



Computer Requirements for 2015 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge

All contest schools are responsible for bringing computers to the competition, but none of them will need to be checked in with the IT group. Two computers per team will be needed for the contest, but additional computers can be used if desired. We are recommending that each contest school bring at least 2 laptop computers with the minimum requirements suggested below; these requirements are minimums – typically, bigger is better. Dairy One will be supplying an inventory of computers for the Contest and Academy that will be pre-loaded with the herd data in DairyComp 305, PCDART and DHI Plus programs and all other herd data; school computers will primarily be used to view contest materials and prepare presentations. The computers provided by Dairy One will be distributed to each team/group at the beginning of the program and will need to be turned back in to the IT group. In the event of a failure of personal computers, loaner computer systems may or may not be available. Each contest team will also be provided with a USB thumb drive that can be used to transfer files between computers. Teams will save their final presentation on the provided thumb drive and return it at the end of the day on Friday.

Schools are NOT required to bring computers for the Academy students; however, students can bring their personal computer, as well as a USB drive for transferring files among computers, if they desire.

Schools with access to an LCD projector are asked to bring one for use during the event. As many as 15 will be needed.

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 CANNOT PROVIDE THIS SOFTWARE!**

Operating system – Windows 2000, XP Pro, XP Home, Win Vista, Win 7 or Win 8 (fully patched with current updates).

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.

Video – 800x600 minimum resolution.

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

Software Minimums (to be loaded and tested prior to contest) You are responsible for:

Microsoft Office 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 9 or higher.

A dairy ration evaluation/formulation program is suggested (e.g. NRC; <http://books.nap.edu/html/dairymodel/>)

NAIDC is responsible for:

- All Herd & Dairy Production Data
- All other Contest/Academy Data
- PCDART*
- DairyComp 305*
- DHI Plus*

**Most current versions available from the source company will be provided.*

New this year: Students may use the internet as a tool in their presentation preparation. University and student computers should be used to prepare presentation materials and for accessing the Internet. The purpose of allowing student computers and internet access is to provide a more real-world experience with access to additional resources to help address specific questions that arise during the farm analysis. However, neither these computers nor a web based storage system (e.g. Drop Box) are to be used as pre-planned repositories for contest resources. This will be included in the Honor Code signed by the students. Student

preparation rooms will be open at all times and contest personnel will be monitoring these areas.

Additional information:

Schools do not need to bring a digital camera; an inventory of stock photos will be available for team use. However, please ensure that your operating system has sufficient space for adding photos. **Use of cell phone, iPad, or other similar cameras is prohibited at the farms and during the contest.**

- Schools should bring a calculator, measuring tape, watch/stopwatch, pens and clean notepads. Students may not use cell phones for these purposes!

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.