Computer Requirements for
2014 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge

All schools are responsible for bringing computers to the competition. Two computers per team will be required for this event, 3 if possible. Contest data will be distributed on USB Thumb Drives. As such, we are recommending that <u>each school bring 2-3 laptop computers</u> 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.

If you are planning to bring a Mac Laptop, you **MUST** ensure that the software which can provide Windows (PC) Platform is installed and fully configured on your Mac. **DAIRY CHALLENGE <u>CANNOT</u> PROVIDE THIS SOFTWARE!**

Operating system – Windows 2000, XP Pro, XP Home, Win Vista, Win 7 or Win 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 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, 2010 or 2013 – regardless of version, all updates should be applied.

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

Adobe Acrobat Reader 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 & Dairy Production Data
- All other Contest 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. *Test your camera before you travel*; cameras will NOT be available on contest day. Please ensure that your

operating system will retain a picture program with adequate space. **Use of cell phone, IPad, or other similar cameras is prohibited at the farms and during the contest.**

- Thumb drive for transferring data among computers and for taking home final contest materials.

- Calculator, measuring tape, watch/stopwatch, pens and clean notepads. Students may not use cell phones for these purposes!

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

http://books.nap.edu/html/dairymodel/ (NOTE: this version will **NOT** install in Windows 64-Bit Environment; if you are installing in 32-Bit Windows 7 or Vista, you may have to install the program as an Administrator).

To recap:

Drop off your team computers to the Dairy Challenge IT Office (Board Room at the Grand Wayne Convention Center) upon arrival or by 5 p.m. at the latest on Thursday evening (the sooner the better), so we can load all the necessary contest software and farm data. ***If you are arriving on Wednesday for the Dairy Challenge Academy and/or Thursday's Pre-Contest Tour, you may drop computers off on Wednesday evening at the IT Room at Grand Wayne Convention Center.***

Each team should check-in 2-3 laptops and 1 USB drive. **Teams must provide user names and passwords for each computer.**

All computers will be collected again on Friday night and returned to appropriate teams on Saturday.

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.