



Computer Requirements for 2023 Midwest Regional Dairy Challenge

Students are responsible for bringing and using their own computers to access and prepare presentation materials for this contest. Additionally, schools are responsible for bringing 1-2 school computers. These additional school computers will be used in contest rooms and in the event of student computer failure. The contest will need up to 10 computers total. All computers (student and university) should meet the following minimum requirements; these requirements are minimums – typically, bigger is better.

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.**
***Coaches should ensure your students have access to a Windows based computer before traveling to the contest.**

Operating system – Win 10 or newer (fully patched with current Windows updates).

Administrator logon and password – this is a **MUST HAVE**.

Processor – 1.5Mhz P4 Celeron processor or better.

RAM – 4 Gb minimum (8 Gb or more preferred)

Hard drive – minimum of 20 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 or higher preferred).

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

You are responsible for:

Microsoft Office 2010, 2013 or 2016 – regardless of version, all updates should be applied.

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

Adobe 9 or higher.

Security and Password Protection:

If university computers have an Administrator logon and password, this login data must be provided to the IT staff at registration. This should be attached to the PC and should be verified **PRIOR** to arrival at the contest. Also, please do not bring PC's that reset and clear data once turned off.

The contest is responsible for:

– All Herd Data

– All Contest Data

Participants are responsible for downloading PCDART and/or DairyComp 305 (dairy herd management programs with the herd data) from the contest web site prior to traveling to the MW contest. Support is available. See [MW Contest page](#) for details.

Additional material

- Digital camera – schools should bring cameras and all memory cards, cables and hardware/software drivers for proper operation. Test before you travel. **Use of cell phones, iPad's, or other similar cameras on farm is prohibited.**

- Calculator, measuring tape, watch/stopwatch, pens and clean notepads.

- NRC Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle can be freely downloaded from: <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/dairymodel/>

- Students are also encouraged to bring a jump/thumb drive to move information between computers.

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.