

DAIRY CATTLE

Name: _____ Club: _____

Guidelines for Project Proficiency Award

Date _____
Leaders Initials _____

Beginning:

1. Name at least 5 breeds of Dairy Cattle.

2. List the 4 main characteristics used to judge a Dairy Cow or Heifer.
Please describe them briefly.

3. What is colostrum and what is its function?

4. Explain the proper feeding of your Dairy Heifer at least for its first 3 months

5. To show a Dairy Heifer or Cow, the animal must be grade or registered. Please describe each of these terms and their differences.

6. What are the three different ways you can mark your Dairy Heifer or Cow?

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Intermediate:

1. Lactation relies heavily on the reproductive cycle of the dairy cow. What is the period of receptivity to breeding called.
2. How often does it occur.

3. There are distinct stages to a cow or heifer's heat cycle. One of the most obvious signs that a cow or heifer is in heat is _____ heat.

4. How long does this period last

5. What are some secondary signs that a cow is in heat?
When is the egg released.

7. When is the best time to breed a cow during it's heat cycle.

8. What is the function of the cow or heifer's ovaries.

9. What separates the uterus from the vagina.

10. To avoid disease transfer, which type of breeding technique is preferred.

A. Natural breeding by a bull

B. Artificial insemination

11. Name some advantages and disadvantages of artificial insemination for dairy cows and heifers.

12. Name some advantages and disadvantages of natural breeding for dairy cows and heifers.

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Advanced:

1. The most important showing period of a Dairy Heifer's life is usually her first two years. To grow properly and to be safe, a heifer needs to be immunized against disease and medicated to remove parasites. Please answer these questions about disease and parasite control in the first 2 years of a Dairy Heifer's Life:

A. At 2 months of age your dairy calf should receive her first inoculations. What are they and explain briefly each of the diseases they prevent.

B. What is brucellosis and when and why should a calf be vaccinated for it by your vet?

C. Discuss deworming and when it should be done. With what? Why?

2. Cattle are called ruminants. How many stomach compartments do ruminants have? _____

3. Please name each stomach compartment and its function in the cow.

4. The mammary system is the most important characteristic of the dairy cow. It is the one element that makes the dairy cow so different and valuable compared to other bovine. Please discuss in detail what happens during the milking process that allows the milk to come from the cow.

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