



2026 World Dairy Expo
FFA CONTESTS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

ENTRY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

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2026 WORLD DAIRY EXPO FFA CONTESTS

Dear Ag Instructors & County Extension Agents:

Within this booklet, you will find information about the 2026 World Dairy Expo FFA Contest Events, along with the link to enter. The Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, Dairy Products Judging Contest, Showmanship Contest, and Forage Management Cup Contest will be held on **Tuesday, September 29** during World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Dairy Cattle Judging Contest will take place in the World Dairy Expo Sale Pavilion. To accommodate all participants, the contest will be divided into three heats. The Dairy Products and Showmanship Contests will also offer three heats. Please refer to the general instructions for additional details. There is a **\$40 entry fee for each team contest** entered, and **Showmanship is \$10 per participant**. The Forage Management Cup Contest is open to 4-H, FFA, and other youth organizations. Event Registration for all events is available online only. Chapters may register and order admission tickets using a credit card through the World Dairy Expo website.

The FFA organization has long been recognized for exceptional youth leadership. However, when FFA members must be reprimanded by show staff or security for inappropriate behavior, it reflects poorly on the entire organization and the agricultural industry's perception of these future leaders. **To ensure that students benefit fully from their experience and that the agricultural community continues to support and admire FFA members, adequate instruction and supervision are essential.**

We look forward to seeing you at World Dairy Expo!

REGISTER AND ORDER ADMISSION TICKETS ONLINE

Registration link: www.worlddairyexpo.com/pages/Online-Contest-Registration.php

If you would like to pre-order daily admission tickets, you may do so at a reduced rate of \$10 each. Please note admission tickets purchased at the gate is \$20 per person on Tuesday. All admission fees include parking. **A link to purchase discounted admission tickets will be included in your confirmation email after registering your contest participants.** *Admission tickets must be purchased via this separate admission link and not at the time of team registration.*

WORLD DAIRY EXPO FFA CONTESTS

- Dairy Cattle Judging - Dairy Products -
- Forage Management Cup - Showmanship -
Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Judging: See specific contest for location and times

Chair: Mr. Dakota Bockenbauer, University of Wisconsin-Platteville

GENERAL CONTEST REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION

1. The Dairy Cattle Judging, Showmanship and Dairy Products Contests will have three heats. Please mark your preference at time of entry. **Heats subject to change.**
2. Each team will consist of four members. Only one team application per chapter will be accepted for each contest.
3. Eligible contestants in the Dairy Cattle, Dairy Products and Showmanship Contests must be FFA members currently in their freshmen, sophomore, junior or senior year in a U.S. high school; international students must be enrolled in agricultural education classes.
4. Agricultural youth groups; FFA, 4-H or similar, with members in grades 7th - 12th may enter the Forage Management Cup Contest.
5. No student may enter except as a member of a team and no individuals apart from team members will be allowed to judge.
6. You may register online with a credit card only for all Central FFA events at World Dairy Expo until Friday, September 11, 2026. Upon completion of your online registration, a receipt will be emailed to you. If you do not receive a receipt, please contact lmiller@wdexpo.com or call (608) 224-6455.
7. **An entry fee of \$40 per team must accompany entries. Showmanship fee is \$10 per participant. No entries will be accepted after September 11, 2026.**
8. Final instructions will be emailed the week prior to the contests. Score sheets will be picked up by team coaches during registration on the day of the contest.
9. Certificates are awarded to the first and second place teams and the first and second place individuals. Ribbons are provided for first through tenth place

teams and individuals. Other special awards are given in each contest. Results will be announced on the [WDE FFA Contests page](#), and awards will be distributed following World Dairy Expo.

10. All contestants shall report to the contest Superintendent in the designated area where they will receive full instructions in regard to the routine and details of the contest. Opportunity will be given to participants to ask questions.

DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING

NEW IN 2026 - NATIONAL FFA ENDORSED ACTIVITY

Location: World Dairy Expo Sale Pavilion

Contest Time:

Registration for Heat 1 - 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. Heat 1 will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Registration for Heat 2 - 8:20 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. Heat 2 will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Registration for Heat 3 - 9:20 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. Heat 3 will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Superintendent: Mr. Dakota Bockenbauer - soa@uwplatt.edu
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Dairy Cattle Judging: The Dairy Cattle Judging contest allows students to develop skills in dairy cattle selection through animal evaluation, and alignment of physical characteristics through questions. Teams of four members will compete with the best 3 scores counted towards team score. The Dairy Cattle Judging contest will consist of three heats

Please indicate your heat preference on your entry form. Heats will be strictly limited to 38 teams (152 contestants) each. Heats are subject to change. All heats will place four classes of dairy cows and/or heifers. Classes will be selected from Holstein, Brown Swiss, Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire, Milking Shorthorn and Red & White cattle. No oral reasons will be given; however, the contestants will answer a set of questions on one of the classes.

Heat 1 may also serve as a state qualifying contest for Wisconsin FFA Career Development Events. In addition to the class placings and questions class, contestants will complete an exam and oral reasons set. If you wish to register your team for this Wisconsin State CDE Qualifier, please make that selection within your entries. Contestant results will be calculated as a stand-alone event for the qualifying contest, and also be included in the World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Judging results with the same entry.

Contestants must be preregistered. Coaches/advisors can pick up score sheets for their team when they arrive at the Sale Pavilion. Confirmation of the contestants and final instructions will be emailed to coaches/advisors the week prior to the contest. Contestant substitutions are permitted on the day of the contest.

Contestants are to be seated in the Sale Pavilion by 7:50 a.m for Heat 1, 8:50 a.m for Heat 2, and 9:50 a.m for Heat 3 to receive instructions. Contestants may not enter the Pavilion until their heat is called. Contestants should bring a #2 pencil and a clipboard. Additional paper will be provided for Wisconsin CDE Qualifying entries.

All heats will be recognized as a National FFA Endorsed Activity. For more information about National FFA Endorsed Activities, please visit: <https://www.ffa.org/designated-events-and-endorsed-activities/>

SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

Location: World Dairy Expo Sale Pavilion

Contest Time:

Registration for Heat 1 – 7:30 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. Heat 1 will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Registration for Heat 2 – 8:20 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. Heat 2 will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Registration for Heat 3 – 9:20 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. Heat 3 will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Showmanship Contest: The Showmanship Contest allows students to display skills in dairy cattle effective dairy handling. Students in this contest will present animals for evaluation as part of the Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. Showmen are judged on their ability to set up their assigned animal to its best advantage and effectively exhibit the animal as requested by the event ringmaster. While exhibiting poise and ring etiquette observable by the judges. Showmanship will be divided into three heats. The first 16-individuals to register in each heat (48 showpersons total) will be eligible. Individuals who register after that will be put on a list of alternates in the order they are received. Chapters are allowed to enter 2 showpersons per chapter, however they must be in separate heats. Showmanship contestants (accepted and alternates) MUST check in no later than the designated registration times above.

Showmanship contestants will need to assist with getting animals to and from the barns. Coaches are urged to bring showmanship alternates. Alternates will be used for contestants that do not show up or show up late. The showmanship contestant cannot be a member of the judging teams. Showmanship will be judged on (a) attitude of the exhibitor, (b) leading the animal, (c) posing the animal, (d) control of the animal, and (e) poise and alertness of the exhibitor. Top 5 showman will be recognized.

CONTEST ATTIRE

Males: White pants, white shirt, FFA Jacket, FFA tie, and appropriate shoes for showing.

Females: White pants or skirt, white blouse, FFA Jacket, FFA tie or scarf, and appropriate shoes for showing.

NOTE: All contestants are required to wear white trousers with white shirts when leading in the show ring.

DAIRY PRODUCTS JUDGING

Location: Lake Rooms - Upper Level of the Exhibition Hall

Contest Time:

Registration Heat 1 – 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. Heat 1 will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Registration Heat 2 – 8:20 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. Heat 2 will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Registration Heat 3 – 9:20 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. Heat 3 will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Registration is in the Lake Rooms of the Exhibition Hall. Heat 1 contestants need to register and proceed to the competition area without an advisor. Heats 2 and 3 contestants will register and wait for further instructions.

Superintendent: Mr. Dakota Bockenbauer soa@uwplatt.edu
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Participants are given the opportunity to assess, identify and score milk, cheese and other dairy products. Contestants must be pre-registered. Contestant substitutions are permitted on the day of the contest. Four individuals will comprise a team, one team per school, with the best 3 scores counting to the team's score. Each team member must complete each of the sections in the Dairy Products Contest.

The contest will consist of five sections: a written exam relating to the dairy industry, cheese identification where the contestants identify seven to ten types of cheese, eight to ten milk flavors including assigning milk intensity scores, six to ten characteristics of cheeses, and identifying five to ten fat content products. Contestants should bring a #2 pencil and a clipboard.

WORLD FORAGE MANAGEMENT CUP CONTEST

Location: Mendota Rooms 3 & 4 - Lower Level of Exhibition Hall

Contest Time:

Registration - 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Contest will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Superintendents: Mr. Rich Crow - soa@uwplatt.edu
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

The World Forage Management Cup is a contest with a format the sponsors believe will excite agriculture youth about efficient forage production and utilization. The University of Wisconsin - Platteville Agronomy Soil Conservation Chapter and World Dairy Expo are conducting the contest. The contest is held as part of the FFA Contest events at World Dairy Expo on Tuesday, September 29, **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Agricultural youth groups; FFA, 4-H or similar, with students in grades 7th - 12th are invited to participate. The contest has the following eligibility rules:

1. Four individuals will comprise a team, one team per school, with the best 3 scores counting to the team's score. Each team member must complete each of the sections in the World Forage Management Cup Contest.
2. The four members of the first place overall team and the individual with the highest overall individual score will not be eligible to compete in future World Forage Management Cup Contests.
3. Individuals who have placed in the top ten among individual contestants in overall score will be limited to participation in only one future World Forage Management Cup Contest.

CONTEST DIVISIONS:

The two-hour contest will consist of four divisions, in which each member on the four-person team will compete in each division. The four divisions are judging, identification, lab practical, and forage management questions. Each division has a maximum point count of 60 points and an overall maximum total of 240 points per individual. The divisions are explained as follows:

1. **Judging** - 30 minutes - Twelve different groupings of hay or silage will be placed with visual and/or analytical data. Groupings can include samples of haylage, corn silage, oatlage, alfalfa hay, grass-legume hay and grass hay. A grouping would have four different samples and would be ranked like a ring of four cows, i.e. 3-2-4-1. Some groupings will have analytical data given, such as protein, NDF, RFV, etc.
2. **Identification** - 30 minutes - 60 total plants and seeds of crops used for forage and weeds which compete with forage crops will be chosen from a list which will be available during the contest. The plant species which are included in the contest are listed below.
3. **Lab Practical** - 30 minutes - This section will consist of 30 stations, each worth 2 points. Each station will have photographs or actual samples of data tables, equipment, insects, diseases, etc., along with specific questions which will require identification, interpretation, calculation, and/or evaluation of the display material to answer correctly. These stations will represent activities commonly completed in forage production systems.
4. **Forage Management Questions** - 30 minutes - 60 multiple choice questions will cover forage production, quality and handling.

PLANT & SEED IDENTIFICATION LIST FORAGE CROPS & WEEDS

Crops: Alfalfa; alsike clover; barley; birdsfoot trefoil; big bluestem; corn; crested wheatgrass; crownvetch; fieldpea; Indiangrass; Kentucky bluegrass; ladino clover; lespedeza, Korean; millet; oats; orchardgrass; perennial ryegrass; red clover; redtop; reed canarygrass; rye; sainfoin; smooth brome grass; sorghum; sudangrass; sweetclover; switchgrass; tall fescue; timothy; triticale; vetch, hairy & wheat.

Weeds: Barnyard grass; black medic; bull thistle; burdock, common; Canada thistle; chicory; chickweed, common; crabgrass, large; curly dock; dandelion; dodder; downy brome; eastern black nightshade; field bindweed; foxtail barley; giant foxtail; green foxtail; hedge bindweed; hoary alyssum; lambsquarters, common; leafy spurge; milkweed, common; milkweed, eastern whorled; musk thistle; oxeye daisy; pennycress, field; pepperweed, greenflower; Pennsylvania smartweed; pigweed, redroot; plantain, blackseed; plantain, buckhorn; plumeless thistle; quackgrass; ragweed, common; ragweed, giant; red sorrel; shepherdspurse; St. Johnswort; velvetleaf; white cockle; wild buckwheat; wild carrot; wild garlic; wild mustard; wild oats; wild parsnip; wild radish; yarrow, common; yellow foxtail; yellow nutsedge & yellow rocket.