



Dairy Goat Project



In the dairy goat program, youth will acquire skills such as marketing, processing multiple products, consumption of productions, and distribution. Goats, milk, cheese, and soap are all examples of products that youth can learn to produce in the dairy goat project. Youth will discover possible career opportunities while raising their dairy goat. Youth will gain practical skills to further grow their herds such as animal husbandry, veterinary skills, animal handling, animal selection, market value, and more.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Know your dairy goat breeds and select your animal.
- Learn to evaluate your animal.
- Master multiple showing techniques.
- Learn to properly groom your animal.
- Develop a worming and hoof trimming schedule.
- Learn showmanship techniques.
- Keep detailed cost records.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Enhance your judging or animal evaluation skills to build your herd.
- Develop a feed plan.
- Learn about breeding and kidding. Keep herd records.
- Learn to identify, treat, and prevent sickness.
- Understand uses, storage, and administration of medications.
- Develop a plan for safe milking procedures.

Expanding Horizons *Advanced*

- Learn body condition scoring.
- Learn FAMACHA scoring.
- Evaluate feed quality and how it affects digestion.
- Use records to make management decisions.
- Investigate signs and causes of mastitis.
- Understand animal welfare issues.
- Find a career path in dairy production.

Inspire Kids to Do

Explore

"I might like to do this."

Youth who explore a variety of interests before high school, through experiences like 4-H camps and educational events, can develop early interest in a career path and improve their academic performance.

Learn

"I can do this."

4-H project-based learning, guided by adult volunteers, improves youth understanding of skills and concepts, as well as their ability to problem-solve and collaborate.

Practice

"I'm interested in this."

Youth who have participated in sustained hands-on learning and engaged with professional mentors and volunteers before entering high school are more likely to explore studies and potential career paths.

Experience

"I will be this."

Real-world application is key — 91% of Kansas 4-H members have a plan for reaching their goals. Youth that have been active participants in hands-on learning, combined with strong decision-making skills, are more able to effectively navigate life.

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Expand Your Experiences!

Healthy Living

- Create a biosecurity plan for taking animals to shows.
- Learn about food safety and how it relates to milk handling procedures.
- Study the quality and health benefits of goat's milk.
- Learn about the various products that can be made from goat's milk.

Science and Agriculture

- Design and build dairy goat housing, fencing, and holding facilities.
- Analyze soil samples on pasture to determine management needs for herd.
- Evaluate animal characteristics and breed for desired traits.

Community Vitality

- Volunteer your dairy goat for teaching purposes at a community event.
- Mentor younger youth interested in showing dairy goats.
- Participate in quiz bowl and other judging contests to further your knowledge.

Communication and the Arts

- Design a poster on dairy goat breeds.
- Teach others about showmanship techniques.
- Invite others to see your herd and answer questions.

Career Development

- Tour a dairy goat operation.
- Get an internship at a dairy farm.
- Attend a dairy conference.
- Start your own dairy herd.
- Market and sell animals to other 4-H members.
- Consider a degree in animal science, milling, agriculture education, or agriculture communication.
<https://www.ag.k-state.edu/>

Local Contact Information

Resources and Events	Curriculum and Resources	4-H Record Keeping	Project Exhibit Ideas
<p>Participating in educational events and learning opportunities will expand your knowledge and skills in the project area. Contact your local K-State Research and Extension office for local opportunities. Take part in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kansas 4-H Dairy Goat Project page • American Dairy Goat Association • Goat Journal • K-State Junior Dairy Show • Dairy Days 	<p>Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your local extension office or you can order directly from the 4-H Mall.</p> <p>National Dairy Goat Curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1: Getting Your Goat • Level 2: Stepping Out • Level 3: Showing the Way 	<p>Learning to keep accurate records is a life skill. The following forms can help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting 4-H Project Goals (4H1100) • Kansas 4-H Record Keeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a poster on a dairy goat related topic. • Prepare an emergency medical kit for your barn. • Prepare a show kit. • Make a scrapbook of your animals. • Educate other youth and the public about your animals and the many products that come from dairy goats. • Showcase proper handling and fitting techniques for other 4-H members.

