



Computer Requirements for 2012 Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge

All schools are responsible for bringing computers to the competition. Two computers per team will be required for this event. Again this year, contest data that has previously been printed and placed in a binder will be distributed on USB Thumb Drives. As such, we are recommending that each school bring at least ONE laptop computer (two if possible) with the following minimum requirements; these requirements are minimums – typically, bigger is better. While some of the computers will be loaded with the herd data in DairyComp 305, PCDART and DHI Plus programs, others will be used to view contest materials and 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.

Hardware Minimums

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

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

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

Processor – 1.5Mhz P4 Celeron processor or better.

RAM – **1 Gb** 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) – **1 Gb** minimum (bigger is better).

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

You are responsible for:

Microsoft Office 2000, XP, 97 – 2003, 2007 **or 2010** – regardless of version, all updates should be applied.

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

Adobe 8 or higher.

The contest is responsible for:

- All Herd Data
- All Contest Data
- PCDART
- DairyComp 305

Both 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 drive for transferring data among computers.

- Calculator, measuring tape, watch/stopwatch, pens and clean notepads.

- **NRC Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle should be downloaded and installed from:**

<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.