



2026 Wisconsin Holstein 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 Distinguished Junior Member Award

The Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association's Distinguished Junior Member (DJM) 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 that has not reached their 21st birthday, as of January 1, 2027, is eligible to participate in the state and national contest. Applicants must be a junior member of the Wisconsin and National Holstein Associations by August 15, 2026.

Interviews for Wisconsin Outstanding Holstein Boy and Girl will be held at the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention. If chosen for an interview, candidates are encouraged to bring along a 1-page resume for the judges to review. Interviews take precedence over other Junior Convention activities.

The National Wisconsin DJM Representatives will be chosen through the interview process. National DJM applicants must not have reached their 21st birthday by January 1 in the year of recognition. All DJM recipients who are in their last year of eligibility as a DJM contestant will receive an interview at the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention to be considered as a National DJM Representative for Wisconsin.

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 an electronic PDF or a stapled document, printed on regular paper (no card stock or cover stock) – 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 six 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. Knowledge of Management Practices

A. Inventory of Project Animals

Inventory of project animals or Registered Holsteins owned should be no more than three pages in length. List managerial or ownership animals in a neat and concise fashion, including name, registration number, date of birth, sire, dam, classification score (if applicable) and estimated value. 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, those should also be listed under separate headings.

B. Breeding, Obtaining and Developing

Breeding, Obtaining and Developing should be double-spaced and no more than three 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.

C. Vaccination & Health Protocols

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: calfhood 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. When adding a Registered Holstein animal to your herd, what selection criteria would you use or do you currently use?
- B. The dairy industry continues to see animal health challenges that can affect cattle health and movement including the recent H5N1 outbreak and New World screwworm crossing the U.S. border. How would you implement a biosecurity strategy for a dairy to mitigate risks?
- C. Mentorship and leadership are important attributes for any DJM recipient. How have you exhibited those skills over your Junior Holstein career?

6. OPTIONAL – Introduction Video

Those that are eligible to be selected for National DJM Recognition are encouraged to include a one-minute introduction video, telling the judges more about you, your farm and activities. This will **NOT** be used to aid in the judging of the award form on the state level. It is intended to provide an opportunity for feedback before the national contest, in addition to encouraging filming during the summer/warm months.

Use the following guidelines when preparing videos to submit with your DJM entry portfolio. Applicants may seek advice on how to edit videos. However, professional editing services are not permitted.

When filming your video, here's some advice to avoid problems that may have a negative impact on your final product:

- Film in an area with good lighting.
- Be very aware of background noises – vehicles, farm equipment, birds, etc. Avoid filming near roadways, in barnyards, or other areas where you are likely to incur a lot of background noise.
- Be very aware of wind noise – while you may not hear it while you're filming, most video cameras are very sensitive to picking up wind noise, and it can completely ruin your video. The safest bet is to find an area where there is very little to no breeze, film inside or film on a very calm day. Almost nothing can be done in the editing process to remove wind noise.
- Speak loud and clear so the camera picks up your voice well and viewers won't have to strain to listen. Remember, your voice competes with any background noise that may be present.
- Have fun and be creative! Use the video as an opportunity to showcase your personality to the judges and help them get to know you and what you're passionate about. This will be the only "personal" contact they have with you in the semifinalist selection process. Use it to your advantage and make the most of it.

Save the video file in one of the following preferred formats: .mp4, .avi, .mov, or .mpg.

When burning a DVD from your computer, save it as a data disc, rather than creating a DVD movie with a title menu (such as what would be played in a DVD player). When the disc is inserted in a computer, a viewer should be able to open it, individually select the file and open it in a media player of choice, such as Windows Media Player, RealPlayer, or QuickTime.

Visit www.youtube.com/HolsteinUSA to see examples of videos done by past National Distinguished Junior Member applicants.

Scorecard

Entries for the Wisconsin Holstein DJM 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
Inventory, Breeding, Obtaining and Developing Registered Holsteins, Vaccination and Animal Health Protocols: List project animals or 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 email wisholsteins@gmail.com

1. Personal Summary Form - DJM

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 Jr Leader &/or County or State Board Member; not a parent) (Date)