



Computer Requirements for 2023 Western Regional Dairy Challenge

All schools are responsible for bringing computers to the competition. We ask each school to bring at least TWO (2) Laptop computers; no computers are being provided for this event. In addition, students should plan to use their own computers to prepare presentation materials and load material from the Contest Data Page of Western Regional Dairy Challenge website. Please drop school computers at Dairy Challenge Central. Student computers do not have to be checked in. **Computers for use during the contest should have** the following minimum requirements; these requirements are minimums – typically, bigger is better.

Hardware Minimums

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

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.

The contest is responsible for:

- All Herd Data
- All Contest Data
- DHI Plus
- DairyComp 305
- PCDART

DHI Plus, DairyComp 305, and PCDART (dairy herd management programs) will be available for download and installation from the Western Regional Dairy Challenge website. **ALL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD COMPLETE THIS DOWNLOAD BEFORE TRAVELING TO CONTEST TO AVOID USING DATA REVIEW TIME FOR DOWNLOADING.**

Security and Password Protection:

If bringing university computers that 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.

Additional material:

- Digital camera – schools are asked to bring a camera and are responsible for having 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.

- **Schools are encouraged to download NRC Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle in advance of the contest** and installed from:

<http://books.nap.edu/html/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.