



# Meat Goat Project



The 4-H meat goat project is part of the animal science education program. Youth will learn basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of meat goat. They will demonstrate knowledge for feeding, breeding, and managing meat goats. Youth will also learn valuable scientific research and its influence on animals and the meat industry. Finally, youth will practice the 4-H life skills of decision-making, communicating with others, leading self and others, planning and organizing, and learning to learn.

## Starting Out *Beginner*

- Know your meat goat breeds and select your animal.
- Understand the different types of feed and quantity to feed.
- Recognize a healthy animal.
- Train your goat to lead and stand.
- Learn to groom and show your animal at county shows.
- Identify parts of the animal and cuts of meat.

## Learning More *Intermediate*

- Learn appropriate handling techniques and housing for meat goats.
- Understand the digestive system of a ruminant and identify common health issues.
- Understand medication uses, storage, proper administration and how it relates to food safety.
- Develop judging and meat-grading skills.
- Make ethical decisions.

## Expanding Horizons *Advanced*

- Become familiar with different meat goat industries.
- Balance a meat goat ration and understand feed quality.
- Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.
- Identify and learn to treat and prevent common diseases.
- Evaluate meat goat carcasses and market your product.

## 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!

### Communications

- Create a poster showing the different breeds of meat goats.
- Write a story on the importance of following drug labels.
- Teach a younger 4-H member important traits in selecting meat goats.

### Science and Agriculture

- Study the body and skeleton structures of the meat goat.
- Research the digestive, respiratory, organ, and endocrine systems of meat goats.
- Learn meat cuts, grading systems, consumer preferences, and price.

### Community Vitality

- Serve as a junior/ teen leader for mentoring others in the meat goat project.
- Plan and lead a meat goat grooming and showmanship clinic for other 4-H members.
- Coordinate an educational tour for meat goat project youth visiting a farm or meat locker.

### Health and Wellness

- Record the health contributions gained from grooming, walking, and caring for meat goats.
- Study the nutritional benefits meat goats provide in a healthy diet.
- Test different ways to prepare meat: grilling, braising, broiling, roasting, baking, stewing, sautéing.

## Career Development

- Visit a goat farm to discover employment opportunities.
- Research breed associations.
- Explore the [K-State Animal Science Department](#), and visit the sheep and goats facility and Meats Lab.
- Tour a meat locker.
- Interview a meat scientist.
- Ask a chef about preparing meat.

### 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"> <li>• <a href="#">Kansas State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Junior Producer Days</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">K-State Sheep and Meat Goat Center</a></li> <li>• Participate in your county fair and the Kansas State Fair.</li> </ul>	<p>Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your local extension office or you can order directly from the <a href="#">4-H Mall</a>.</p> <p>National Meat Goat Curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Level 1: Just Browsing</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Level 2: Growing with Meat Goats</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Level 3: Meating the Future</a></li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Kansas 4-H Meat Goat Project Page</a></p>	<p>Learning to keep accurate records is a life skill. The following forms can help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Setting 4-H Project Goals (4H1100)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Kansas 4-H Record Keeping</a></li> </ul>	<p>Design a poster explaining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meat goat breeds</li> <li>• body structure, systems</li> <li>• meat cuts</li> <li>• how equipment</li> <li>• feed rations</li> </ul> <p>Do an exhibit on feeding rations.</p> <p>Make a book that shows your daily routine in caring for animals.</p>

