



## Goats Project Brief

### Learning Objectives

- Practice the life skills of decision making, communicating with others, leading self and others, planning and organizing and learning to learn.
- Identify and select quality goats
- Demonstrate good management and health practices for goats
- Understand proper grooming and exhibition techniques for goats
- Complete the Show Me Quality Assurance Program
- Promote goat products and the goat industry
- Understand desirable carcass characteristics

### Fair Projects (building)

- Identifying and classifying feed ingredients
- Yogurt, cheese or butter from goat products
- Soap from goat products
- Educational goat parts poster
- Herd production and type chart
- Display of plants poisonous to goats
- Educational poster on the life cycle of common goat parasites
- Marketing research report on different goat products
- Forage analysis on hay or pasture

### Demonstration Ideas

- How to care for a newborn
- How to recognize common goat health problems
- How to keep feed records
- How to score a judging class
- Understanding goat behavior
- How to make yarn
- How to milk a goat
- Display on how to show a goat in the ring
- Display on judging meat goats

### Field Trips

- Goat farm
- Large animal veterinarian clinic
- Zoo
- Feed mill or store
- Livestock fence supplier

### Ideas for Speech Topics

- Goat diseases
- History of goat products
- Health of eating goats
- Goat breeds
- By-Products of goats

### Critical Thinking

- What is the average daily gain (ADG) of your goat?
- What percentage of protein is in your feed?
- What is the meaning of withdrawal time for a drug?
- What is the normal body temperature of a goat?
- Can you safely feed beef feed to a goat? Why or why not?
- Name one (or more) goat disease and tell what you know about it.
- What is the ideal market weight?
- What are ideal carcass characteristics (or fat thickness or ribeye area)?

### Community Service Ideas

- Volunteer at veterinarian clinic
- Volunteer at petting zoo
- Food drive for an animal shelter

### Science & Technology

How do you use science and technology in this project area?

Examples:

- Recognize disease and preventive measures
- Evaluate how vaccines work
- Gather information about the digestive system of a goat
- Communicate how to use technology to market goats and goat products.

## Show Me Character

**Trustworthiness** - includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty.

- daily feeding, watering of animals (promise keeping)
- adheres to possession deadlines (honesty)
- adheres to withdrawal times on drugs and dewormer
- only the appropriate use of approved drugs

**Respect** - includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.

- proper handling of animals, treat humanely
- proper care of animals
- listens to and follows advice of advisors
- recognizes that animal projects are dependent on 4-H'er and provides daily feed and water

**Responsibility** - includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability and perseverance.

- daily feeding and watering (even on the busy, difficult days)
- beyond providing the daily needs of the animal in giving additional time and attention to produce a winner
- adheres to deadlines for entry forms and for arrival at livestock shows
- never gives up in the show ring (perseverance)

**Fairness** - involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.

- feed only approved livestock rations
- only the appropriate use of approved drugs
- accepts winning or losing with grace
- conduct in the show ring follows recommended procedure fitting and grooming of animals follows recommended procedures

**Caring** - promoting the well being of people and things in a young person's world. It denotes action and not just feelings.

- daily feeding and watering
- provides clean barn/stall for animal
- treats animal humanely at all times

**Citizenship** - includes making the home community and county a better place to live for themselves and others.

- accepting instructions
- winning and losing with grace
- helping others at stock shows
- teaching younger members
- treating animals humanely
- ensuring that your meat animal is safe for consumption

## Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Health/Physical Education** – consumer health issues (such as the effects of mass media and technologies on safety and health)
- **Communication Arts** – participating in formal and informal presentation and discussions of issues and ideas
- **Mathematics** – data analysis, probability and statistics
- **Science** – characteristics and interactions of living organisms; impact of science, technology and human activity on resources and the environment
- **Social Studies** – economic concepts (including productivity and the market system) and principles (including the laws of supply and demand)

## Resources

### 136 Dairy Goats Unit 1

Y620 4-H Project Record  
Y1360 Getting your Goat  
LG1390 Dairy Goat Helper's Group Activity Guide

### 137 Dairy Goats Unit 2

Y620 4-H Project Record  
Y1370 Stepping Out  
LG1390 Dairy Goat Helper's Activity Guide

### 138 Dairy Goats Unit 3

Y620 4-H Project Record  
Y1380 Showing the Way  
LG1390 Dairy Goat Helper's Group Activity Guide

### 139 Meat Goat

Y620 4-H Project Record  
Meat Goat Literature is available to download from Pennsylvania State University at [das.psu.edu/publications/](http://das.psu.edu/publications/)

Missouri Show Me Quality Assurance [4h.missouri.edu/events/livestock/#quality](http://4h.missouri.edu/events/livestock/#quality)

## To Order

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For additional resources check with your local University of Missouri Extension Center or [www.4-hmall.org/](http://www.4-hmall.org/)