

# Dairy Bowl Fact Sheet

Dairy bowl is a great activity that brings together young people of all ages who have an interest in the dairy industry. Participants have the opportunity to building knowledge about their industry and form rewarding friendships. This fact sheet will help serve as a guideline to organizing a Dairy Bowl program for dairy youth on a variety of levels.

## Finding Competitors

Anyone who has an interest in learning more about the dairy industry will likely find Dairy Bowl to be an enjoyable activity. Dairy Bowl gives youth the opportunity to expand their knowledge of the industry in many different areas, while enhancing their competition skills. Competitors can be any age, but the age range to compete at the national level is typically 9 to 21.

In the Holstein Foundation Dairy Bowl program, there are two divisions: Juniors and Seniors. Juniors are under the age of 16 as of January 1 of the current year and Seniors are under 21 by the same date. If there are very few older competitors, it is acceptable to have Junior team members move up to the Senior division. Participants are eligible to compete three times at the National Convention in each age division.

## Preparing for Competition

Now that you have found a group of youth interested in competing, they need to start learning and sharing information. One way to start is by having the group share some of their experiences they have learned growing up in the industry. Juniors have a wealth of information in their mind just from working with their dairy projects. By sharing these experiences, youth can learn information from each other and also learn which subjects each person is interested in.

A great way to prepare for the contest is to get sets of practice questions from past contests. Questions can be obtained by talking to teams who have competed or contest officials from past events. A wealth of practice questions can be found on the Holstein Foundation Web site. To prepare for the questions that will be covered in upcoming competitions, the team must study other sources besides old questions. Some previous questions will come up each year, but the dairy industry is always changing. Studying current issues of industry publications allow the well prepared teams to rise to the top. For the Holstein Foundation contest, new questions for each year are taken from the past June to May issues of *Dairy Herd Management*, *Hoard's Dairyman*, *Holstein World*, *Sire Summaries*, *Holstein Foundation Workbooks*, etc. A list of Dairy Bowl resources can be found on the Holstein Foundation Web site.

If the participants divide the number of issues amongst themselves, the sources can be covered without each team member reading every magazine. Each teammate should be

responsible for knowing his or her assigned issues completely and also report to the rest of the team the general information. One way to use information gathered from these issues is to write competition-like questions. This helps build a stronger team because each teammate knows general information from the entire year and one team member is well educated in that area. In addition, team members know who to rely on for certain answers, giving them more confidence and greater ability to work as a team. It is also extremely beneficial to practice with a set of competition buzzers so youth become confident and comfortable buzzing in to answer questions during the competition.

## **Selecting the Team**

When you have large groups of interested Junior members, a system must be set up to determine team members. Each team consists of three or four members and an alternate. There are various ways to select the team that will represent your group in county, district, state, or national competitions.

One way is to select the team strictly by a written exam. This gives you the best test-takers, but keep in mind some people do better on written tests and freeze in competition. The written exam can also be combined with an oral competition. The exam could be used to determine the top eight or ten members, and then an oral round could be implemented to determine the top four and an alternate.

Another approach would be to let the participants choose teams and run a contest among those teams. The contest would need to parallel the national contest in format. The winner of this competition would be the team that advances to further contests, while the other teams could continue to practice and work together to beat the first place team in future years.

Reinforce the fact that everyone who participates is a winner, no matter who goes on to further competitions. If they feel like failures, they are less likely to continue to be involved and practice. No matter their placing, everyone comes out more knowledgeable and builds skills that they might not have otherwise. It is beneficial to use the older members when it is time to choose a team. Younger members have additional years to use their eligibility and would also benefit from more years of practice.

## **The Contest**

The contest is structured in a double elimination format. A 25-question written exam is given to determine each team's position for the first round of competition. After the first round is completed, a consolation bracket is formed. Each team must lose twice to be eliminated from the contest. The undefeated team in the winner's bracket will face the surviving team in the consolation bracket. In the final round, if the consolation bracket

team beats the undefeated team, another match will be played. Whoever loses this match is eliminated and the winner takes the title.

Once the teams are seeded from the written test, round one begins. The team members' combined score is used to determine position. Each round consists of two phases. In phase A, teams are brought in the room individually. Both teams are asked the same set of questions. Each team member is asked three 10-point questions. Questions must be answered within five seconds. There is no penalty for unanswered questions or incorrect answers, and only the person who was asked the question may answer it.

Phase B is the toss-up round. The contestant who buzzes in first is called on by the moderator. He or she is given 10 seconds to answer the question for 15 points. When a question is answered incorrectly, there is a 10 point penalty. Only the person who buzzes in may answer the question. Phase B also contains a bonus section where questions are worth 15 points. A bonus is given to a team when three different members answer a question correctly in phase B. During bonus questions, the team is allowed to confer and the team captain gives the answer. It is necessary for team members to have confidence in each others' ability to answer the questions. Remember that if two teammates answer several questions and the other team misses the question, give the other members of the team a chance to answer because it may produce a bonus question in your favor.

## **Winning a Championship**

Although all participants in the dairy bowl program are winners, only one champion can be named in each division. The desire to be national champions comes from within the team. If they have confidence in themselves and each other, they are well on their way to the top.

## **Contact**

Holstein Foundation  
P.O. Box 816  
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0816

800.952.5200  
[www.holsteinfoundation.org](http://www.holsteinfoundation.org)