

4-H Goat (Dairy, Meat, Fiber) Proficiency Program A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Goat Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your project, you will learn animal care basics, good management practices and record keeping. You will also learn about the size and scope of the animal industry as it relates to your project.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Solano County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there is a breeder's organization in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising animals.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising animals.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become an experienced animal raiser.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of the beef project, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

GOAT (DAIRY, MEAT, FIBER)
Level I - Explorer

Date
Completed

Project: _____

- _____ 1. Identify three breeds or three breed specific colors of goats.
- _____ 2. Identify 10 external parts of a goat from a diagram or live goat.
- _____ 3. Identify the names of male, female, neutered male goats.
- _____ 4. Describe the basic housing and sanitation requirements of your breed of goat.
- _____ 5. Explain the daily nutrition requirements of your breed of goat, e.g., how, when, what, how much, and what kind to feed.
- _____ 6. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for the care of your breed of goat.
- _____ 7. Demonstrate (show and tell) how to lead your breed of goat properly, including appropriate collar/lead types, correct placement of the collar/lead, and proper hand positions.
- _____ 8. Describe four safety issues associated with your goat's environment and/or handling your goat.
- _____ 9. Explain how external temperatures (hot and cold weather) can affect your breed of goat and what you can do to protect your goat.
- _____ 10. Explain and demonstrate a simple health check including temperature and provide the normal temperature range for a goat.
- _____ 11. Explain how to tell if your goat is ill and when or how to find a local veterinarian.
- _____ 12. Demonstrate how to trim your goat's hooves, and then explain why and how often this should be done.
- _____ 13. Demonstrate a method of deworming a goat. Provide a typical deworming schedule for your breed of goat.
- _____ 14. Describe your own goat project and your goals in the project.
- _____ 15. Maintain and submit records on your project including such costs as: the purchase of the animal, equipment, feed, housing, records of immunizations and medications, and so on.
- _____ 16. Present a project meeting report to your club.
- _____ 17. Participate in a community service/citizenship activity related to your project.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

GOAT (DAIRY, MEAT, FIBER)
Level II - Producer

Date
Completed

Project: _____

- _____ 1. Identify six breeds or six breed specific colors of goats.
- _____ 2. Identify 15 external parts of a goat from a diagram or live goat.
- _____ 3. Explain how to determine the minimum age of a goat based on the development of its teeth.
- _____ 4. Explain and demonstrate how to tattoo a goat. Explain what the tattoos on the left and right ears or tail webs of a registered goat represent.
- _____ 5. Explain breed requirements and the process for registering a goat with its national or international breed association.
- _____ 6. Obtain contact information for national or international goat breed associations and identify at least two types of information you can obtain from them. Also identify and obtain contact information for two breeders of your breed of goat.
- _____ 7. Explain selecting a goat for purchase, such as correctness of breed standard for conformation, color, dairy capacity, rate of growth, fiber texture/length, and other factors important for your specific breed and project goals.
- _____ 8. Compare and contrast the conformation of three goats of the same type or breed.
- _____ 9. Identify what diseases or conditions may be prevented by immunizations or other medicines. Implement an immunization schedule for your project, and determine drug withdrawal periods of your breed of goat.
- _____ 10. Explain the symptoms and treatments for four common goat illnesses.
- _____ 11. State the breeding age and weight requirements of your breed of goat. Tell what the breeding season is for your breed of goat, and the length of gestation.
- _____ 12. Describe how and why you sanitize your goat's equipment and housing facilities.
- _____ 13. Describe the proper fitting of your breed of goat, and the tools needed when preparing for a judged show. Identify supplies to take to a show.
- _____ 14. Demonstrate competency in the showmanship of your goat, e.g., how to properly handle your goat from setting up to maneuvering in the show ring in front of a judge.
- _____ 15. Participate in a goat showmanship competition.
- _____ 16. Submit management records for 30 days that indicate how often you provide clean housing, water and feed for your goat and record when you groom your goat.
- _____ 17. Do something creative with your project, and share it at a club meeting.

- _____ 18. Compare and contrast your goat project and goals in Level I and Level II. How has it been enhanced since Level I?
- _____ 19. Participate in a community service/citizenship activity related to your project.
- _____ 20. Participate in a 4-H event outside your club, i.e. county, sectional, state events.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

GOAT (DAIRY, MEAT, FIBER)
Level III - Consumer

Date
Completed

Project: _____

1. Describe the normal ranges of and demonstrate how to take the pulse and respiration of a goat.

2. Describe the digestive system of a goat. Explain how to assess a goat for conditions such as bloat, acidosis, and rumen failure and discuss prevention and treatment methods.

3. Describe the nutritional requirements of your breed of goat through one production cycle, from prior to breeding through weaning and drying off.

4. Describe signs that a doe might exhibit when she is ready for breeding (in heat). Describe signs that a doe might exhibit when close to delivering kids. Compile a list of basic supplies to have on hand for birthing.

5. Identify normal and abnormal birthing positions for kids, and explain two methods for correcting an incorrect position. Provide examples of when a veterinarian may be required to assist in the birth.

6. Describe and differentiate between the terms "fault" and "disqualification", and give at least two examples of each for your breed of goat.

7. Judge a showmanship class of at least three goat handlers. Provide reasons for your placement of 1 over 2, and so on.

8. Describe and explain a positive breeding program including choosing mates that will enhance and achieve your breeding program goals.

9. Explain correct injection procedures and the use of epinephrine. Describe and compare an intramuscular injection and a subcutaneous injection. Identify sites for each type of injection on a live goat.

10. Choose and design your own lesson plan and implement it in your project with the appropriate materials.

11. Assist younger members in the design of project needed materials and/or equipment.

12. Prepare and give a speech or demonstration relating to goats outside of the project group.

13. Start a reference library for your project.

14. Explore local, state and/or national affiliations and opportunities associated with the project, i.e. breed organizations.

15. Assist in organizing a county, sectional, or state event. The focus here is on learning the process of organization.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

GOAT (DAIRY, MEAT, FIBER)
Level IV - Leader

Date
Completed

Project: _____

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| _____ | 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year. |
| _____ | 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment. |
| _____ | 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings. |
| _____ | 4. Develop and put on a demonstration or judging event or train a junior team for a judging activity. |
| _____ | 5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group. |
| _____ | 6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master or with set up, registration, etc. |
| _____ | 7. Teach younger members about learning a specific topic in the project. |
| _____ | 8. Develop your own special project related activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your accomplishment to your club. |

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

GOAT (DAIRY, MEAT, FIBER)
Level V - Researcher

Date
Completed

Project: _____

- _____ 1. Complete all requirements for Levels 1-4.
- _____ 2. Put on a judging contest of goat project members.
- _____ 3. Complete either alternative 1, 2, or 3 below:
 - 1. Have a breeding project involving at least four animals, and demonstrate knowledge of line breeding, breed characteristics, performance reports, marketing channels, artificial insemination, registration papers, breeding procedures, and tagging.
 - 2. Have a feeding project of at least four animals and demonstrate knowledge of feeding market goats vs. breeding goats, feeding rations, rates of gain, marketing channels, general health, purebred vs. crossbred goats, ability to figure expenses and needed selling price, knowledge of carcass yields, retail cut-out value, meat inspection and grading.
 - 3. Complete a research project involving some aspect of the goat industry such as breed associations and promotions, current legislative programs, current goat industry trends, commercial vs. purebred herd, career exploration, and current medical research projects.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the Goat Proficiency

in Solano County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

