

BUTTE COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
4-H Goat (Dairy, Meat, Fiber) Project Proficiency Program
A Member's Guide

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| OVERVIEW |
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The **4-H Goat Project Proficiency Program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H Project. Your 4-H Project Leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your 4-H 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 4-H Project.

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

- The [4-H Publications Catalog](#) lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The **4-H Educational Resources Lending Library** at the Butte 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 breeders' 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 4-H Goat Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

Level 1 – Explorer You begin to learn about many different aspects of raising animals.

Level 2 – Producer You practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising animals.

Level 3 – Consumer You become an experienced animal raiser.

Level 4 – Leader Allows you to show your own leadership potential.

Level 5 – Researcher You carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of your project.

As you work through the 4-H Project Proficiency Program, your 4-H Project Leader will date and initial each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your 4-H Project Leader will notify the Community Club Leader. A 4-H Project Proficiency Program Pin and First Year Leg will be awarded for Level 1. Previous Year Leg will be returned when the next Level is awarded for Levels 2-5.

GOAT PROJECT (Dairy, Meat, Fiber)

Level 1 – Explorer

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials

4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Identify three breeds or three breed specific colors of goats.
- _____ 2. Identify ten external parts of a goat from a diagram or live goat.
- _____ 3. Identify the names of male, female, and 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, 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/medications, and so on.
- _____ 16. Present a project meeting report to your 4-H Club.
- _____ 17. Participate in a community service/citizenship activity related to your project.

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH PROJECT RECORD

GOAT PROJECT (Dairy, Meat, Fiber)

Level 2 – Producer

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials 4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 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 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 for your breed of goat. Explain the symptoms and treatments for four common goat illnesses.
- _____ 10. 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.
- _____ 11. Describe how and why you sanitize your goat's equipment and housing facilities.
- _____ 12. 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.
- _____ 13. 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.
- _____ 14. Participate in a goat showmanship competition.
- _____ 15. Submit management records for 60 days that indicate how often you provide clean housing, water and feed for your goat and record when you groom your goat.
- _____ 16. Compare your Goat Project goals in Level 1 and Level 2. How has it been enhanced in Level 2?

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH PROJECT RECORD

GOAT PROJECT (Daily, Meat, Fiber)

Level 3 – Consumer

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____

Leader's Initials 4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 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/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. Compare an intra-muscular injection with a subcutaneous injection. Identify sites for each type of injection on a live goat.
- _____ 10. Design your own lesson plan and implement it in your project with the appropriate materials.
- _____ 11. Prepare and give a speech or demonstration relating to goats outside of the project group.
- _____ 12. Start a reference library for your project.
- _____ 13. Explore local, state and/or national affiliations and opportunities associated with the project, i.e., breed organizations.
- _____ 14. Continue to demonstrate skills in record keeping by submitting records which include purchases, feeding, cleaning, grooming, health records, etc. Provide any production records such as breeding, daily milk production, meat sales/carcass percent, fiber collection and quality, etc.

- _____ 15. Assist in organizing a County, Sectional, or State event. The focus here is on learning the process of organization.
- _____ 16. Complete one year as a Junior Leader in any project.

GOAT PROJECT (Dairy, Meat, Fiber)

Level 4 – Leader

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____

Leader's Initials 4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Serve as a 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.

GOAT PROJECT (Dairy, Meat, Fiber)

Level 5 – Researcher

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials

4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Complete all requirements for Levels 1-4.
- _____ 2. Put on a judging contest of goat project members.
- _____ 3. Complete either alternative A, B, or C below:
 - A. 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.
 - B. 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.
 - C. 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.

REQUIREMENTS:

For members to qualify for proficiency awards they must complete all the requirements below and give a 4-H presentation during the 4-H year.

- Have up-to-date and complete enrollment packet and enrollment fees on file at the 4-H office.
- Attend 80% of club and project meetings or meet requirements of a county-wide project.
- Members must provide 4-H Records to the club leader for project completion verification.
- Records must include **Personal Development Report** and **Annual Project Report** form for each project a member is applying for a Proficiency Award, and the completed Proficiency Form.