



4-H MEAT GOAT PROJECT



Goats are one of the top 5 most popular species of livestock on a global scale, for both dairy and meat purposes. While not as prevalent in the United States, goat meat has been growing in popularity over the last few years to meet demand for more sustainable and local meats. The goat project will help you:

- Learn basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more goats.
- Demonstrate knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices.
- Learn the value of scientific research in its influence on animals and the meat industry.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Identify the major breeds of meat goats.
- Know and be able to label the body parts of a goat.
- Understand the nutritional needs of your goat, and how to feed them accordingly.
- Learn about important pieces of goat equipment, including show equipment.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Research the major health concerns for your goats, and know how to treat them.
- Study proper showing techniques and preparation.
- Identify the major wholesale and retail cuts of meat for goats.
- Learn about and be able to perform key maintenance activities like vaccinating and hoof trimming.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Design a breeding program for your goats.
- Discover different career opportunities with goats.
- Learn how to judge meat goats based on criteria for marketing.
- Evaluate carcasses for meat quality.

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

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.



Expand Your Experiences!

Healthy Living

- Teach others about the importance of hygiene and bio-security with your goats, and why it is important to wash your hands before and after handling goats.
- Do a presentation on the nutritional value of goat meat.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Learn about goat farming worldwide, and the main uses of goats as livestock.
- Research the difference between grazing and browsing ruminants, and how this affects your goat's health and needs.

Citizenship

- Participate in a petting zoo even with your goat.
- Visit a local goat producer to see how a production facility for goats operates.
- Talk to a veterinarian about goats in your community.

Leadership

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

Resources

- American Boer Goat Association: <http://abga.org/>
- Raising Meat Goats: <http://www.raisingmeatgoats.net/>
- Agricultural Marketing Resource Center: www.agmrc.org/commodities-products/livestock/goats/meat-goats/
- Penn State Extension: <http://extension.psu.edu/business/ag-alternatives/livestock/sheep-and-goats/meat-goat-production>

Connections & Events

Curriculum

4-H Record Book

Presentation Days – Share what you've learned with others through a goat-related presentation.

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

County/State Fairs: Enter your goat in showmanship or marketing classes and who others what you have learned in the project.

UC Davis Goat Day: Go and learn about current issues in the goat industry.

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

- Just Browsing: <http://www.4-hmall.org/Catalog/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductId=07909>
- Growing Meat Goats: <http://www.4-hmall.org/Catalog/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductId=07910>
- Meating the Future: <http://www.4-hmall.org/Catalog/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductId=07911>

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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University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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