



4-H ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PROJECT



4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

Animal husbandry is all about caring for animals. Most definitions specify farm or production animals but the term can also be applied to companion animals. Animal husbandry is a multi-faceted topic including ethical considerations, food safety, sustainability, and mores. The goal of this project is to show participants all of the different considerations that go into food production.

- Recognize the amount of responsibility and time necessary to care for production animals.
- Realize that as a producer of food, you have a big impact on consumer health.
- Understand how raising livestock impacts the environment and world around you.
- Make decisions based on animal welfare, and what is best for your animals.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Learn about major concerns in animal welfare.
- Write out a weekly schedule of chores and sign off on them every day.
- Make a plan in case of emergencies or trips out of town, and who will take care of your animals when you are unable to.
- Create a plan for keeping your animal housing clean and sanitary.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Design and implement a biosecurity plan for the health of your animals.
- Know how to read a drug label, including withdrawal times, and why following the label is important.
- Research environmental concerns with your particular animal, and how you can reduce their impact.
- Work with a veterinarian to discuss how to best handle pain and injuries to you animals.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Design and implement a food safety plan with special focus on possible sources of contamination.
- Write a head health plan, including vaccines and routine health treatments.
- Research humane and low stress handling practices, and why they are important.
- Learn about the role of biotechnology in animal husbandry, and how it can be used in different ways on a farm.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Engineering, and Technology

- Do a presentation on a controversial biotechnology advancement, and its implications for food safety and animal welfare.
- Research a topic in animal welfare and find out how it affects food quality.
- Create a budget for you animal, and all its needs.

Citizenship

- Visit a local animal shelter to learn about animal welfare in your community.
- Visit your local USDA branch and learn about food safety testing.

Healthy Living

- Teach others about the importance of biosecurity with animals.
- Create a presentation about the use of hormones and antibiotics in livestock, and who these affect food.

Leadership

- Become a role model for others by taking the position of a Jr. or Teen Leader.
- Recruit others to join the Animal Husbandry project.

Resources

- Food Safety: <http://www.foodsafety.gov/>
- American Welfare Approved: <http://animalwelfareapproved.org/>
- Food and Agriculture Organization: <http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5473b/x5473b05.htm>
- Oregon State University: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfn/f08livestock>

Connections & Events

Presentation Days – Share what you’ve learned with others through a husbandry related presentation.

Field Days – During these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.

Curriculum

4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit <http://ucanr.edu/orb/>

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