

**NATIONAL  
HOLSTEIN FOUNDATION**



**2026  
DAIRY JEOPARDY CONTEST  
RULES & REGULATIONS**

## What is Dairy Jeopardy?

The Dairy Jeopardy contest is an activity where youth compete individually against each other. Based off the popular game show, youth answer questions that put their dairy knowledge to the test. Competition points are awarded for correctly answering questions about the dairy industry and closely related areas. Each contest consists of three rounds of six categories. Each category has five questions, with a point value of 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 points given to each question based on its difficulty level.

A maximum of six players will compete at one time. The number of players per contest will be dependent on the total number of contestants.

The national contest will accept a maximum of 30 participants per three age divisions. Each state will be allowed to enter one contestant per division. If remaining contestant openings exist after applying this rule, participants will thereafter be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis through the alternate section of the entry form.

Final rankings are based on scores. The contestant with the most points will be declared the winner. The player with the next greatest points will be declared second place, etc. In case of a tie for first, second or third place a sudden death question will be asked.

## Eligibility

Participants must be between the ages of 9 to 20 years old to participate but have not reached their 21st birthday by January 1 in the year competing. Age division breakdowns are as follows:

<b>Junior:</b>	9 to 13 years old as of January 1 in the year competing
<b>Intermediate:</b>	14 to 17 years old as of January 1 in the year competing
<b>Senior:</b>	18 to 20 years old as of January 1 in the year competing

Contestants competing in the Holstein Foundation Dairy Jeopardy Contest are not eligible for participation in the National Holstein Foundation Dairy Bowl Contest in the same year.

Entry forms must be postmarked by April 1st and be approved by the State Secretary, Junior Advisor or Youth Programs Manager. The contest will take place on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, as well as the dairy knowledge exam.

## Sources

Questions will be taken from publications dated June 2023 through June 2026. Questions will cover feeds and feeding, milk quality, herd health, udder health, breeding and genetics, marketing, dairy foods, calf raising and other dairy topics. Although

questions may come from a variety of sources, most questions will be selected from:

- Dairy Herd Management
- Hoard's Dairyman
  - Calf Care
  - Corn Silage: From Seed to Feed
  - Dairy Cattle Fertility
  - Feeding Guide (4th Edition)
- Holstein Foundation Workbooks
- National Dairy Shrine's First 50 Years
- Progress of the Breed
- Progressive Dairy
- Red Book
- The Pulse
- We Need a Show
- [www.dairy.org](http://www.dairy.org)
- [www.holsteinfoundation.org](http://www.holsteinfoundation.org)
- [www.holsteinusa.com](http://www.holsteinusa.com)
- [www.uscdcb.com](http://www.uscdcb.com)
- [www.worlddairyexpo.com](http://www.worlddairyexpo.com)

The information used in this contest is based on data from various sources. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of contest information, the Holstein Foundation and the Holstein Association USA, Inc. cannot guarantee that errors or omissions will not occur. Therefore, neither the Foundation nor the Association can be held responsible for Dairy Jeopardy competition outcomes in the unlikely event inaccuracies occur.

## Rules

1. There will be three rounds of play. If there are less than sixteen participants in a division only two rounds will be played. In each round all the questions will be the same. Contestants must remain in the contest room once they have competed until it is announced who will be advancing to the next round. An individual's score must be greater than zero to advance to any round of play.
2. Round 1 - All contestants participate, depending on the number of contestants, the top contestants will be selected to go on to Round 2. In case of a tie in round one it will be decided by an additional three questions.
3. In case of a tie for one of the top twelve positions after Round 1 then a sudden death tiebreaker question(s) would be asked of only those contestants that are affected by the tie. Example: Top eleven are in place; three contestants tie with a score of 100 and are all tied for 12th place. Question(s) would be asked until one contestant becomes the 12th person eligible for Round 2.
4. Round 2 - The top contestants (up to 12) from Round 1 will advance to play a second round. The top contestants will be announced at the completion of

Round 1. The top contestants (up to 6) from Round 2 then go on to play in Round 3. In case of a tie in Round 2 it will be decided by an additional three questions.

5. In case of a tie for one of the top positions after Round 2 then a sudden death tiebreaker question(s) would be asked of only those contestants that are affected by the tie. Example: Top five are in place; three contestants tie with a score of 100 and are all tied for 6th place. Question(s) would be asked until one contestant becomes the 6th person eligible for Round 3.

6. Round 3 - The top contestants (up to 6) from Round 2 play will advance to play a third round. The top contestants will not be announced until Round 2 has been completed.

7. At the end of Round 3 each of the contestants will have an opportunity to answer a "Final Jeopardy" question providing they have 1 or more points. Contestants with zero or negative points will be ineligible to participate in the final question.

8. The answer will be in written form with spelling not essential, however the judges must agree on the correctness of the answer. Once the final jeopardy category is revealed the contestant must wager in 10-point increments, all, part, or none of the points they have accumulated to this point. Contestants will have 30 seconds to answer the question. A correct answer grants all the points wagered to the contestant. An incorrect answer will result in the points wagered being deducted from the score.

9. There shall be two dairy double questions in each round. The contestants will not know prior to the contest which categories and point values contain the dairy double questions. The contestant must wager in 10-point increments all, part, or none of the points they have accumulated to this point. A correct answer grants all the points wagered to the contestant. An incorrect answer will result in the points wagered being deducted from the score.

10. If a contestant becomes eligible for a dairy double question and the contestant has no points the contestant will be permitted to wager up to the point value of the question. Example: Contestant has no points, selects Feed for 40 points. The wager cannot exceed 40 points. If the contestant correctly answers the question, they will receive 40 points, if incorrect the score will become negative.

11. The moderator will select the contestant who chooses the first category and its point value. Answers may be in the form of a question or statement. Example: 10-point question is "basic structural unit of protein." Acceptable form would be "What are amino acids?" or "amino acids."

12. A contestant wishing to answer any question must activate the signaling device. Since more than one contestant may think they have signaled the device, contestants may not answer until acknowledged by the moderator. After being acknowledged by the moderator, the contestant must immediately begin an answer.

13. There will be deductions for wrong answers, failing to signal, not waiting to be recognized and failing to give an answer. If the contestant does not begin answering almost immediately or fails to give the correct answer, it will be declared incorrect and the question will be reread once, and another contestant has the chance to buzz in. If no one buzzes in within 5 seconds, the moderator will move on to the next question.

14. If a contestant answers without signaling, or waiting to be recognized by the moderator, the answer will be declared invalid, and the point value of the question will be deducted. The question will then be offered to the opposing individuals.

15. If a contestant signals and is recognized, but fails to start an answer immediately, the contestant will lose points and the question will be offered to the opposing individuals. The number of points deducted will be determined by the point value of the question.

16. If the answer is incorrect or incomplete, the question shall then be reread, and the other contestants will have one more opportunity to answer. The judge may not ask the contestant to explain his or her answer.

17. The player with the last correct answer will get to select the next category and point value.

18. If the moderator questions the answer, a panel of judges will determine if the answer is correct. There will be no challenges to the answers at the time of the contest. The decision of the judges is final. Any spectator or coach who questions or argues with a judge or moderator or interferes with the running of the contest will be asked to leave.

19. All contestants must stay in the staging room during the contest unless competing. Once an individual has been eliminated, contestants can leave.

20. Each contestant is requested to maintain a respectable demeanor throughout the contest. Any disruptions in the contest room or holding room will result in the immediate elimination of the individual in question from the contest.

## Points/Deductions

Points will be deducted for wrong answers, dairy double questions, failing to signal, not waiting to be recognized, failing to answer and the final written question. The number of points deducted will be determined by the point value of the question or the amount wagered.

## Clarification of Answers

**Full Names of Animals** - contestants must use the full registration name of an animal with the exclusion of the suffix. If the suffix is used, it must be correct, i.e., ET versus ETS or \*TD versus \*TM.

Examples:	Long-Langs Oman Oman	Correct
	Long-Langs Oman Oman-ET	Correct
	Oman	Incorrect
	Long-Lang Oman Oman	Incorrect
	Long-Langs Oman-Twin	Incorrect

**Names of People** - when giving a specific person's name, the last name only will be acceptable. The first name is not necessary but, if given, it must be correct. If a prefix or suffix is used, it must be correct.

Examples:	Lamb	Correct	Jonathan Lamb	Correct
	Lamp	Incorrect	David Lamb	Incorrect
	Dr. Lamb	Incorrect	Jonathan Lamb, Jr.	Incorrect

**Pronunciation** - judges must recognize answers given as mispronunciation. The error in pronunciation can affect the correctness of an answer.

Example: For a question with antibody as an answer, antibiotic is incorrect.

**Volunteering Information** - if a contestant first gives a correct answer and goes on to add incorrect information, the entire question will be ruled incorrect.

**Correcting Answers** - if a contestant gives a complete answer, he or she cannot make a correction. If a partial incorrect answer is given and the contestant makes the correction mid-answer or word, the corrected answer will not be accepted.

## Electronic Devices

The use of cell phones or other electronic devices will not be allowed in the Dairy Jeopardy holding area. Audience members in the contest room will also be required to turn off all electronic devices.

## **Videotaping**

Videotaping and or recording will not be allowed. We request that no pictures be taken during the actual competition.

## **Officials**

**Moderator** - The moderator assumes complete direction of all contests, asks all questions, designates contestants to answer questions, accepts, or rejects all answers unless overruled by both judges. He/she may seek interpretation of questions and answers from judges. The moderator designates the winner of each contest and shall at all times be in charge; having the final voice in all decisions, except for answers to questions which are ruled on unanimously by judges.

**Judge** - Two judges are to be used who are knowledgeable in the subject matter. The judges may rule individually or jointly on the acceptability of any answer. Either both judges, or one judge and the moderator, must agree on the acceptability or rejection of a question and/or answer.

**Program/Equipment Operator** - One individual will be used to make sure program and equipment is operating to its full potential.

**Timekeeper** - One individual will be used to record time and to indicate to the moderator the expiration of the time allowed in which to answer questions.

**Scorekeeper** - One individual will keep scores on each contest. Scores will remain visible to the moderator, the contestants, and the viewing audience if possible.

**Door Guard** - One individual will be used to control the flow of the room. Once the contest has begun no one will be allowed to enter the contest room.

**Holding Room Guard** - One individual will oversee keeping the holding room in order. They are responsible for noise control, getting the proper contestants to the correct competition room in a timely manner. They are also in charge of making sure once contestants have completed a round, they return to the holding room if they have not been eliminated from the competition.