

4-H Animal Science Proficiency Program A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Animal Science 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 Tehama 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 Animal Science, 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.

Projects to be completed through this Animal Proficiency include: Cavies, Pets and Small Animals, Pygmy Goats, Angora Goats, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Horse Sciences, Poultry and Game Birds, Rabbits, Sheep, Swine, and Companion Pets.

ANIMAL SCIENCE
Level I - Explorer

Date
Completed

Project: _____

- _____ 1. Identify and describe three breeds or species for your project.
- _____ 2. Identify the parts of your animal from a diagram or live animal.
- _____ 3. Demonstrate (show & tell) how to handle your animal properly.
- _____ 4. Describe the basic housing and equipment that a beginner needs for the health, care and safety of your animal.
- _____ 5. Explain the nutritional requirements of your animal at each development stage (how, when, what, how much to feed).
- _____ 6. Explain how to tell when your animal is ill and when to call for assistance.
- _____ 7. State the normal range of weight for the age and breed/species of your animal.
- _____ 8. Explain or demonstrate how to tell the sex of your animal.
- _____ 9. Explain how to permanently tattoo, mark, or tag your animal for identification.
- _____ 10. Submit management records for a minimum of 90 days that indicate how often you provide fresh water, clean feed, clean housing, and general care to your animal.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for your animal.
- _____ 12. Define fifteen important, basic terms used in your project area.
- _____ 13. Find out the regulations related to raising/keeping animals where you live.
- _____ 14. Describe three safety issues related to your animal project.
- _____ 15. Share one aspect of your project with other project members.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ANIMAL SCIENCE
Level II - Producer

Date
Completed

Project: _____

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|-------|--|
| _____ | 1. Identify and describe six breeds or species. |
| _____ | 2. Describe which breeds of your animal are used for different purposes (example: food, fiber, show, breeding, working, etc.) |
| _____ | 3. Describe the desirable characteristics in the conformation of your animal. |
| _____ | 4. Participate in the preparation and maintenance of facilities for your animal during production, breeding or birthing. |
| _____ | 5. Describe the stages and length of gestation for your animal. |
| _____ | 6. Describe or demonstrate how to sanitize your animal's equipment. |
| _____ | 7. Describe or demonstrate what you can do to protect your animal during hot and cold weather. |
| _____ | 8. Describe control measures for at least three diseases or problem conditions for your animal. |
| _____ | 9. Demonstrate competency in showmanship for your animal. |
| _____ | 10. Describe some textural differences between species. Identify how/why color is important in the standards of your breed. |
| _____ | 11. Keep an account of cash expenses for equipment and materials and at the end of your year compare your cost to the value of your project. |
| _____ | 12. Display your animal outside of your project group. |
| _____ | 13. Help someone else by sharing your knowledge or by giving away a product from your project to demonstrate positive citizenship. |

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ANIMAL SCIENCE
Level III - Consumer

Date
Completed

Project: _____

1. _____ Demonstrate how to complete one of the management records required in your species or breed operation (example: pedigree, registration, production record, etc.).
2. _____ Contact a local, state, or national association related to your animal breed and report to your group what the association has to offer to its members and other interested individuals.
3. _____ Report on the history of your breed or species to your project group or club.
4. _____ Make a chart that explains how good selection can improve your stock. Explain inbreeding, line-breeding, out-breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
5. _____ Invite a guest speaker to one of your meetings and introduce them to the group.
6. _____ Describe the digestive system anatomy and physiology for your animal species and how it differs from other species.
7. _____ Explain the different types of feeds/diets and their nutritional components (fats, carbohydrates, protein, minerals, vitamins, water) and nutritional values.
8. _____ Explain three diseases or health conditions and their treatment and/or preventions not covered in Level II.
9. _____ Give a talk on a secondary aspect of by-product of your project industry.
10. _____ Keep a personal reference library of literature that will be helpful in your project.
11. _____ Demonstrate at least three methods of administering medications.
12. _____ State the normal vital signs (temperature, respiration, heart rate, etc.) for your animal species.
13. _____ Describe five ways to save money and be economical in raising your animal.
14. _____ Design an advertisement or a marketing strategy for your animal or animal by-product.
15. _____ Alone or with your group, plan and complete a community service activity related to your project.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ANIMAL SCIENCE
Level IV - Leader

Date
Completed

Project: _____

- | | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 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 n your accomplishment to your club. |

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ANIMAL SCIENCE
Level V - Researcher

Date
Completed

Project: _____

- _____ 1. Report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (experiment)
- _____ 2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:
- Management of animal.
 - Feeds, feeding, and nutrition
 - Diseases, prevention and control, and general sanitation.
 - Markets and methods of marketing.
 - Reproduction, breeding and genetics.
 - By-product preparation for market, how marketed, and used.
 - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your animal project.
 - Other
- _____ 3. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the Animal Science Proficiency

in Tehama County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

