

University of California Cooperative Extension

4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECT GUIDE **GOAT**

The purpose of the 4-H animal science program is to provide an opportunity for personal growth and development of the young person. A secondary purpose is to teach 4-H members how to feed, fit, select and manage the animals they own. In the process of feeding and caring for an animal, 4-H members have the opportunity to develop many positive life skills.

The 4-H project leader can be of great assistance in developing the member's initiative, pride, and abilities as well as an appreciation toward animals. As a leader you will find a host of "tools" to use in developing the members skills; some of these are:

- ◆ 4-H lending library
- ◆ Resource leaders and community members
- ◆ Junior/teen leaders
- ◆ State and national breed associations
- ◆ County fairs and shows
- ◆ County trainings and events
- ◆ Members' parents
- ◆ Project proficiencies

As a 4-H project leader you will recognize that:

- not every idea will come directly from the project literature.
- each member is an individual and will have a unique learning style.
- if an adult does any part of the work necessary for a successful project the youth does not have that opportunity.
- members may need help halter breaking a steer or sheering a lamb. The idea is for parents and leaders to allow the member do all they are capable of doing.
- junior/teen leaders make excellent assistants. (In general, the junior leader assists an adult leader and an adult leader assists a teen leader.).

The following month-by-month guide will hopefully provide the first year leader with ideas for successful projects, as well as reminders for the experienced leader. It should be recognized that these are only ideas and are not intended as a strict set of rules to follow throughout the year. You, as a 4-H volunteer, may desire to change some of these ideas to another month, use these as a spring board for other ideas, or in some cases not use them at all. The *Project Leader Worksheet* will assist you in planning your project for the upcoming year.

Each member should receive instruction on selection, housing, feeding and routine care of the animal *before* it is purchased. This way the members will better understand the cost, time commitment and responsibility they are accepting.

GOAT

SEPTEMBER

1. Contact UC Extension 4-H office for list of who is enrolled in the project and who will serve as a Junior/Teen Leader.
2. At first project meeting collect a complete and up to date, Medical Release Form (4-H 1109) for each participant.
3. Alert members and their parents of the average purchase price and cost to raise a goat.
4. For animals already purchased, review internal and external parasite control.
5. Instruct members on vitamin/mineral deficiencies, and vaccinations.
6. Instruct members on breeds, conformation, and selection.
7. Discuss how to participate in proficiency program and County Presentation Day.

OCTOBER

1. Review what supplies, feed and shelter each member will need before purchasing an animal.
2. Alert members and their parents to kid sales, and other resources to secure market or breeding animals.
3. Discuss with members and parents the cost of market animals, figure a feeding budget and possible sources for a loan if necessary.
4. Discuss nutrition needs, types of feeds, and rate of gain.
5. Assist members in starting project record keeping.
6. Review what is, and the importance of, adequate winter shelter.
7. Discuss the importance of feeding, on time, every day, seven days a week.
8. Check 4-H Lending Library for project reference materials.

NOVEMBER

1. Continue to assist members in locating market or show animals.
2. Contact UC Extension 4-H office for an updated list of who is enrolled in the project and who will serve as a Junior/Teen Leader.
3. Review barn safety and safe handling practices.
4. Consult with members about winter feeding and shelter.
5. Assist members in starting project record keeping
6. Check pasture/housing for breeding animals.
7. Review with each member their personal goals for this project.
8. Discuss scrapies tags, permanent identification, and other methods of identification.

DECEMBER

1. Plan project tour to see members' animals and facilities.
2. Discuss hoof care and maintenance.
3. Review what, and how much, animals are being fed.
4. Begin holding practice judging activities or skill-a-thon.
5. Have each member assemble a barn emergency kit for both goats and humans.
6. Discuss kidding for members with breeding projects.

JANUARY

1. Discuss the importance of exercise and why all animals need some exercise.
2. Have members report on rate-of-gain and/or milk production.
3. Continue judging activities, skill-a-thon - using live animals when possible.
4. Discuss topics and ideas for County Presentation Day.

FEBRUARY

1. Check that members have entered County Presentation Day.
2. Continue locating market animals.
3. Arrange for a field day with another project for a judging/skill-a-thon.
4. Discuss a field trip to Junior Grand National or other livestock shows.
5. Review signs of illness and medicine to have on hand.
6. Plan a community service activity related to the project.

MARCH

1. Review conformation, show quality, and wholesale meat cuts.
2. Arrange a field trip to a livestock show, educational field day, or facility.
3. Discuss project record completion, and other requirements for showing or selling at Lake County Fair.
4. Review Showmanship
5. Start planning educational display for Lake County Fair.

APRIL

1. Plan project tour to check fences, pasture, shelter, etc., for all project animals.
2. Review daily grooming, show grooming, and handling.
3. Each member should attend/participate in a minimum of one hour of animal ethics training.
4. Discuss bio-security and how to keep animals healthy and safe.

MAY

1. Stress keeping animals cool in hot summer months.
2. Discuss fly and parasite control on market animals.
3. Discussing rate-of-gain and market weights.
4. Hold fitting and showing activities.
5. Have members start marketing to buyers for the Lake County Fair Auction.
6. Advise members of special fair awards and recognition.

JUNE

1. Advise members of “due date” on project records, and procedure for fair entry form signature.
2. Encourage member to continue grooming as previously outlined.
3. Have members report on rate-of-gain and/or milk production.
4. Encourage members and parents to read the Lake County Fair Exhibitor Handbook.

JULY

1. Help members create a “check list” of supplies to take to fairs.
2. Continue recording rate-of-gain.
3. Set up barn work schedule for members to have at fairs.
4. Discuss feeding and watering at the fair.
5. Work with Junior/Teen Leader to discuss “wrap-up” of year’s activities.
6. All requirements for show or sell at Lake County fair should be complete.

AUGUST

1. Continue fly control.
2. Continue project records and encourage members to re-enroll in project.

3. Plan for project competition at fairs.
4. Continue recruiting buyers for the auction.
5. Discuss requirements, tips and ideas for the Lake County fair:
 - a. Showmanship, uniform requirements
 - b. Proper methods for safely transporting animals to fair.
 - c. Weigh-in, thank you notes and awards ceremony
 - d. Everyone selling at auction needs to be a “Runner”
 - e. Clean Stall and Educational Display Awards
 - f. Stay in uniform after they have sold their animal and help the duration of the Jr. Livestock Auction.

Several of the animal science projects have Project Proficiencies as a part of the learning experience. They provide youth opportunities to sample a broad array of experiences, measure personal progress, and become self-directed learners. They provide a standard of excellence where members are recognized for knowledge and skills they have mastered. The Project Proficiency may be used as a guideline for 4-H volunteers to enhance and expand project content and experiences. Each proficiency level will help members set goals, record their successes, and be recognized for their work. Each level can take more than one year to complete. Members are not expected to complete a level each year. In some projects, more than one level can be completed in a year if they are highly motivated. For additional information about the proficiency program refer to the *Leader Tips for Utilizing the 4-H Project Proficiency Program*.

Resources available at the UC Cooperative Extension office:

4-H Lending Library

Learning Laboratory Kit

4-H Club Member & Parent Expectations – (project and fair participation requirements)

Teen Leaders

Other 4-H Project Leaders

UCCE website: <http://celake.ucdavis.edu>

Project Proficiency

California State 4-H Website:

Parts Identification Poster <http://ca4h.org/4hresource/forms>

University of California, Davis website:

Animal Science <http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu>

Safety Notes http://danrrec.ucdavis.edu/ehs/safety_notes/

For additional resources contact the 4-H staff at the UCCE office:

707/263-6838,

UCCE Office, 883 Lakeport Blvd., Lakeport CA 95453

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