually in order, Animal score

Showmanship: Showmanship will be conducted by the grade divisions shown below. Grade refers to the school grade in which the exhibitor was enrolled on January 1, of the current year.

- Explorer - (4th grade)
- Junior Level I - (5th & 6th grades)
- Junior Level II - (7th & 8th grades)
- Senior Level I - (9th & 10th grades)
- Senior Level II - (11th & 12th grades)

Showmanship events at regional and state shows are available to all youth who have animals entered in the respective shows. Youth must show an animal they have entered. Exhibitors may be asked to bring registration papers or copies of a lease agreement to the ringside prior to showmanship classes. Regional and county shows have the option of combining divisions if

participation in some divisions is not large enough to warrant all three divisions. Show management should try to schedule only one showmanship division at a time and avoid concurrent showing of divisions. Show Management reserves the right to make heats at the time of the show if smaller classes in the ring are needed. Previous winners of a particular showmanship division are still eligible in future years for that same division as long as they meet grade requirements (i.e., 5th grader that wins Junior Showmanship is eligible the following year as a 6th grader in the Junior Division).

Show Classes:

- *Registered Classes:* There is no limit to the total number of animals that can be entered/shown, but youth may only exhibit 2 animals per class.
 1. Summer Heifer Calf: Born on or after June 1, 2026
 2. Spring Heifer Calf (Junior Heifer Calf): March 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026
 3. Winter Heifer Calf (Intermediate Heifer Calf): Born December 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026
 4. Fall Heifer Calf (Senior Heifer Calf): Born September 1 – November 30, 2025
 5. Summer Yearling Heifer (Summer Heifer Calf): Born June 1 – August 31, 2025
 6. Spring Yearling Heifer (Junior Yearling Heifer): Born March 1 – May 31, 2025
 7. Winter Yearling Heifer (Intermediate Yearling Heifer): Born December 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025
 8. Fall Yearling Heifer (Senior Yearling Heifer): Born September 1 – November 30, 2024
 9. Junior Champion & Reserve Junior Champion
 10. BBE Junior Champion
 11. Fall Yearling Heifer (Senior Yearling) in Milk: Born after September 1, 2024, and milking
 12. Junior Two-Year-Old Cow (in milk): Born March 1 – August 31, 2024
 13. Senior Two-Year-Old Cow (in milk): Born September 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024
 14. Junior Three-Year-Old Cow (in milk): Born March 1 – August 31, 2023
 15. Senior Three-Year-Old Cow (in milk): Born September 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023
 16. Four-Year-Old Cow (in milk): September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022
 17. Aged Cows (5+ years and in milk): before September 1, 2021
 18. Senior Champion & Reserve Senior Champion
 19. BBE Senior Champion
 20. Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion
 21. BBE Grand Champion
- *Grade Heifer Classes:* Classes will be offered for Grade heifers. These heifers will be measured for hip height during check-in for the show. Classes will be divided based on natural breaks in hip height. Depending on the number of Grade heifers entered for the show, classes may be broken based on breed-type using the breed sifting committee. The number, size and types of classes will be at the discretion of show management. The Grand and Reserve Champion Grade Heifer will be selected from the first and second place heifers from each class.

Unruly Animals: Show management, ring person or show judge has the right to dismiss animals that, in their judgment, are unruly or uncontrollable and pose a safety risk to other exhibitors, animals and spectators.

Protests: Protests for any portion of the contest (Showmanship, Show Classes, and Skillathon) must be submitted to the show manager prior to the selection of the division champion (Junior, Senior or Grand Champion classes). Protests must be made on the official protest form available from show management or the UT Animal Science Department website. All protests must be submitted in writing, signed and accompanied by a \$100 cash deposit. The written protest must include:

1. Name(s) of exhibitor(s) involved.
2. Date and time of incident.
3. Entry number(s) of livestock involved.
4. Action or activity that is being protested.
5. Specific rules that are alleged to have been violated.
6. Names and signatures of two other parties who will verify and support the grievance.

The burden of proof rests with the party filing the grievance. The \$100 deposit will be returned if the grievance is upheld. The deposit will be forfeited to the Tennessee State Junior Dairy Show if the grievance is not sustained. The show management has the authority to make appropriate decisions based on this document. If needed, the protest shall be referred to a grievance committee for review. The grievance may be discussed with parties involved and show officials in reaching a decision. At no time should a grievance be discussed with parties not involved with the protest. All parties involved will be notified of decisions reached. Protests related to judges' decisions, placings and/or other situations associated with judges and/or show management will not be accepted.