

4-H

Meat Goat Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The **Meat Goat 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. You will learn the basic principles of animal science by owning and/or caring for and keeping records on one or more head of livestock. You will acquire information and an understanding of meat goat production. You will have the opportunity to learn and practice principles of cleanliness and sanitation as applied to the production. You will learn about the marketing, processing, distribution, consumption and use of meat goat products.

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 and Lending Library* at your 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 are any local dairy goat groups or organizations in your community. These groups often conduct educational activities and sponsor goat shows. You can get more information on goats from bulletins, magazines, and books. 4-H programs in many states, the federal government, and many major feed companies distribute informative publications on various phases of goat management. Local meat goat breeders can be an excellent source of help.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. Levels must be completed in consecutive order. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- **Level I - “Explorer”**, you begin to learn about the many different aspects of raising meat goats.
- **Level II - “Producer”**, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising meat goats.
- **Level III - “Consumer”**, you become an experienced meat goat 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 meat goats, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date and initial each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, place the form in your record book, turn your record book into your club leader. Your club leader will notify the 4-H office you have completed a level. You will receive your proficiency award at the Annual 4-H Achievement Program. As each level is completed a Certificate of Achievement may be also awarded by the project leader or club.

Meat Goat

Level I - Explorer

Initial & date
as completed:

- ____ 1. Identify and describe three breeds of meat goats.
- ____ 2. Identify the location of the cuts of a meat goat from a diagram or a live animal.
- ____ 3. Demonstrate how to properly handle a meat goat.
- ____ 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 a meat goat at each stage of development (how, when, what, how much, kind of feed)
- ____ 6. Explain how to tell when a goat is ill and when to call for assistance.
- ____ 7. State the normal range of weight and age for a market goat.
- ____ 8. Explain these terms: buck, doe, chevon, dam, sire, wether, and kid.
- ____ 9. Explain why and how to permanently tag a goat for identification.
- ____ 10. Submit management records for a minimum of 90 days that indicate how often you provided fresh water, clean feed, clean housing, and general care of your goat(s).
- ____ 11. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for a meat goat.
- ____ 12. Define fifteen important, basic terms used in your meat goat project.
- ____ 13. Find out the regulations to raising/keeping animals where you live.
- ____ 14. Research scrapes disease and how it can be prevented.
- ____ 15. Share one aspect of your project with other project members.
- ____ 16. Describe or demonstrate what you can do to protect you goat(s) during hot and cold weather.

Member Name & Signature _____ Date: _____

Project Leader Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.

Meat Goat

Level II - Producer

Initial & date
as completed:

- _____1. Identify and describe the differences between registered and wether bred boer goats.
- _____2. Demonstrate how to properly sanitize equipment.
- _____3. Describe the desirable characteristics in the conformation of a market goat and how to check for disqualifications
- _____4. Identify the parts of the digestive system and name the four chambers of a ruminant stomach
- _____5. Research and describe these breeding methods, Invetro fertilization, Artificial Insemination, embryo transfer.
- _____6. Describe how to feed a meat goat throughout one production cycle (from breeding to weaning)
- _____7. Describe and give control measures for CAE, CL, jones, and Q fever.
- _____8. Identify the parts of the hoof and demonstrate/explain proper hoof care.
- _____9. Keep an account of cash expenses for equipment and materials and at the end of the year compare your cost to the value of your project.
- _____10. Do something creative with your project, or display your goat outside of your project group.
- _____11. Demonstrate how to show a goat's teeth.
- _____12. Identify what flystrike is and give preventative measures and treatment.
- _____13. Demonstrate how to properly brace a goat.
- _____14. Research breeders in your area and report to your project about them.
- _____15. Identify what mastitis is, how it can be avoided and treatment.
- _____16. Help someone else by sharing your knowledge or by giving away a product from your project to demonstrate positive citizenship.

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Project Leader Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Meat Goat

Level III - Consumer

Initial & date
as completed:

- ____ 1. Demonstrate how to read and complete on of the management records required in meat goat operation (example: pedigree, registration, production record, etc.)
- ____ 2. Research the ABGA and report to your project what it has to offer.
- ____ 3. Report on the requirements for selling goat meat to the general public.
- ____ 4. Make a chart that explains how good selection can improve your stock. Explain in breeding, line breeding, out breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- ____ 5. Invite and introduce a guest speaker at one of your meetings.
- ____ 6. Describe the digestive system's anatomy and physiology, for a goat and how it differs from other animals.
- ____ 7. Explain the different types of feeds/diets and their nutritional components (fat, Carbohydrates, protein, minerals, vitamins, water) and nutritional values.
- ____ 8. Research the history of a breed of meat goat and present to your project about it.
- ____ 9. Report on a secondary aspect or by product of the meat goat 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. Demonstrate how to take and record the normal vital signs (temperature, respiration, heart rate, etc.)
- ____ 13. Describe five ways to save money and management strategies in raising meat goats.
- ____ 14. Develop an advertisement or marketing strategy for your animal or animal by-product.
- ____ 15. Alone or with a group, plan and complete a community service activity related to your project.

Member Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Meat Goat Proficiency Level IV - Leader

Initial & date
as completed:

- _____1. Complete one year as a junior or teen leader in this project.
- _____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 a judging event or training a junior team for such an event.
- _____5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4H group
- _____6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master, with set-up, registration, etc...
- _____7. Assist younger members in learning a specific topic in the project
- _____8. Develop your own special activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and failures and report on findings.

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Meat Goat Proficiency Level V - Researcher

Initial & date
as completed:

- _____1. Carry through and 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 subjects. Orally summarize report at project meeting or other educational event.
 - Management of animal

 - Feeds, feeding, and nutrition

 - Diseases, prevention, control, and general sanitation

 - Markets and methods of marketing

 - Reproduction, breeding, and genetics

 - By-product preparation of market, how marketed ,and used

 - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your animal project

 - Other

Member Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

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