

Emerald Star: Rebecca Paxson Shares Dairy Goat Knowledge



My Emerald Star project involved two things. The first was to present a clipping demonstration with my dairy goats at the 2016 Multi-County Super Field Day. I set up and ran the Dairy Goat booth as well as performed three separate clipping demonstrations. There was a lot of interest so I let many of the 4-H kids try clipping my goats while I talked them through it. I thought this Emerald Star project was of value because when I go to dairy

goat shows I see many animals improperly clipped or not clipped at all. I first began with my dairy goats in the Santa Rosa Valley 4-H dairy goat project, and I have had some outstanding mentors over the years. Each has been willing to share what they knew about the Nigerian Dwarf breed and they taught me the ins and outs of showing. As with any breed, there are many small details that an exhibitor must learn in order to do well in the show ring.

I am one of the teen leaders for my goat project and I love seeing the

excitement and enthusiasm of these young kids for their goats! I have had multiple families spending many-a-night in our barn just to see the births of the goats and I involve the 4-H members in the birthing and cleaning process. Many of the kids want to hand feed their own baby goats after seeing the whole progression. Most of the kids in our project show their goats, and as I was teaching them about how to prepare their goats, I thought that this would make a great Emerald Star project and be of benefit to make a video clearly defining all of the steps of showing dairy goats from start to finish.

My “how to prepare your goat” demonstration at Super Field Day was interactive. Most participant had questions about different problem areas of clipping an animal— what size blades, how to get your goat to stand still, where do you buy good clippers, etc. As kids tried clipping my goats, I discussed what they could work on and how to fix the problems. I did video clips of me clipping my goats and my video, available on YouTube, can be used as an educational tool for clipping and preparing these wonderful mini-milkers. My video includes start to finish goat preparation. You can view the video at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=2m5gKaS1wCY>

My website, Paxsonkds.weebly.com is also on the link so you can email me questions.



dairy