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 multifaceted topic including ethical considerations, food safety, sustainability, and more. 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 your 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.

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### Connections & Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation Days</th>
<th>Field Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share what you’ve learned with others through a husbandry related presentation.</td>
<td>During these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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### Curriculum

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/](http://ucanr.edu/orb/)

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### Resources

- Food and Agriculture Organization: [http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5473b/x5473b05.htm](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5473b/x5473b05.htm)
- Oregon State University: [http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfn/f08livestock](http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfn/f08livestock)

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