



# CONNECTICUT 4-H RECORD KEEPING

## ANIMAL STUDY

Name Adrian Jones Year in Project 5 4-H Program Year 00-00

Please list the animal you chose to study this year. Dairy Cattle  
Use one Record Sheet for each animal species.

**PROJECT GOAL** Setting goals and then checking progress on the attainment of those goals is an important part of 4-H. Complete the first two boxes at the beginning of the year. Complete the last two boxes before you turn in your Record Book.

Set a goal related to your project.	<i>My goal is to learn about dairy cattle production so I can become a more informed consumer.</i>
How will you reach your goal? This is your action plan to attain your goal. Be specific and list each step needed to reach your goal.	<i>I will reach my goal by talking with industry professionals, shadowing at farms, and doing research using credible sources.</i>
Did you accomplish your goal? Write about any assistance you received to reach your goal. If you didn't accomplish your goal- what obstacles prevented you from doing so and what did you try to overcome those obstacles?	<i>I accomplished my goal. I feel much more knowledge and informed about dairy cattle production and the milk industry. My 4-H leader helped me get in contact with dairy farmers in my area. I was able to help feed calves, watch milking, and learn about homogenization. My 4-H leader also helped my guide my research questions.</i>
For next year . . . How will you change your goal?	<i>I am interested in learning about dairy goats next year so I can explore a new side of the dairy industry.</i>

**DESCRIBE YOUR PROJECT** Summarize your project in a few sentences.

My project is focused on exploring animal products. I want to know more about the food that I am eating and how animal management techniques impact food quality and prolificacy. I will be able to learn more about my diet by learning about the animals that produce those nutritional aspects.

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**PROJECT ACTIVITIES** List *special project* meetings or clinics attended or conducted, such as tours, field trips, fair exhibits, etc. that you did in your project this year. Include non 4-H events/activities that relate to your project. Please note in the Activity column if it was a 4-H or non 4-H activity/event.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>What did you do?</b>	<b>What did you learn?</b>	<b>Time spent</b>
00/00	CT 4-H Dairy and Beef Day	Attended workshops	I learned about dairy cow nutrition, calving, and handling	4 hours
00/00	Dairy farm visit	Shadowed at a production dairy farm	I learned about milking and pasteurization	3 hours
00/00	4-H Animal Day	Attended workshops	I learned about the anatomy of a dairy cow and dairy industry vocabulary	4 hours
00/00	4-H Club Field Trip	Took a tour at a local dairy farm	I learned about how pasture rotation, product evaluation, and calf management	2 hours
00/00	NLC 4-H Fair Exhibit Hall	Entered a poster on milk composition	I learned that I can educate people in my community by presenting what I have learned	3 hours (time spent researching and making my poster)

**LEARNING EXPERIENCES** Pick 6 topics and explain what you learned.

Topics	What You Learned
<b>Parts of the Animal Types and Breeds</b>	I learned about the anatomy of a dairy cow. I learned how udder composition is important. I also learned how different dairy cattle breeds are noted for different milk composition.
<b>Housing/Shelter</b>	
<b>Equipment and Costs</b>	I learned about the equipment used on a working dairy farm and how each piece of equipment is used to create dairy products and maintain animal health.
<b>Nutrition- Kind of Feed (amount and cost)</b>	I learned how nutrition for a milking cow differs from a heifer, from a bred cow, and from a dry cow. I learned how forages are a very important part of the dairy cow diet. I learned that feed is one of the most expensive parts of owning dairy cattle.
<b>Grooming</b>	
<b>Safety</b>	
<b>Feet and Care</b>	
<b>Health (vaccinations, routine, vet service)</b>	
<b>Disease and Prevention</b>	
<b>Health Practices</b>	
<b>Time Involved in Caring for an Animal</b>	I learned how much work and time goes into dairy production. I learned that the cows have to be milked twice a day every day! Dairy farmers work very hard to supply products to consumers.
<b>Industry</b>	
<b>Careers</b>	
<b>Management</b>	
<b>Reproduction</b>	I learned how artificial insemination and embryo transfer is used in the dairy industry.
<b>Consumer Issues</b>	
<b>Animal Selection/judging</b>	
<b>Handling</b>	I learned how handling of the animals and the equipment is important to ensuring the health and safety of both the livestock and the consumer.
<b>Record Keeping</b>	

<b>Other</b>	
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**TIME SPENT ON PROJECT** Record the amount of time you spent on each Learning Experience topic chosen on the previous page.

	Parts of the animal/breeds	Equipment and costs	Nutrition	Time involved in caring for the animals	Reproduction	Handling	Total Time/ Per Month	Comments
<b>Oct.</b>	2						2	
<b>Nov.</b>		3					3	
<b>Dec.</b>					2		2	
<b>Jan.</b>				2			2	
<b>Feb.</b>		5					5	
<b>Mar.</b>			3			1	4	
<b>Apr.</b>		1					1	
<b>May</b>	1						1	
<b>Jun.</b>					4		4	
<b>Jul.</b>			4				4	
<b>Aug.</b>	1					2	3	
<b>Sep.</b>				1			1	
<b>Total hours</b>	4	9	7	3	6	3	32	

**PROJECT FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

	<b>Income or Value Added</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Oct</b>				
<b>Nov</b>				
<b>Dec</b>		\$15	-\$15	I bought book about dairy cattle
<b>Jan</b>				
<b>Feb</b>		\$18	-\$18	I bought a book about the dairy industry
<b>March</b>				
<b>April</b>				
<b>May</b>		\$5	-\$5	Entry fee for 4-H Animal Day
<b>June</b>		\$3	-\$3	I bought poster board for my Exhibit Hall entry
<b>July</b>	\$5		\$5	Premiums from NLC 4-H Fair
<b>August</b>				
<b>Sept</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$5	\$41	-\$36	I learned a lot, so I don't mind that I lost money on this project

**YEARLY REVIEW**

List and define 3 words that you learned this year.

Rumen: stomach compartment that enables fermentation that is necessary for proper nutrient utilization

Mastitis: a bacterial infection in the udder that causes inflammation of the tissue

Pasteurization: the process of heating milk to eliminate pathogens

What skills (knowledge, handling, etc) did you acquire? How did you acquire them?

I gained a lot of knowledge about dairy production and dairy cattle by researching and talking with industry experts.

What challenges did you encounter in your project? How did you resolve them?

At first, I was nervous about contacting local dairy farms about coming to visit and learn more about the industry. However, I worked on preparing what I wanted to say, and I was able to work on my public speaking and my communication skills. I am glad that I did, because I was able to learn a lot!

How will you use what you learned?

I will apply what I learned so that I may educate more people about this the dairy industry. I am now I more informed consumer and I feel like I am more knowledgeable about the dairy products that I eat. I will eat local dairy products to support the local farmers that are working so hard to supply the products I love, like milk, cheese, and ice cream.

List 2 safety practices that you followed in this project.

I made sure I washed my hands after touching the dairy cows, and I always wore appropriate footwear when visiting the dairy farms. I sanitized my boots between farms, so I didn't transfer pathogens. I learned how important biosecurity is in the animal industry.

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Review your financial summary. What did you learn? Would you do anything differently? What advice would you give to another 4-Her in this project?

I learned how much work, knowledge, and perseverance it takes to produce dairy products and keep both people and animals healthy. I learned that it is okay if your 4-H project doesn't make a profit, because you still grew and learned from the experience. If I were to do this project again, I would have visited more farms to see how management techniques differed across New England. My advice for a 4-Her studying dairy cattle is to speak to as many industry professionals as you can. They have so much knowledge to share that you can't always find in a book or online!

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**Attach one or two selected photographs or news articles. (optional)**