

## **2025 MERCED COUNTY FAIR DAIRY HEIFER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

Purpose of the program and sale is to provide 4-H and FFA members with the opportunity to:

- Learn how to select a dairy heifer (heifer calf) that has the potential of being a good-producing cow.
- Learn how to raise good quality dairy animals, demonstrating approved management principles.
- Offer for sale a top-quality dairy replacement heifer at the conclusion of the program if they desire.
- Give non-dairy farm members an opportunity to gain valuable experience in dairy husbandry.
- Learn how to present and market a dairy heifer replacement.

**The Merced County Fair Dairy Heifer Replacement Sale will be held on  
Friday, June 6, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the Les McCabe Arena.**

- ❖ The following are acceptable ways to pay for a Heifer Replacement Purchase: CASH, CHECK, VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS.
- ❖ Auction accounts are due and payable within 30 days of billing. Individuals/companies with outstanding balances from previous auctions will not be permitted to purchase animals. In addition, buyers with outstanding balances as of September 30, 2024 will not be permitted to purchase at the 2025 auction.
- ❖ There will be an auction commission collected on all heifers sold to defray expenses of the auction, and operations of the sale committee and to provide a contingency fund required by the state against losses.
- ❖ **ALL SALES ARE FINAL! Removal of heifer from the Fairgrounds constitutes acceptance by the buyer.**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The program will be available to all 4-H and FFA members and qualified Independent exhibitors residing within Merced County. The heifer must be a part of a bona fide dairy project, which means any member carrying this project must be enrolled in a 4-H Dairy Club project, be a member of a FFA Chapter, or be a qualified Independent exhibitor.

Exhibitors must use show halters and are required to wear proper 4-H or FFA uniform.

### **EXHIBITOR REQUIREMENTS**

In order to be eligible to sell a heifer through the Heifer Replacement sale an exhibitor must:

1. Be the owner of the heifer, and be under the supervision of the organization, in which the project will be shown, with a minimum of the 120 consecutive days immediately prior to the opening day of the current year's fair.
2. Enter the heifer with the program committee by the current year's due dates.
3. Enter the heifer online to be judged at the current Merced County Fair.
4. Exhibitors are required to sell their own heifer and be in complete, official 4-H or FFA show uniform while selling.
5. **DAIRY HEIFER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE FAIR OFFICE ON OR BEFORE 5:00 P.M. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025 FOR ALL 1-YEAR HEIFER PROJECTS. DON'T FORGET TO ENTER YOUR PROJECT INTO THE FAIR BY MAY 1, 2025. IT IS A TWO-STEP PROCESS.**
6. Select Dairy heifers for the Heifer Replacement Program.
7. Purchase a heifer that is old enough to breed, or is already bred and will freshen within 90 days after the current year's fair.
8. All Exhibitors will assist in the running of Buyers slips during the sale.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

1. Heifer must be sired by a registered bull of the same breed as its dam and the dam must have no history of cross breeding.
2. Heifer must be identified by the DHIA accepted number with a LEGIBLE California Brucellosis tattoo. Any heifer without legible California Brucellosis tattoo will be disqualified from the show and sale and must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately.
3. Heifer must be born on March 1<sup>st</sup> or after, two years prior to the year the heifer will be sold.
4. Heifer must be identified by photographs. The entry/application will not be accepted without required photos of the animal entered. In addition, Jerseys must be identified by ear tattoo or RFID#. Exhibitor is required to provide three photos of their heifer, approximately 3 inches x 5 inches
  - a. Left side and Right-side profile of their heifer, AND
  - b. Front view of their heifer with ear tag being visible.
5. Heifer must be bred to a registered bull of the same breed or, if not, the breed of the sire must be listed on the entry.
6. Heifer must be guaranteed by the seller (exhibitor):
  - a. To be open in all four quarters at the time of the sale
  - b. Vaccinated for brucellosis
  - c. Should be vaccinated for Rednose & Leptospirosis within a year of sale
  - d. To have been dehorned
7. Heifer must be fit and in show condition for judging and sale. Each heifer will show in the appropriate replacement heifer class at the fair. Those not measuring up to expected condition and breed type will not be allowed to sell through the sale, but may be sold at private treaty after the sale.
8. Heifers selected for this project must have sufficient growth and development with the relation to age and be bred to freshen no later than 90 days after the **sale**.
9. Registered and accepted with the Project Committee on proper forms provided for that purpose by the office of Merced County Fair, prior to the deadlines stated under requirements. **There will be absolutely no substitutions of animals after the application deadline.**
10. All replacement heifers that calve prior to Monday, before Fair will not be allowed to sell through the sale at the Merced County Fair. The heifer may be transferred and exhibited in the appropriate class.
11. **All replacement heifers must have a due date of July 1<sup>st</sup> or later.**
12. Members are encouraged to insure their animals.
13. The Committee must be informed of any antibiotics administered to heifer prior to sale.
14. No premium money will be paid on any animal that is sold through the auction.
15. Exhibitor must submit a copy of the bill of sale OR cancelled check AND a brand inspector's verbal release with their dairy heifer application.
16. Exhibitor **must submit a copy** of the DHIA record or the private test record of the heifer's dam with the application. Computer generated DHIA records or Private Test printouts must include the following information for the Dam of the heifer: Dam's Events sheet (page 1 of Dairy Comp 305); the Dam's History sheet (page 2 of Dairy Comp 305); and the Dam's production sheet (page 5 of Dairy Comp 305). The same three pages for the Heifer being entered must be supplied. For DHI+ the Identification and Vital Statistics page for the Dam and the Heifer, along with the Previous Lactation/Production page for the Dam, must be supplied. Dairy management programs, other than Dairy Comp 305 or DHI+ must submit all required production records.
17. If for unforeseen reasons, the project is terminated before the sale (to be held as a part of the fair) the original owner must be given first opportunity to purchase the heifer.
18. **On Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. all Heifers selling through the 2025 Auction will:**
  - a. Go through a veterinary health check for pregnancy confirmation, udder soundness, Brucellosis vaccination tattoo verification and a check for general health and soundness. During this check any heifer found:
    - Any heifer without a valid, legible Brucellosis tattoo will be sent home immediately.
    - Open, or not bred to calf within 90 days of the auction;
    - Blind in one or more quarters;
    - For the other detrimental health reasons as determined by the veterinarian(s) will be disqualified from the sale.
    - Other heifers on recommendation of the veterinarian(s) may be sent home. The decision of the veterinarian will be final. (Refer to State Rule X. 5).
  - b. Have the State Brand Inspector perform a brand inspection on each heifer.
  - c. Have a picture review verification of all heifers by members of the Dairy Heifer Replacement Committee.