Make sure to read the Dairy Heifer Project Handbook for a complete listing of the rules and regulations for this project. Available on our website: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/kids_families/projects/agriculture_and_animals/youthlivestock/ylpheiferproject.html

To be eligible you MUST:

* be, and remain, a current, dues paying member in active status of either 4-H or FFA.
* be at least 9 years of age but not over 17 years of age as of January 1st of the project year, unless approved by the Heifer Project Committee Chair.
* be able to purchase and pay in full for their heifer at the project Kick-Off. Financial assistance may be available, refer to the “Payments and Financing” section for more information.
* be able to properly house and care for your dairy heifer for approximately 18 months. Participants are responsible for all expenses (feed bills, veterinarian bills, etc.).
* be able to attend (with a parent or legal guardian) the project Kick-Off. Unless other arrangements have been approved by the committee chairperson prior to the event.
* Must get your heifer bred in the winter, and then sell her in the 2016 Bred Heifer Sale held in Columbia, SC during the SC State Fair.
* be aware that often members only break even and some even lose money. It is a time-consuming and sometimes costly project. The goal of a youth livestock project is learning and experiencing animal agriculture while developing life-skills!

Kick-Off

The Heifer Project Kick-Off is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2015 at the Saluda County Fairgrounds. Project members will draw for his/her heifer that day and is responsible for getting the heifer home. Please mark this date on your calendar now!

2015 prices are set at $700.00 for all breeds Holsteins, Jerseys, and Guernseys.

Each participant is responsible for payment of his or her heifer. Payment in full will be expected on the day of the Kick-off. If other arrangements need to be made, they must be approved by the committee chair in advance.

It is recommended that participants obtain insurance on their heifer. If anything happens to the project heifer (gets sick, dies, causes an auto accident, etc.) the participant is liable for all expenses incurred (loans still have to be paid back) and the committee will not reimburse for expenses or replace heifers in such situations.

Animals selected for the project will have been born in August, September or October 2014.

The Heifer Project is not responsible for replacing sick or injured heifers nor is the Project responsible for expenses incurred as a result of sickness or death of a heifer!
The project can only accept cash or check. Checks need to be payable to Clemson University. If a check bounces, the participant will be invoiced for the amount of the heifer along with a bounced check fee and for each month the balance goes unpaid an overdue fee will be added to the balance until the amount is paid in full to the project. If the balance is not taken care of prior to the Bred Heifer Sale the balance due will be taken out of the sale price of the participant’s heifer.

The South Carolina Holstein Association offers 2 interest-free loans for 4-H/FFA members who qualify. These are loans and must be PAID BACK! The application for the Dairy Heifer Project must indicate that the individual wishes to be considered for the South Carolina Holstein Association Loan. The qualifications are:

1. 1st time in the Heifer Project,
2. A 50-100 word essay on why they are interested in the Holstein breed, and
3. A recommendation letter from their county agent or agricultural teacher. The county agent or agricultural teacher is to certify that the 4-H/FFA member recommended can provide quality care for the heifer. Also, the county agent or agricultural teacher is to check on the heifer periodically and send a report to Clemson.
4. Recipients of the loan will sign a Loan Agreement Form and be required to abide by all heifer project guidelines.

Project Win-A-Heifer - The South Carolina State Fair sponsors heifers at the Heifer Project Kick-Off. The youth selected to receive these scholarship animals will be chosen from those who are applying to participate in the Dairy Heifer Project. The application for the Dairy Heifer Project must indicate that the individual wishes to be considered as a candidate for Project Win-A-Heifer. Requirements are:

1. Project members are eligible to win a scholarship heifer no more than two (2) times.
2. Must be a 4-H or FFA member.
3. Must have been in the Heifer Project or in the 4-H dairy project for at least two years.
4. Must submit a recommendation letter from their county agent or agricultural teacher with the application. The county agent or agricultural teacher is to certify that the 4-H/FFA member recommended can provide quality care for the heifer.
5. Must submit most recent 4-H Dairy Heifer Project or Dairy Project record book with the application.
6. Must submit a 100-500 word essay about their experiences in the 4-H dairy program and why they feel they should be awarded a scholarship heifer.
7. Recipients will agree to show the project heifer at the State Fair Junior Dairy Show the following two years.
8. Recipients of the scholarship heifers will be members of the 4-H Dairy Heifer Project, sign a Heifer Project Agreement Form and be required to abide by all heifer project guidelines.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers Rural Youth Loans to help rural youth learn the business of agriculture. Visit your local FSA office or their website www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

For more information or if you have any questions please contact Robin Long at (864) 656-0496 or rlong2@clemson.edu.
2015-2016 SC 4-H/FFA Dairy Heifer Project Application

**Application due (received) by February 27, 2015**

Please TYPE or PRINT clearly! Fill out ALL information!

Name: ___________________________ Birthdate: ___________________________

This will be my ________ year in the Dairy Heifer Project. Age on January 1st: ___________________________

Parent/Guardian Name(s): ___________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Phone: ___________________________ County: __________

Our primary form of communication is email. Please print your CURRENT email address below very CLEARLY! If you do not receive an email from us soon after the application deadline contact someone on the Advisory Committee.

Email: __________________________________________

To participate in the Heifer Project you must be a current, dues paying member of 4-H or FFA. Please check all that apply, then list your County Extension Agent or FFA Advisor.

☐ I am a 4-H member

☐ I am a FFA member

☐ I am a youth member of a dairy association

Extension Agent: ___________________________

FFA Advisor: ___________________________

Association: ___________________________

Breed Choice

Please rank the order of desired dairy breed (1st, 2nd, 3rd,):

_____ Holstein  _____ Guernsey  _____ Jersey

Financial Assistance Opportunities

Please check if you are interested in being considered for one of the financial assistance opportunities:

☐ South Carolina Holstein Association Interest Free Loan (please include required items)

☐ Project Win-A-Heifer (please include required items)

I want the 4-H/FFA project to be aware of the following disability, so that accommodations can be made:

☐ Please make every effort to not use my (my child’s) image for any 4-H Livestock Program publicity.

☐ Please do not list my (my child’s) name in any captions or descriptions.

By signing below I have read and agreed to all the rules and regulations of the South Carolina Dairy Heifer Project set forth by the Dairy Heifer Project Committee and discussed in the Dairy Heifer Project Handbook.

_________________________  ___________________________  ___________________________
Signature of Parent  Signature of Applicant  Signature of Extension Agent/Ag Teacher
(required)  (required)  (required)

Send completed application and any other required materials to:
Robin Long ~ Clemson University ~ 252 McAdams Hall ~ Clemson, SC  29634-0130
rlong2@clemson.edu ~ (864) 656-0496 ~ Fax (864) 656-0338

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