Computer Requirements for
2017 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 <u>each contest school bring at least 2 laptop computers</u> 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 into 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, Academy students may wish to 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 <u>CANNOT</u> PROVIDE THIS SOFTWARE!**
Operating system – Windows 7 or newer (fully patched with current updates)
Processor – 1.5 Mhz P4 Celeron processor or better
RAM – 2 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
Adobe Flash Player

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.

Again 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. In addition, there are no restrictions this year on the use of pre-planned repositories for contest resources or on what dairy management resources are brought to the contest for use in preparing presentations.

Additional information:
Cameras: If your school has a camera, please bring it. **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.