Computer Requirements for 2024 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge

All schools are responsible for bringing 1-2 computers to the competition; 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 National Contest & Academy Page on the 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 Software that provides a PC Platform.**
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.
- PCDART, DairyComp 305 or DHI-Plus (dairy herd management programs with the herd data) downloaded and installed from national contest website prior to traveling to the contest. Support is available.

Do not bring MAC computers or Chromebooks!! They do not work with the dairy software!

NAIDC is responsible for:
- All Herd & Dairy Production Data
- All other Contest/Academy Data
- PCDART*
- DairyComp 305*
- DHI-PLUS*
    Information for downloading the most current versions from the source company are available on the NAIDC Contest web site.

✓ Before bringing any university computers, please confirm they do NOT have Wipe Out/Restoration programs. Also, any administrative passwords must accompany the computer; the IT Group will **NOT** call university system administrators to obtain passwords.

✓ Schools with access to an LCD projector are asked to bring one for use during the event. As many as 15 will be needed. Please contact Cassi Miller Cmiller@wdexpo.com if you are able to bring a projector.

- ✓ All herd data will be available to download from a protected Dropbox accessible from the [2024 National Contest & Academy website](#).

- ✓ Teams will save their final presentation PowerPoint to a designated Dropbox.

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

Students may use the internet as a tool in their presentation preparation. In addition, there are no restrictions 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: Schools should equip their contest team with a camera. **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. <u>Students may not use cell phones for these purposes!</u>

- ✓ Bring a powercord/powerstrip for your team's use during the event.

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.