



2026 Wisconsin Holstein Young Distinguished Junior Member Award

Award form submission checklist:

_____ 1. Application is a stapled document with no binder, fillers or extra pages, printed on plain bond paper. NO CARDSTOCK. OR a PDF of 10MB or less that will be emailed to wisholsteins@gmail.com. Please submit your application as one full document. **Applications submitted as separate pieces will be returned and not considered “on time” until submitted correctly.**

_____ 2. 100-word biography included for press releases if selected as an award recipient. Biographies over 100 words will be edited to fit the word limit and may not include all the info you want, so please review your biography carefully.

_____ 3. High resolution photo of applicant is included that can be scanned if selected as an award recipient or emailed to wisholsteins@gmail.com

_____ 4. Personal summary form is complete with three required signatures

*****If any of these requirements are not met, the award form will be considered incomplete and not submitted to the judging panel.*****

Forms must be **IN OFFICE by Monday, September 21, 2026.**

PDF submissions of the full application will be accepted by email to wisholsteins@gmail.com. It is the applicant’s responsibility to verify that all sections of the application are included.



2026 Wisconsin Holstein Young Distinguished Junior Member Award

The Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association's Young Distinguished Junior Member (YDJM) recognition is designed to reward youth who demonstrate a firsthand working knowledge of the dairy industry. Any junior member of the Wisconsin Holstein Association and Holstein Association USA, Inc., who has been enrolled in dairy project work with Holsteins, is eligible to compete in this contest.

Eligibility

Any Wisconsin Junior Holstein member who has not reached their 17th birthday as of January 1, 2027, is eligible to participate. Applicant must be a junior member of the Wisconsin and National Holstein Associations by August 15, 2026. The National YDJM award is given to those at ages 9 to 16 years old as of January 1, 2027. Selection for national candidates is based strictly on paper application – no interview is required.

Entry Requirements

Applications for this award should be prepared carefully, typed and present an accurate portrayal of the applicant and Registered Holsteins he or she works with.

- Application must be presented as a stapled document or in a plastic folder with binding – **DO NOT send a binder with individual page protectors.** The judges of this contest see a photocopy of the application only.
- Application text should be typed in legible, 12-point font, with one-inch margins throughout. A similar font style should be used throughout the application.
- Applications should not contain filler materials.
- Every application must include a photo and 100-word or less biography to be used in news releases if applicant is selected as a winner.

1. Personal Summary Form

Each form should include this page with applicant signature, signature of a parent and a signature of a County Holstein leader and/or County or State Holstein board member.

2. Resume

Resume should be single-spaced, no more than three pages in length. The resume 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. *Emphasis will be placed on Holstein and Association activities, however, it is still important for applicants to show they are well-rounded individuals.*

3. 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.

4. List of Project Animals or Registered Holsteins Owned & Vaccination and Animal Health Protocols

A list of **five** project animals or Registered Holsteins owned should be no more than one page in length. List animals you have worked with or in your ownership in a neat and concise fashion, including name, registration number, date of birth, sire, dam, classification score (if applicable). If applicant wishes to include animals they have owned but are no longer in the herd, those should be identified as such.

Vaccination and Health Protocols should be single-spaced and no more than one page in length. With the understanding that each farm is different, applicants are encouraged to summarize the health protocols for their herd or project animals, including any of the following: calfhoo vaccinations, dehorning, tagging/identifying, vet checks, hoof trimming, breeding, calving treatments, etc.

5. Personal Views

Answers to the following questions should be included in application 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.

- A. What do you find as a valuable farm or herd management practice? How is it valuable?
- B. What creative ideas do you have for dairy farms to successfully attract and retain laborers today?
- C. How do you help to promote and advocate for the dairy industry in your everyday life?

Scorecard

Entries for the Wisconsin Holstein YDJM Award will be scored according to the following.

Criteria	Point Value
Resume: Participation, leadership and variety of interests and activities, demonstrated by involvement in Holstein, dairy/agricultural activities, school, community, and other activities.	25
Story of Junior Holstein Work: Junior members' participation and experiences on dairy/agricultural operations and explanation of involvement in Junior Holstein work and activities	25
List of project animals or Registered Holsteins owned & Vaccination and Animal Health Protocols: List animals owned in a concise fashion. 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
Presentation: Applicant presents a professional appearing, neat, accurate, properly organized entry, following all instructions and no filler material, paying attention to avoid spelling and grammatical errors	5

Deadline for Entries: In the WHA office by Monday, September 21, 2026

Send to: Wisconsin Holstein Association, 902 Eighth Ave, Baraboo, WI 53913
or emailed to wisholsteins@gmail.com

Eligibility for National Recognition – OPTIONAL

To be considered for selection as a National YDJM representative for Wisconsin, applicants should complete the following and abide to the same formatting guidelines presented in the rest of the form.

1. Breeding, Obtaining & Developing Project Animals

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.

2. Personal Views

Answers to the following questions should be included in your application 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.

- A. What genetic traits do you think are most important for Holstein breeders to focus on in their breeding programs today and why?
- B. A local school would like to bring the 3rd grade class to your dairy farm. Describe the tour and important points you would emphasize.

Scorecard

Entries for National consideration will be scored according to the following.

Criteria	Point Value
Breeding, Obtaining & Developing project animals	25
Personal Views	25

Deadline for Entries:

In the WHA office by Monday, September 22, 2025

Send to: Wisconsin Holstein Association, 902 Eighth Ave, Baraboo, WI 53913
or email wisholsteins@gmail.com

1. Personal Summary Form YDJM

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Age as of January 1, 2027 _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Parent or Guardian Name(s): _____

Name and Ages of Brothers

Name and Ages of Sisters

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Grade in School: _____ Name of School: _____

Name and Address of Local Newspaper:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Must submit a 100-word or less biography and photo for a news release for WHA to use if selected.

The thoughts and records are those of the applicant and are true to the best of my knowledge.

_____	_____
(Your signature)	(Date)

I have read the enclosed records and to the best of my knowledge find these records correct.

_____	_____
(Signature of parent)	(Date)

I have read the enclosed records and to the best of my knowledge find these records correct.

_____	_____
(Signature of a County Junior Leader &/or County or State Board Member; <u>not a parent</u>)	(Date)