**4-H MEAT GOAT PROJECT**

**Starting Out**

Basic / Level 1

- Look at healthy and sick animals
- Be a good sport when showing your animals
- Produce a healthy and safe meat product
- Identify different breeds
- Locate and name parts of a goat
- Learn proper feeding of goats
- Tell the difference between milk-type and meat-type goats
- Develop a home medical kit for goats
- Learn about fencing options

**Learning More**

Intermediate / Level 2

- Learn about body condition scoring
- Identify and record the types of plants on your property
- Develop a predator control program
- Determine breeding dates
- Learn about manure management programs
- Research goat meat markets
- Construct a model of a soil profile
- Research goat health issue
- Learn to trim hooves

**Expanding Horizons**

Advanced / Level 3

- Measure level of parasite infestation in your herd
- Conduct a judging clinic
- Select a herd sire
- Judge with oral reasons
- Formulate a ration
- Measure your pasture’s productivity
- Examine meat goat products
- Investigate land zoning issues
- Prevent reproductive diseases
- Learn about buying & producing good quality hay

**Are You Into It?**

In the meat goat project you can learn about breeds, health care, grooming, production, reproduction, management, showmanship, marketing, and careers! Learn about the fastest growing livestock project area in the country!

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of livestock
- Gain knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- Identify quality in wholesale and retail cuts of meat to understand the relationship to management principles

**Step It Up!**

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

**Communication**

- Design a poster on parts of the animal
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Explain the cuts of meat and how to prepare them

**Citizenship**

- Volunteer a goat for a hall of breeds
- Hand out food samples at your local grocery store
- Volunteer to help at the county fair market goat weigh-in

**Leadership**

- Invite other 4-H members to tour your farm
- Teach others how to safely handle goats
- Lead a meat goat selection and feeding clinic
- Secure sponsorship for goat related awards

*For more information or to obtain project materials contact your county ISU Extension Office or go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/meat-goat*
Take Meat Goats further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Meat Goats:

- Contact your county ISU Extension office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Tour a meat goat operation
- Attend a meat goat show or workshop
- Participate in a meat goat judging team
- Design a business plan to market goat meat directly to retailers, restaurants, or private customers
- Design a business card or marketing brochure for your farm or imaginary farm
- Write an educational article about some aspect of goat production for your newspaper
- Watch a vet do a c-section on a goat with pregnancy ketosis
- Write a children’s book called “My Visit to a Goat Farm”
- Research goat by-products
- Research other cultures that rely solely on goats for meat consumption
- Attend Animal Science Round-Up as part of the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and participate in one of the livestock tracks, participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair meat goat show or the Iowa State Fair.
- Contact your county ISU Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with Iowa State University to explore those majors. www.iastate.edu
- Participate in a meat goat fitting contest
- Develop a project income/expense sheet
- Build a kidding barrel
- Build a show box

Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H meat goat show
  - Breeding does
  - Market goats
  - Showmanship
  - Rate of gain
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you’ve learned in a meat goat-related topic
  - Nutritive value of meat goats
  - Meat cuts and proper preparation
  - Feeding rations
  - Preventative vaccinations
  - Photos of different breeds
  - Daily routine in caring for animals
  - Grooming techniques
  - Developing a breeding herd
  - Build a kidding barrel
  - Identification techniques
  - Growth of the meat goat industry

Resource

4-H Resources*

- Iowa 4-H Meat Goats
  - www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/Livestock/goat.htm
- Just Browsing
  - Level 1 (4H 650A)
- Growing with Meat Goats
  - Level 2 (4H 650B)
- Meating the Future
  - Level 3 (4H 650C)
- Meat Goat Leader Guide
  - (4H 650 LDR)
- Meat Goat Verification Form (4H 106G)

Other Resources

- Iowa Meat Goat Association
  - www.iowameatgoat.com/
- American Meat Goat Association
  - www.meatgoats.com
- American Boer Goat Association
  - www.abga.org
- United States Boer Goat Association
  - http://usbga.org/content/

Record Keeping

- Market Animals
  - Record Worksheet
    - (4H 228JR)
  - Project Worksheet
    - (4H 228WS)
- Breeding Animals
  - Record Worksheet
    - (4H 229JR)
  - Project Worksheet
    - (4H 229WS)

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