

Dairy Cattle Handlers CDE

Last updated Oct 2023

Purpose

The purpose of the FFA Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity is to recognize the skill of the handlers in presenting each animal to its best advantage in the evaluation of the dairy cows and heifers.

Eligibility

This event is held during the Delaware State Fair. It is open to all high school FFA chapters and FFA members in good standing. Members that have participated in a previous national event or previous state winning teams in this area are ineligible. High placing individual must be in high school when competing at the National CDE.

A middle school division is also available, but no more than 2 participants from each chapter may participate., if space allows.

Event Procedures

- A. Participants must wear proper dairy cattle show clothing. A white shirt and pants, work boots. NO SNEAKERS or walking boot/cast. **Students must have an FFA Scarf or tie.**
- B. Each participant must supply their own show harness in order to compete. The event chairperson will provide numbers.
- C. The Chairperson will provide cattle with show halters.
- D. Each chapter shall be eligible to nominate two members to serve as participants in the dairy cattle handler's activity.
- E. The top individual will represent Delaware at the National Dairy Handler's Activity. The top 4 individuals will represent Delaware at the Big E in Springfield, MA. **Only current High School students are allowed to attend the Big E to compete in this CDE. Must qualify as an 8th grader. 6th to 7th graders cannot be placed higher than 5th (cannot travel).** Handlers should have had previous experience in showing dairy cattle.
- F. Handlers will not participate in either preparation or fitting of the animals assigned.
- G. Handlers should report to the Quillen Arena to register..
- H. If a dairy handler cannot control his/her animal, this animal may have to be displayed by an alternate holder. The original holder SHALL NOT be given a different animal to display.
- J. Participants will not be allowed to possess any personal electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, smart watches, air pods, etc) other than those approved by event officials. Participants who possess personal electronic devices without prior approval of the event officials will be disqualified from the event.**
- K. All students must participate in a state wide dairy handler's practice prior to competing in the CDE. The date and time of this practice will be provided by the CDE chair when it is determined.**

Event Format

- A. Contestants will lead dairy cattle during the Dairy Cattle Evaluation contest. It is important that each participant properly show cattle for this contest.
- B. Contestants must follow instructions given such as turn cat-

tle side by side; line the cows/heifer up head to tail.

- C. Cattle must be set up to her most advantageous pose.
- D. Contestants may be given more than one animal to show during the competition. They may also be asked to switch animals during a class. It is at the discretion of the judge.
- E. If a contestant is removed from an animal because they cannot handle the animal, they will not necessarily be given another animal to show.
- F. It is very important that animal's heads are held up correctly and they are presented correctly during the competition.
- G. A student must refuse any animal that they've been practicing with at the DSF or leases/owns.

Scoring

Evaluation and scoring of each participant will be performed by a person(s) designated by the event superintendent.

Evaluation Criteria:	Points
Appearance of the handler	10
Control of the animal by the handler	
1. Setting up the animal to its best advantage	15
2. Maintaining the animal to its best pose	15
3. Effectively restraining while avoiding exciting the assigned animal	15
4. Moving the animal as instructed	15
Poise and Calmness of the handler	20
Display a courteous and cooperative attitude	10
Total	100

CDE Needs

Need 4 advisors (with dairy cattle handling experience) available to handle movement of cattle to and from barn and Quillen

Awards

Awards will be presented to the top 10 individuals based upon their rankings at the State Fair FFA Awards Breakfast. The high individual will represent Delaware at National Convention, the top 4 individuals will represent Delaware at Big E. **Only current High School students are allowed to attend the Big E to compete in this CDE. Must qualify as an 8th grader. 6th to 7th graders cannot be placed higher than 5th (cannot travel).**

Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity Scorecard

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Criteria:	Points Possible	Points Earned
Appearance of the handler	10	
Poise and calmness of the handler	20	
Control of animal(s) by the handler		
Demonstrate competence in:		
A. setting up the assigned animal to its best advantage	15	
B. maintaining the animal(s) in its most advantageous pose	15	
C. effectively restraining, as well as avoiding exciting the assigned animal (s)	15	
D. moving the animal(s) as requested by the ringmaster	15	
Display a cooperative, courteous, helpful and positive attitude	10	
Total	100	

Judge's Signature: _____ Date: _____