Computer Requirements for
2014 Southern Regional Dairy Challenge

All schools are responsible for bringing computers to the competition. A small number of computers will be available for this event, so each school is asked to bring at least ONE **(1) university** laptop computer with the following minimum requirements. These requirements are **minimums** – typically, bigger is better. **New for 2014 SRDC: Students will be allowed to use their own computers and have access to the internet for this Southern Regional contest. As such, students are encouraged to bring their own computers for their use during the event.** University computers will be loaded with the herd data in both PCDART and DairyComp 305 programs and used by the judge panels; students may use their personal computers to prepare presentation material and load material from Contest Data USB Drive. In the event of a failure, loaner systems may or may not be available.

Also, schools who have access to LCD Projectors are asked to bring one. The contest will need up to 6 total.

Hardware Minimums
Reliable, working, and in-good-condition PC Laptop – **absolutely no Macs without installed/configured Parallel (or similar) Software.**
Operating system – Windows 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 – **2 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.

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 analyze herd data and/or prepare presentation material cannot contain/have Internet access to 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**.
- 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.