Computer Requirements for
2014 Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge

All schools are responsible for bringing computers to the competition. Two computers and one USB Thumb Drive per team will be required for this event; contest data will be distributed on these computers. As such, we are recommending that **each school bring a USB Thumb Drive, and at least ONE laptop computer (two if possible)** with the following minimum requirements; these requirements are minimums – typically, bigger is better. While one of the computers will be loaded with the herd data in DairyComp 305 **and** PCDART programs, the other 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 Macs without installed/configured Parallel (or similar) Software.**
Operating system – Windows XP Pro, XP Home, Win Vista, Win 7 or 8 (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 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 is 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, 2010 or 2013 – regardless of version, all updates should be applied.
Anti-Virus software with current, up-to-date virus definitions.
Adobe 8 or higher.
NRC Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle (can be downloaded from http://books.nap.edu/html/dairymodel/)

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. Test before you travel. **Use of cell phone, IPad, or other similar cameras is prohibited.**
- Thumb drive for transferring final contest material for Coaches to take home
- Calculator, measuring tape, watch/stopwatch, pens and clean notepads.
- **Schools should download NRC Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle in advance of the contest** 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.