

Computer Requirements for 2009 Southern Regional Dairy Challenge

All schools are responsible for bringing computers to the competition. No computers will be provided for this event, so each school is asked to bring TWO laptop computers with the following minimum requirements. These requirements are **minimums** – typically, bigger is better. A total of about **28** computers will be needed for the contest; this will allow two computers per aggregate team and one for each Panel of Judges. One of the team computers will be loaded with the herd data in both PCDART and DairyComp 305 programs; the second team computer can be used to prepare presentation material. 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 Mac's**
Operating system – Windows 2000, XP Pro, XP Home or Win Vista (fully patched with current updates).
Administrator logon and password – this is a **must have**.
Processor – 1.5Mhz P4 Celeron processor or better.
RAM – 256Mb 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) – 128Mb minimum (bigger is better).

Software Minimums (to be loaded and tested prior to contest)

You are responsible for:

Microsoft Office 2000, XP, or 2003 – 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
- 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 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.