

4-H MEAT GOAT PROJECT



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

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER

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

Here's what you can do all year!

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



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
 - Build a show box
 - Meat goat body parts
 - Proper terminology when describing meat goats
 - How to select and judge a meat goat
 - Describe proper feed rations
 - Learn goat terminology

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
www.usbga.org

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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