



SC Farm Bureau Federation 2026 Dairy Cattle Scholarship Information Packet



ELIGIBILITY

Youth must meet the following eligibility requirements to be considered for the SC Farm Bureau Federation Dairy Cattle Scholarship:

1. Open to youth from South Carolina and from states with reciprocal show agreements with the South Carolina State Fair. Georgia and Florida are the current states with reciprocal show agreements with the South Carolina State Fair.
2. Applicant must be an exhibitor at the South Carolina State Fair Junior Dairy Show the year of application and compete in **scholarship** showmanship.
3. Applicant must be a high school student in grade 10, 11, or 12, or enrolled in a college or technical college degree program.
4. Applicant must, if not already enrolled, at some future date, pursue a degree or certificate program.
5. Applicant must not have passed their twentieth (20) birthday as of January 1st, 2026.
6. Previous winners of the South Carolina State Fair Dairy Scholarship are not eligible.
7. If multiple species scholarships are offered, the applicant is not eligible to win the same scholarship throughout their age/grade eligibility.
8. Applicants cannot win multiple South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Species Scholarships during the same year. (i.e., a student who competes in, and wins, the Dairy Cattle Scholarship is not eligible to win the Beef Cattle Scholarship during the same year).

2026 Applications must be received by September 18th, 2026

TO APPLY

1. Your application will only be considered complete if it contains ALL of the following items:
 - Official 2026 SC Farm Bureau Federation scholarship entry form (page #4 of this scholarship packet)
 - Cover Letter and Resume
 - Two (2) Letters of Reference

Only complete applications will be considered for this program.

2. Completed application packets must be submitted electronically using the following link:
<https://clemsan.app.box.com/f/46ab6f3adfc0426786c64f7601ce7a6c>

All application files should include the applicant's name and species in the file name when submitting. If an applicant is submitting multiple species scholarship applications, a separate, fully completed application must be submitted for each entry. Applicants should receive a confirmation upon submission. Any questions regarding submission of applications can be sent to Hannah Elrick (hking@clemsan.edu) or Heather Shultz (hkshult@clemsan.edu).

CONTEST COMPONENTS

Pre-Fair Components

The following must be submitted by September 18th, 2026:

Cover Letter and Resume

- Must accompany the entry form. Your application will not be considered complete without these items.
- Guidelines and examples of a Cover Letter and Resume are included in this packet.
- Your cover letter should not be a narrative of your resume. Instead, use this to introduce your personality to the judge. Describe who you are, what the dairy industry means to you, why you deserve this scholarship, and what you will do if awarded the scholarship.
- Your cover letter must not exceed one page in length with 1" margins, size 12 Arial or Times New Roman font, and be a product of the applicant's own work.
- Your resume should list your accomplishments, experiences, and skills, including 4-H, FFA, breed association, and other related involvements. The resume must not exceed two pages in length with 1" margins, no pictures allowed, size 12 Arial or Times New Roman font, and be a product of the applicant's own work.

Letters of Reference

- Must accompany the entry form. Your application will not be considered complete without these items.
- Applicant must submit two (2) letters of reference. Possible sources are:
 - Principal or guidance counselor of applicant's high school
 - County agent or agriculture teacher
 - Another individual familiar with the applicant's character and experience

Preliminary In-Person Components

The following will take place during the SC State Fair on Friday, October 16th, 2026:

Written Test

- No study materials, or communication devices will be allowed during the taking of the test. If you are found with any such material, you will be immediately disqualified from the contest.
- Test will consist of 25 questions for Seniors and will be administered on Friday, October 16th.
- Test questions will cover proper dairy cattle management and the dairy industry.
- Possible resources for test preparation:
 - Hoard's Dairyman: Magazine (from the past year), website, youth quizzes
 - Holstein Foundation dairy quiz bowl practice questions (most current year available)
 - Modern Livestock and Poultry Production, 8th ed. Gillespie & Flanders

Practical Application Test

- The practical application test will consist of five (5) questions specific to the dairy cattle industry (e.g., feed ration balancing, tool identification and use, vaccination dosages, breeding calendars, etc.) that will allow students to demonstrate practical knowledge within the industry.

Following the completion of the written test and practical application test, the Top 13 participants by total score (Pre-Fair Components plus written test and practical application test) will advance to the following activities (if there are fewer than thirteen total participants, all applicants will advance to the final activities).

Final In-Person Components

The following will take place during the SC State Fair on Friday, October 16th, 2026, approximately one (1) hour following the completion of the preliminary in-person components:

Interview

- The top thirteen applicants, based on application, practical application test, and written test scores, will advance to a final interview round.
- Each of the final applicants will interview with a selected committee
- The interview will cover education/work history, dairy industry/show experience, leadership and community involvement, and future goals/plans.
- All interviewing applicants should wear appropriate attire
 - Clean, appropriate show attire is acceptable
 - Business casual is defined as: for women – a reasonable length skirt (not mini skirt) or full-length pants of a non-jeans material combined with a top or an informal dress; for men – a collared shirt {can be button-down or a polo}, trousers with a belt and shoes;
 - Unacceptable for either gender – gym clothes, rumpled or ripped clothing, miniskirts, bare midriffs, flip-flops.
 - FFA official dress is acceptable but not required.

Showmanship Class

All advancing individuals will compete in a species showmanship class. The ring judge will rank participants. The first-place showman in the class will receive a full 50 points, with each subsequent place receiving 3 fewer points (i.e., 2nd place will receive 47 points, 3rd will receive 44 points, etc.).

Scoring

The scholarship will be awarded to the individual with the highest total score, added together as follows:

Possible Points	Component
100	Cover Letter and Resume
50	Practical Application Test
50	Written Test
100	Interview
50	Showmanship
350	TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE

Tie Breakers

In the event of a tie, the individual with the highest score in the following categories will be used, in the order listed, to determine the scholarship recipients:

1. Interview
2. Showmanship Ranking
3. Written Test
4. Practical Application Test



SC Farm Bureau Federation
Dairy Cattle Scholarship Entry Form



Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____

County: _____

Current School: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Current Grade: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Current GPA (4.0 Scale): _____

Planned University/Technical College: _____

I have read the rules and regulations for the SC Farm Bureau Federation Dairy Cattle Scholarship program and agree that I meet all criteria of this program. I further acknowledge that all information included in this application is truthful and the product of my own efforts.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your cover letter should introduce you to the committee and reflect your personality, the examples below are just to give you an idea of what to write. Your letter should not be an exact copy of the examples but needs to follow the same outline.

FORMAT

No more than 1 page with 1" margins
Must be typed; follow a standard business letter format
No less than 12 point font size; font must be easily read
Must contain complete personal information (name, address, phone, etc.)
Must be included with the entry form
Must contain, at least, the following sections as described below
Spelling, punctuation and grammar must be correct

SENDERS ADDRESS

Type your address, only if it is not part of a letterhead.

CURRENT DATE

RECIPIENT ADDRESS: Be as specific as possible.

Example: Scholarship Committee
1234 Clemson Lane
Clemson, SC 29634

SALUTATION: Be as specific as possible.

Example: Dear Scholarship Committee,

PARAGRAPH 1: A brief introduction of yourself and your future goals.

Example: I am pleased to be considered as a candidate for the _____ Scholarship. I have enclosed my resume for your review. I have applied (or plan to apply) to _____ and _____. I plan to pursue a degree in _____ and someday _____.

PARAGRAPH 2: Describe what the swine industry means to you, why you deserve this scholarship, and what you will do if awarded the scholarship

Example: I have been a part of the swine industry for _____. During this time I have learned _____, developed _____, and/or worked to _____. If awarded this scholarship I would _____ because _____. My experiences have helped me develop strong organizational, interpersonal, and public speaking skills which will I will use to be successful in college and beyond.

PARAGRAPH 3: Provide a conclusion and your contact information.

Example: Thank you for taking the time to consider me as one of the candidates for the _____ Scholarship. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at the information above. I look forward to representing the SSwine Industry with gusto at my future higher education institution.

SIGNATURE: Make sure you sign your letter. Use an original signature in cursive writing

Example: Sincerely,
Clemson Clover
Clemson Clover

Resume Guidelines

Your Resume should be designed so that it highlights your overall achievements as well as specific accomplishments in academics, organizations and clubs, as well any work experience. Only those achievements that most closely relate to your objective, or are most meaningful to you, should be included.

FORMAT

No more than 2 pages with $\frac{3}{4}$ " margins

Must be typed

No less than 12 point font size; font must be easily read

Must contain identifying information (name and address). Matching letterhead with cover letter is best.

Must be included with the entry form

Must contain, at least, the following sections as described below

Spelling, punctuation and grammar must be correct

Only use initials or abbreviations if you specify their meaning upon first use

OBJECTIVE: (Your personal mission statement)

- State your future goal and/or reason for preparing resume
 - “To obtain a position, to obtain an education, to earn scholarships...”

SUMMARY

- Details your personal strengths and experiences related to the objective of the resume

EDUCATION

- Comprehensive list of education and related coursework

EXPERIENCE

- Summarize any jobs (paid or unpaid – includes objective related volunteer work)
- Explain all experience using action verbs
- List in reverse chronological order
- Don't forget to include starting date and ending date (if applicable).

ACTIVITIES

- Summarize relevant activities, positions and experience
- Summarize any other organizations, sports teams, church, or community activities

AWARDS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- List any awards or accomplishments that the scholarship committee should know about.
- List title of award, date awarded, and criteria or why you received award (if applicable).

Clemson Clover
987 Palmetto Road
Anytown, SC 65432
(111) 222-3333
clover@my.isp

OBJECTIVE

Utilize my experiences and hard work to earn scholarships to fund my education at _____ (institution) to pursue a ____ (degree) degree in _____ (intended major) so that I may _____ (future goals, plan for impacting community or the world, etc.)

SUMMARY

- Willing to put in the work necessary to be successful and make a difference.
- Strong problem solving, organizational, and communicative skills, paying attention to detail.
- Welcome new challenges, quickly learning new skills and procedures with excellent memory retention.

EDUCATION

HOMETOWN HIGH SCHOOL, Anytown, SC

May 2014

SC High School Diploma

College Preparatory Coursework GPA: 3.20/4.00

Editor-in-Chief; Messenger Student Newspaper, 2013 – current

Vice President; Student Government, 2013 – 2014

Photographer; Sentinel Yearbook, 2012 – 2013

WORK EXPERIENCE:

BELK, Anytown, SC

February 2014 – current

Sales Associate – Children’s Department

- Assist customers with purchases, sales, and transactions Process applications and transactions on customer accounts Stock and maintain inventory within department
- Design and create monthly displays within department

ACTIVITIES:

Green County 4-H

- 2014 National 4-H Conference Delegate
- 2008 – 2013 South Carolina 4-H Healthy Lifestyles project
- 2008 – 2013 South Carolina 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Project

Anytown Soccer Club

- Captain, 2014
- Allstar Team, 2013

AWARDS/ACOMPLISHMENTS

- Principal’s List (2012, 2013, 2014)
 - Maintained at least a 3.5 GPA
- 2013 4-H Citizenship Award

Participant Name: _____

County: _____ Grade Level: _____

Points Possible	Category	Judging Criteria	Points Awarded
COVER LETTER			
10	Introduction	Audience and purpose of the cover letter are strong and clear. Opening paragraph gives a brief introduction of the applicant, indicates the purpose of the letter and directs the reader to their resume (if not done elsewhere).	
20	Body of Letter	Cover letter describes the impact the swine industry has had on the applicant, why they deserve this scholarship, and what they will do if awarded the scholarship.	
10	Conclusion	Cover letter has an appropriate closing including a statement thanking the reader, mentioning contact information, and referring to the resume (if not done elsewhere).	
5	Appearance & Organization	Content flows easily and makes sense. Clear sections with ample white space. Easily read, neat with no spelling or grammar errors. Consistent, and overall aesthetically pleasing. Do letter and resume appear to go together?	
5	Technical details	Followed directions. Followed outlines but did not just copy examples. No spelling or grammar errors.	
RESUME			
20	Objective & Summary	Audience and purpose of the resume are strong and clear. Wording is creative and attention getting. Explains why you are the best investment.	
15	Overall Resume Content	Items listed are relevant, each section includes required information (dates, locations, specific details).	
10	Appearance & Organization	Content flows easily and makes sense. Clear sections with ample white space. Easily read, neat with no spelling or grammar errors. Use of bullets, bolding, and underlines are effective but limited. Consistent, and overall aesthetically pleasing. Do letter and resume appear to go together?	
5	Technical details	Followed directions. Followed outlines but did not just copy examples. No spelling or grammar errors.	
100	Total Points Possible	Total Points Awarded	

Participant Name: _____

County: _____ Grade Level: _____

Interview Rubric			
Points Possible	Category	Judging Criteria	Points Awarded
40	Preparedness	Is comfortable with the interview process, appears prepared. Shows knowledge and prepared responses to questions.	
30	General Attitude	Shows interest in the scholarship process and is enthusiastic about the interview.	
10	First impression	Greetings and Introduction, proper handshake, on time, dressed appropriately.	
10	Presentation	Self-confidence, personality, and poise.	
10	Technical details	Voice, speech, grammar, vocabulary, enunciation, eye contact.	
100	Total Points Possible	Total Points Awarded	