

Riverside County 4-H



Project Proficiency Program

Small Goat

Proficiency Program Guidelines

The Riverside County 4-H Project Proficiency program assists youth in measuring themselves against “standards of excellence” in a project area. In the Project Proficiency Program, youth strive for mastery of a subject and receive recognition as each level is completed. Each Project Proficiency is comprised of five skill levels which increase in scope and difficulty. The levels are:

- Level I – Explorer
- Level II – Producer
- Level III – Consumer
- Level IV – Leader
- Level V – Researcher

Youth members are not the only ones who benefit from this program. The Project Proficiency Program can assist leaders in organization of the project material. It also encourages leaders to infuse new ideas within specific curriculum in a sequential manner.

The proficiencies are three-fold in purpose:

1. To provide youth opportunities to sample a broad array of experiences, to measure personal progress, and to become self-directed learners;
2. To provide a standard of excellence where members are recognized for knowledge and skills they have mastered; and
3. To provide guidelines for leaders to enhance and expand project content and experiences.

The Proficiency program is **not** designed to be an award or a prize for the best in a competition. Instead, members are **rewarded** for their personal progress. The proficiencies are **not a test**. Youth should not be quizzed at the end of each 4-H year to determine how much they have learned. The proficiencies should be given to each youth member as a set of goals that they, as individuals, can work toward over one or more years. There is no deadline for completing each level. Completion of all five levels of a proficiency program indicates “mastery” of a subject.

The proficiency program is voluntary. Not all youth will find this type of activity rewarding. Many youth enter projects to learn a specific skill or group of skills, but not to achieve mastery of a subject.

We encourage leaders to give proficiency guides to members sometime during the first year in a project. At this point, the leader allows the member to determine which skills and/or knowledge areas he or she wants to master. Youth members can work on skills in several levels at the same time. They do not need to complete each skill in order, but must complete one Level before completing the next. A member must complete 80% of the skills in each level in order to complete that level.

For the skill areas which require demonstration, youth members may demonstrate individually to the project or teen leader, the group, or the club at a local meeting. Members are not required to demonstrate in front of a group as we are measuring mastery of a subject, not bravery. Some leaders leave time at the end of each project meeting for members to work on their proficiencies. This gives the youth some one-on-one time with their project and teen leaders as they demonstrate acquired knowledge and skill mastery.

Allow time to lapse between when a skill is taught and when a member demonstrates mastery. This allows time to practice and achieve mastery, not merely reflect on a newly learned skill.

Leaders are cautioned not to accept a questionable answer. This indicates incomplete mastery of the particular skill or body of knowledge. If the youth member is unsure of the correct method or term, use this time to teach the individual and allow the member time to think about it and review. The youth member will return with the knowledge learned and present it with confidence.

Reward immediately! Recognition is most meaningful when it is presented immediately following a learning experience. Sign and date the worksheet each time a member completes a level skill task.

Each proficiency program includes a certificate that can be completed and awarded to the member immediately upon successful completion of each level. The level passed can be placed in the member's project records, and the certificate can be placed in the Collection of Work portion of the Record Book.

At the year-end Awards Ceremony, the member will receive a patch for each level completed. A copy of the completed level will be turned in to the Incentives & Recognition Committee at the end of the year in order for the patch to be awarded to the member at the Awards Ceremony.

Good luck with your project!

Riverside County 4-H Small Goat Proficiency Program

Level I – Explorer

	Activity	Date completed
1.	Identify and describe five goat breeds.	
2.	Name and describe the five most common pygmy/Nigerian goat colors.	
3.	Name, point out and correctly spell the following parts: poll, muzzle, dewlap, heart girth, brisket, knee, dewclaw, pastern, hock, thigh, barrel, hips, withers, rump, loin, and chine.	
4.	Describe the following characteristics of breeding stock and tell why they are desirable: cobby, straight legs, short cannon bones, a straight and level back through the chine and loin.	
5.	Name the grooming practices that your goat should receive.	
6.	Describe/explain and correctly spell the following: buck, doe, kid, wether and yearling.	
7.	Name four signs to look for that your goat is not feeling well.	
8.	Demonstrate how to set up and lead your goat in a show ring.	
9.	Demonstrate to your leader that you have provided adequate shelter from rain and sun and a suitable fence for your goat. Remove loose boards, wire, machinery and sharp corners that might injure your goat.	
10.	Demonstrate to your leader that you provide fresh, clean water and trace-mineralized salt for your goat at all times.	
11.	Explain how to raise a kid on a bottle.	
12.	Create a report on your project to present to your club.	
13.	Complete a 4-H animal science record on your project.	

Name of Member _____ Club _____ Age _____

Project Leader signature: _____ Date _____

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Level II – Producer

	Activity	Date completed
1.	Identify, describe, and tell the important characteristics of three additional breeds of goats.	
2.	Describe and explain the following goat terms: foot rot, parasite, castrate, bloat, scours, syringe, and hoof trimmer.	
3.	Explain how to control three parasites such as stomach worms, ticks, liver flukes, maggots, flies, lice or grubs.	
4.	Explain the following management practices: hoof trimming, ear tagging, castration and stomach worm treatment.	
5.	Name and describe four things that might cause your goat to become ill.	
6.	Name four common faults of pygmy/Nigerian goats, and explain how to compensate for these faults while showing an animal.	
7.	Fit an animal for fair.	
8.	Describe caprine arthritis-encephalitis (CAE) and explain how it can be prevented.	
9.	Give a presentation on the animal husbandry of pygmy/Nigerian goats.	
10.	Complete a feed growth record for a pygmy/Nigerian goat.	
11.	Explain/describe "scrapie" then explain what a "scrapie tag" is and why it is important.	
12.	Explain what a vaccination is and why it is important. List two diseases pygmy/Nigerian goats should be vaccinated against.	
13.	Tell your leader the normal vital signs of a goat and explain how to measure for temperature, respiration and heart rate.	

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Level III – Consumer

	Activity	Date completed
1.	Name and describe four undesirable goat characteristics: two inherited and two caused by problems with feeding and management. Explain the cause of each and how it can be corrected.	
2.	Describe/define and correctly spell the following livestock terms: scrotum, testicle, semen, sperm, ovary, ovulate, ovum, fetus, uterus, artificial insemination, colostrum and abortion.	
3.	Explain heat (estrus) cycle, breeding, conception, pregnancy, and gestation period. Explain how to calculate freshening dates.	
4.	Make a collection of forage plants, weeds, and poisonous plants. Include at least three forage plants for hay, three pasture plants, three weeds, and one or more poisonous plants.	
5.	Keep a 4-H Production Record on one or more female pygmy/Nigerian goats for a full year.	
6.	Read a medication label, calculate the correct dosage and tell how it should be administered to your goat.	
7.	Describe three tools used for castration. Explain the significance of each tool.	
8.	Name the four parts of a goat's stomach. What are the functions of the rumen? How do the digestion processes differ in a ruminant or a non-ruminant?	
9.	Observe the birth of a kid. Clear the nostrils and mouth, disinfect the navel and give appropriate inoculations for your area.	
10.	Describe the symptoms, treatment and prevention of the following sicknesses or diseases: bloat, foot rot, scours, pink eye, ketosis, tetanus, stomach worms and ring worm.	
11.	Identify and locate the following parts: barrel, escutcheon, chest floor, crops, point of shoulder, flank, crown, stifle joint, femur, thurl and pin bone.	
12.	Explain all of the disqualifications for pygmy/Nigerian goats.	
13.	Demonstrate giving vaccinations and explain the difference between intramuscular and subcutaneous injections.	

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Project Leader signature: _____ Date _____

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Level IV – Leader

	Activity	Date completed
1.	Learn how to register an animal. Fill out a registration application. Explain the advantages of joining a breed association.	
2.	Explain dehorning and the procedures used to accomplish the task. Explain when it should be done, how it is done and why completely disbudding a male goat is difficult.	
3.	Help disbud a pygmy/Nigerian goat.	
4.	Demonstrate proper hoof trimming to your club members. Explain why and how often hooves should be trimmed. List the signs of hoof rot.	
5.	Calculate a balanced ration for one of your goats.	
6.	Demonstrate castration and explain the most commonly used methods.	
7.	List the inoculations your goat should receive annually. Explain the side effects that can occur when shots aren't kept current.	
8.	Prepare a presentation for your club about proper nutrition for a pregnant doe. Tell when you should give a doe each set of shots. Explain the timing and type of vaccinations kids need after birth.	
9.	Explain the nutritional needs of a wether, dry doe, milking doe, kid and orphan kid, and how to feed them.	
10.	Demonstrate the correct procedure for tattooing or ear tagging your goat. Tell which method is preferred and why.	
11.	Describe the following characteristics of breeding stock and tell why they are undesirable: undershot jaw, overshot jaw, oversized cannon bone, multiple teats, lack of specific breed marking, natural hornlessness.	
12.	Study changes in grain prices for at least three types of your choice of feed for one year. Prepare a graph showing weekly price changes.	
13.	Do one of the following: 1. Collect, label, and display five forage plants, four cereal, three protein supplements and two necessary mineral, or 2. Give or write a report on a pasture program in your area. Include soil preparation, seeding, seed mixture, irrigation, weed control, fertilization, rotation and use.	

Name of Member _____ Club _____ Age _____

Project Leader signature: _____ Date _____

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Level V – Researcher

	Activity	Date completed
1.	Study, research and prepare a paper, and give a report or presentation on: General management and raising of a goat herd.	
2.	Study, research and prepare a paper, and give a report or presentation on: Feeds, feeding, and nutrition for pygmy/Nigerian goats.	
3.	Study, research and prepare a paper, and give a report or presentation on: Goat reproduction, breeding and genetics.	
4.	Study, research and prepare a paper, and give a report or presentation on: Sanitation, and prevention and disease control.	
5.	Study, research and prepare a paper, and give a report or presentation on: Some aspect of pygmy/Nigerian husbandry.	
6.	Study, research and prepare a paper, and give a report or presentation on: Birthing and care of the kid and doe upon birth.	
7.	Study, research and prepare, and give a report or presentation on: Fitting, dehorning, castrating or vaccinating pygmy/Nigerian goats.	
8.	Study, research and prepare, and give a report or presentation on: Using records as a basis for improving a goat herd.	
9.	Visit a packing plant.	
10.	Serve as a clerk, chair or apprentice judge at a 4-H show.	
11.	Serve as a Teen leader for the pygmy/Nigerian goat project.	
12.	Secure a guest speaker for your pygmy/Nigerian goat project meeting.	

Name of Member _____ Club _____ Age _____

Project Leader signature: _____ Date _____

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Certificate of Achievement



Explorer

Date

Leader's Initials

Producer

Date

Leader's Initials

Consumer

Date

Leader's Initials

Leader

Date

Leader's Initials

Researcher

Date

Leader's Initials

This certifies that

*has completed the Small Goat Proficiency
in the Riverside County 4-H Youth Development Program*

Leader

Date