



SNAPSHOT 4H1611

# 4-H Goat Project



## CURRICULA & RESOURCES

### National 4-H Curricula

<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/>

#### » Goats

- Getting your Goat (08352)
- Stepping Out (08353)
- Showing the Way (08354)
- Dairy Goat Helper's Guide (08355)

### Other Resources

- » American Dairy Goat Association: <http://www.adga.org/>
- » Michigan Dairy Goat Association: <http://mdgs.org/>

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The dairy industry is one of the foundations of agriculture. Most think of only dairy cattle when they think of animals that produce dairy products. Think again! Goat's milk is a popular dairy commodity. Dairy goats produce products such as soaps, lotions, cheese and milk. The 4-H goat project can provide you with the opportunity to learn about selection, management, health, marketing and careers in the goat industry.

- » Acquire skills in dairy goat production through ownership and care of dairy goats.
- » Learn how to market, process and distribute products from your goats.
- » Learn about consumption and use of dairy products.
- » Discover how to select and raise your dairy goat.
- » Learn the nutritive value of dairy products and promote their use.

## THE BIG PICTURE

### Starting Out:

- » Know your dairy breeds.
- » Select your animal.
- » Identify parts of the animal.
- » Learn to evaluate your animal.
- » Feed your animal.
- » Demonstrate multiple showing techniques.
- » Groom your animal.
- » Keep cost records.
- » Research where to find answers to your dairy questions.
- » Practice showmanship techniques.

### Learning More:

- » Ramp up your judging skills.
- » Make ethical decisions.
- » Identify a sick animal, treat it and learn to prevent future illness.
- » Understand the uses of medication and its relation to food safety.
- » Learn to store and administer medication.
- » Learn appropriate handling techniques and housing of dairy goats.
- » Evaluate feed quality and its effects on digestion.

### Expanding Horizons:

- » Learn body condition scoring.
- » Debate animal welfare issues.
- » Use records to make management decisions.
- » Investigate signs and causes of mastitis.
- » Balance a dairy ration.
- » Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.
- » Promote the dairy industry.
- » Explore different career opportunities.





## FOCUS ON DAIRY GOATS

### Science

- » Explore the parts and function of a goat's digestive system.
- » Monitor the effect of environmental conditions on your goat and its milk production.
- » Learn about goat behavior.

### Citizenship & Leadership

- » Be part of a dairy promotional event.
- » Organize a county goat educational event.
- » Inform others of the nutritive value of goat's milk.

### Communication

- » Design a poster on dairy goat breeds.
- » Teach others about showmanship techniques.
- » Give a speech on the importance of the dairy industry.

### Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.



## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » Tour a dairy goat operation.
- » Participate in the State 4-H Goat Expo or the State 4-H Goat Show.
- » Market and sell project animals to other 4-H'ers.
- » Start your own dairy goat herd.
- » Educate communities about the dairy goat industry.
- » Research dairy goat by-products.
- » Compare the differences in dairy-cattle and dairy-goat milk and cheese production.
- » Consider showing your goat at a local fair.
- » If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit Michigan State University's website at [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu) to explore those majors.

Adapted with permission from "4-H Poultry Project," by Iowa State University Extension, 2011, *Iowa 4-H Project Hot Sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/>

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