

# 2026 HERD BUILDER AWARD

Any Junior Fair dairy cattle exhibitor ages 12-15 as of January 1, 2026 may apply for the "HERD BUILDER AWARD". The award will recognize exceptional dairy youth and will be presented at the 2026 Manitowoc County Fair. The award winner will receive a registered heifer calf.

Any exhibitor who wishes to apply for the "Herd Builder Award" must submit the attached application and questions.

The information supplied in the application and dairy project story, along with the exhibitor's performance at the Fair and knowledge of the project as determined by an interview, will be the basis for making the award.

The application and dairy questions (not to exceed two pages) are due no later than **August 1st**. These materials should be sent to Angie Ulness, Manitowoc County UW-Extension Agriculture Educator, P.O. Box 935, Manitowoc, WI 54221-0935.

An interview of all qualified exhibitors will be held starting at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, during the County Fair**. Applicants will be sent their interview time before the fair.

The Herd Builder recipient agrees to keep the Herd Builder calf until she gives birth for the first time. If the Herd Builder calf recipient sells the calf before she gives birth for the first time, one-half of the proceeds will be returned to the original breeder/owner. For example, if the Herd Builder calf is sold as a springing heifer for \$2,000, the recipient of the Herd Builder will pay the original breeder/owner of the calf \$1,000. The recipient of the Herd Builder calf agrees to identify a mentor who can advise the Herd Builder calf recipient regarding overall care and management of the calf. The mentor may be a parent, guardian, organization advisor, dairy farmer, etc.

*Previous winners are not eligible. Decisions of the judges are final.*

## HERD BUILDER AWARD Application Form (please type/print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Year in School \_\_\_\_\_

The calf will be housed (Indicate what farm will house the calf) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Mentor \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Financial support provided by Manitowoc Dairy Show Group

## 2026 HERD BUILDER AWARD

### Evaluation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

1. Must complete an application and questions and return to Angie Ulness- Manitowoc County UW-Extension P.O. Box 935 Manitowoc, WI 54221-0935 by August 1, 2026.
  - a. Neatness and completeness
  - b. Knowledge of projects, expenses, dates, etc.
2. Must exhibit a minimum of one (1) animal at the 2026 Manitowoc County Fair
3. Must participate in dairy showmanship at the 2026 Manitowoc County Fair
4. Must participate in an interview on the Saturday of the County Fair
  - a. Knowledge of project animals
  - b. Feeding, fitting, and grooming
  - c. Dairy Bowl Facts, Score Card, and dairy terminology
  - d. How did you get started
  - e. List of activities outside of the dairy program
  - f. Future plans
5. Briefly describe your dairy project? Where are your project animals housed? What is your role in the care, feeding, and management of your project animals? What are your current plans for exhibiting animals at the Manitowoc County Fair? 250 words or less.
6. What is your vision for the development of your dairy project in the future? What are your plans for a future role in the dairy industry? 250 words or less.
7. List Dairy Activity involvement. Not to exceed more than one page.

Program developed and coordinated by the Manitowoc County 4-H Dairy Committee. For more information contact Angie Ulness Manitowoc County UW-Extension Agriculture Educator at 683-4511 or [angie.ulness@wisc.edu](mailto:angie.ulness@wisc.edu)



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