

Computer Requirements for 2010 Western Regional Dairy Challenge

All schools are responsible for bringing computers to the competition. New this year, contest data that has previously been printed and placed in a binder will be distributed electronically. As such, we are recommending that each school bring at least **ONE** laptop computer per every four student participants with the following minimum requirements; these requirements are **minimums** – typically, bigger is better. The school computers will be loaded with the herd data in DairyComp 305, PCDART and DHI Plus programs; the provided computers will be used to view contest materials and to prepare presentations. In the event of a failure, loaner systems may or may not be available. We strongly encourage you to bring university computers rather than a coach's or student's personal computer for privacy reasons. In addition, it would be appreciated if each school could bring 2 clean thumb drives.

Hardware Minimums

Reliable, working, and in-good-condition PC laptop – **absolutely no Mac's**

Operating system – Windows 2000, XP Pro, XP Home, Windows Vista (fully patched with current updates) or Windows 7.

Administrator logon and password – this is a **must have**.

Processor – 1.5Mhz P4 Celeron processor or better.

RAM – 256Mb or more.

Hard drive – minimum of 10 GB of free space after all software is loaded.

CD-R drive – there is no minimum speed requirement (faster is better).

Video – 800x600 minimum resolution.

USB ports – 1 required, 2 or more better (version 1.1 is ok, version 2.0 preferred).

USB key memory stick (thumb drive) – 128Mb minimum (bigger is better).

Software Minimums (to be loaded and tested prior to contest)

You are responsible for:

Microsoft Office XP, 2003 or 2007 – regardless of version, all updates should be applied.

Anti-Virus software with current, up-to-date virus definitions.

Adobe 8.0 or higher.

The contest is responsible for:

- All Herd Data
- PCDART
- DairyComp 305
- DHI Plus

DHI Plus, PCDART and DairyComp 305 (dairy herd management programs with the herd data) will be installed for you at the contest site.

Please note that:

Computers brought for team use to prepare presentation material cannot contain any additional applications or software such as pre-canned presentations, pre-canned excel spreadsheets, or other material not commonly available to other competing teams.

Additional material

- Digital camera – schools are responsible for having all memory cards, cables and hardware/software drivers for proper operation; some cameras may be available on contest day. **Test before you travel.**
- Thumb drives for transferring data among computers.
- Calculator, measuring tape, watch/stopwatch, pens and clean notepads.
- NRC Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle can be freely downloaded at:
<http://books.nap.edu/html/dairymodel/>

Failure to meet the stated requirements above will, at a minimum, be a major hindrance on individual team performance and may, at worst, render the team non-competitive.