



2025 HOLSTEIN ASSOCIATION USA Young Distinguished Junior Member Application

Holstein Association USA's Young Distinguished Junior Member (YDJM) recognition is designed to reward youth who demonstrate a firsthand working knowledge of the dairy industry. Applicants must participate in Registered Holstein®, dairy and other activities, be role models for other youth and good spokespeople for the dairy industry.

ELIGIBILITY

Any Holstein Association USA Junior member who is at least 9 years old, but has not reached their 17th birthday, as of January 1 in the award year is eligible to participate. Once recognized as a YDJM finalist, Junior members are no longer eligible to compete for this honor.

SELECTION PROCESS & DEADLINE

All entry portfolios must be accompanied by a form signed by a representative from the youth's state Holstein association (YDJM Form 1), putting them forward as an official candidate from their state. The number of entries allowed per state is determined by Junior membership, with counts conducted on January 1 each year.

- States with over 1,000 Holstein Association USA Junior members are allowed four entries
- States with 400-999 Junior members are allowed three entries
- States with 1-399 Junior members are allowed two entries

All entrants must complete an entry portfolio, as outlined. Portfolios are screened by a committee and finalists who best represent the vision of the YDJM recognition are selected from the pool of applicants. The number of finalists selected will be based on the number of entries received.

Entries must be **received in the office by March 1** of the award year. Entries received after March 1st will not be judged. Please send entries to:

Holstein Association USA, Inc.
Attn: Youth Programs
1 Holstein Place
Brattleboro, VT 05301
Phone: 802.451.4124

RECOGNITION

The YDJM award is the highest honor given to Holstein Association USA Junior members ages 9 to 16. Finalists are recognized during the National Holstein Convention.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry portfolios should be prepared carefully, neatly typed and present an accurate portrayal of the applicant and the Registered Holsteins he or she works with.

- Portfolio must be presented in a standard, one inch three-ring binder (hard cover). The binder should be a “view” binder, with a clear cover that allows you to insert a cover sheet.
- Text should be typed in legible, 12-point font, with one inch margins throughout. A similar font style should be used throughout the portfolio.
- Pages should be printed on white or light-colored, standard 8.5 x 11” sheets of paper, printed in black or dark ink.
- Pages must be inserted into protective sleeves (preferably non-glare), with only a single sheet of paper inserted into each protective sleeve. Pages should not be mounted to anything.
- The portfolio should be divided into sections, with a clearly labeled tabbed divider for sections E-K.
- Portfolios should not contain filler materials.
- ***NEW*** Please submit a word document or PDF of items E-G and I-K along with a professional high quality digital photo of yourself to kdunklee@holstein.com by March 1.

A. COVERS

Front cover should include applicant’s name and state they are representing. Pictures may be included, but all content must fit inside the front cover of the binder – nothing should protrude from the front or back, or any part, of the portfolio. Applicants are encouraged to express their personality while maintaining a professional image.

B. INTRODUCTORY PAGE

The introductory page should include one professional photograph of the applicant, along with the applicant’s name, age and complete address. Additionally, you must send a digital copy of this photograph to kdunklee@holstein.com. Review the ee Photo Guidelines for instructions on how to submit an acceptable, high quality headshot to be used for media releases and other YDJM recognition materials.

C. PERSONAL HOLSTEIN PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

Use YDJM Form 1 (available online), or re-type the form to include all necessary information. This form must be signed by a leader from the applicant’s state Holstein association.

D. DIVIDER PAGES

Divider pages must include labeled tabs for sections E-K. Tabs should be typed. Pictures may be included on your divider pages on the front side only. Nothing should be placed on the back side of a divider page.

E. RÉSUMÉ

Résumé should be single-spaced, no more than three pages in length. The résumé should include various activities, achievements, awards and offices held, with years of involvement listed. This section should encompass all types of projects and activities: Holstein, 4-H, FFA, church, community, employment and educational experience.

F. STORY OF JUNIOR HOLSTEIN WORK

Story of Junior Holstein Work should be double-spaced and no more than four pages in length. Applicants should tell the story of their Junior Holstein careers, emphasizing involvement on their home farm, or other dairy/agricultural operations, including specific responsibilities. Applicants may want to include specific details about their farm, discuss how they became involved in the industry, current involvement in Junior Holstein and other dairy activities, and future plans and career goals.

G. INVENTORY OF REGISTERED HOLSTEINS OWNED

Inventory or Registered Holsteins owned should be no more than two pages in length. List animals in your ownership in a neat and concise fashion, including name, registration number, date of birth, sire, dam, classification score (if applicable) and estimated value. Also, include any applicable production information or awards animals have received. Leased and partnership animals should be listed under a separate heading. If applicant wishes to include animals they have owned but are no longer in the herd, or animals of other breeds they own, those should also be listed under separate headings.

H. BREEDING, OBTAINING AND DEVELOPING

Breeding, Obtaining and Developing should be double-spaced and no more than two pages in length. Describe your breeding program, including sire selection criteria and guidelines, breeding philosophy, cow families and herd development plans. Also, discuss how your current herd was obtained and financed, and how your herd has grown and developed through the course of your Junior Holstein project.

I. VACCINATION AND ANIMAL HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Vaccination and Health Protocols should be single-spaced and no more than one page in length. Please summarize the health protocols for your herd, including any of the following: calfhood vaccinations, dehorning, tagging/identifying, vet checks, hoof trimming, breeding, calving treatments, etc.

J. PERSONAL VIEWS

Answers to the following questions should be included in your portfolio and must be no longer than one page in length each, double-spaced, using a 12-point font with one inch margins. Each question should be answered on a separate page and points will be deducted for questions exceeding the page limit.

1. Beyond your own farming operation, how are you positively shaping a brighter future for your community and the agriculture industry?
2. What excites you most about the future of the dairy industry and why?
3. The dairy industry has recently started to do large-scale marketing campaigns again. What advice would you give those individuals in charge of marketing and communications to make dairy products more appealing to the Generation Alpha audience?
4. As the "Beef on Dairy" movement grows, explain or describe possible benefits and unforeseen complications that may arise in the future.

K. CLIPPINGS & PICTURES

Clippings and Pictures should be no more than three pages in length, utilizing the front side of the page only. Include any photos or newspaper clippings from a variety of activities, including Holstein, 4-H, FFA, school, church and community. See Photo Guidelines on the last page for more information.

Young Distinguished Junior Member Entry Portfolio Judges' Scorecard

Holstein Association USA's Young Distinguished Junior Member (YDJM) recognition is designed to reward youth who demonstrate a firsthand working knowledge of the dairy industry. Applicant must participate in Registered Holstein®, dairy and other activities, be role models for other youth and good spokespeople for the dairy industry.

Criteria	Point Value
Résumé: Participation, leadership and variety of interests and activities, demonstrated by involvement in Holstein, dairy/agricultural activities, school, community, and other activities	20
Story of Junior Holstein Work: Junior member's participation and experiences on dairy/agricultural operations and explanation of involvement in Junior Holstein work and activities	25
Inventory, Breeding, Obtaining and Developing Registered Holsteins, Vaccination and Animal Health Protocols: Presentation of herd management practices, reflecting applicant's knowledge of animal husbandry practices, including breeding and managing profitable Registered Holsteins	20
Personal Views: Responses to questions should reflect originality, depth of thought and accuracy in facts presented. Applicant should demonstrate their abilities as a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and positive advocate for the dairy industry	25
Clippings & Pictures: Creative presentation of clippings and pictures relating to your activities and events in Holstein, 4-H, FFA, school and community	5
Presentation: Applicant presents a professional appearing, neat, accurate, properly organized entry, following all instructions with clearly marked sections and no filler material, paying attention to avoid spelling and grammatical errors	5

Deductions will be made for any portion of the entry not meeting the stated requirements, including:

- Incorrect size binder
- Improper margin or font size
- Inappropriate paper or font styles
- Lack of tabbed dividers
- Exceeding stated page limits for each section
- Omission of any required sections
- Failure to meet any other stated requirements
- Extra paper in protective sleeves
- Headshot is not high-resolution, professional looking, or sent in correct format

Deductions are cumulative.

Entry portfolios must be the original work of the Young Distinguished Junior Member applicant. If found to be otherwise, applicant will be disqualified.

YDJM Entry Photo Guidelines

Use the following guidelines when preparing photos for your YDJM entry portfolio:

- The photo on your Introductory Page will be used for press releases and other media surrounding the award, so it must be high quality, and printed professionally. The photo should have been taken within the past year.
- For all photos included in your entry portfolio, do not use photos printed on a home printer.
- Prints of a digital or scanned image (scanned at 300 dpi or higher) must be produced on professional photo paper. Having your pictures printed at any photo service center (such as those found in many Walgreens or Wal-Mart stores) will give you this required result.

PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOT GUIDELINES:

Use the following guidelines when submitting a professional headshot to kdunlkee@holstein.com. Remember, correct submission of this photo is part of your portfolio, and failing to submit a high-quality headshot can result in disqualification. This photo will be used in communication and promotional materials such as *The Pulse*, the convention program, press releases, social media, and more.

- Professional photographs of applicant should be a head shot with no other distractions in the image
- Photograph should be taken from shoulders up
- Applicant should be in professional clothing.
- Not Acceptable:
 - Other people in the photograph or cropped out of the photo
 - Distracting background (corn field, abstract/pattern background)
 - Livestock, household pet or other animals in the picture
 - Prom dresses, dairy princess crowns, low cut tops, casual tshirts, or hooded sweatshirts
 - Large logo print in front of shirt (under armor, nike, etc.)
 - FFA Jacket

Helpful Resources:

Use these tips to ensure your photo is high resolution and professional.

How to check if your photo is high-resolution?

- Open image in default computer program called PAINT.
- Once image is opened, go to FILE < PROPERTIES. The window that appears will list the credentials of the image.
- RESOLUTION should be at 300 DPI (Dots Per Inch). If the resolution number is lower than 300 DPI, it is not high-resolution and WILL appear blurry on digital and print.

Taking a professional headshot with your smart phone:

Don't have a headshot from a professional photographer? No problem! Most smart phones can take high-quality photos that will be acceptable for your professional photo. If you need to use a smart phone to take your headshot, be sure to dress professionally, find a simple background, and follow the tips outlined above and check out the tutorials below for the best practices.

iPhone Tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UU6ID52tIE>



< Scan the QR code to view the tutorial!

Android Tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEViKVwOvhw>



< Scan the QR code to view the tutorial!

Media Disclosure Statement: YDJM applicants must understand and agree that Holstein Association USA may take photographs and video of participants and activities. By applying for this award, applicants agree that Holstein Association USA is the owner of and may use such photos and video in the promotion of Junior Holstein programs. Additionally, applicants must understand and agree that any photos submitted with their entry portfolios may be used by the Association for publicity and promotional purposes.



Holstein Association USA, Inc.
1 Holstein Place, PO Box 808, Brattleboro, VT 05302-0808
Telephone: 800.952.5200 • Fax: 802.254.8251
www.holsteinusa.com